

BLOOD AND THUNDER

Letters to the Editor reflect the views of our readers and not necessarily those of *The Brunswickan*. Letters to the Editor may be sent to Rm. 35, Student Union Building. Deadline: 5p.m. Tuesdays. Maximum length: 300 words.

Tipping the hat

My hat goes off to Neill McCormack! Do we really need to know what they do at home? I think not! Keep it out of the *Brun*s and keep it in Dance Trax!

Spealer's Buddies,
time, Time & Ed

Cheers, John Valk

Congratulations to Dr. John Valk the Campus Ministry, for a couple of fine and fabulous articles in METANOIA (*Brun*s). Some people have a feel for factual, NON-BIAS and thought-provoking words that leaves one positive and with a good feeling. I, for one, would love some debates on RELIGION and MORALITY, with the entire student body. May be we could nominate a Moderator, Dr. Valk perhaps? Or the Master-Editorialist, Kwame Dawes just to name a few. One more person deserves accolades, Chris Hunt, well-written and presented REVIEWS. Most of the writers and contributors deserve credit. I take exception to P...D + F...D words in the *Brun*s. Students should be above that. Well! Great paper, great people.

Nicolaas de Uries

Fish is a good prof.

Dear Editor

I would like to respond to the letter by Martin Kearnan published in your last issue regarding Dr. T. Fish, a professor at St. Thomas University.

Firstly, I would like to state that I am sympathetic to any person (be it male or female) who is subject to abuse in any manner. However, I also believe it is not fair to condemn a person based solely on a written account of a situation in a newspaper. Any informed person is aware of the sensationalism and bias concerning many issues in the media. Much of the information in many stories, besides the one at hand, is exaggerated and one sided. I think that before one makes an assumption about all aspects of a person and demand that he be relieved of his duties as a professor, one should look at the whole picture, not simply one portrayal.

I am not aware if Mr. Kearnan has ever taken a course from Dr. Fish but if not, allow me to inform him. He brings to the classroom what is sadly lacking in many cases: a real interest in teaching the course material to his students. He teaches with enthusiasm, and clarity. He is concerned about whether the students understand what he is teaching. His classes are interesting, and well worth attending. In times where many professors simply teach a class because it is a requirement, rather than something they want to do, it is refreshing to see a professor bring such enthusiasm to the classroom. I feel this is an opinion shared by other students at STU.

In my opinion, Dr. Fish's personal life has nothing to do with his teaching ability. I know nothing about Dr. Fish's personal life, nor do I want to. I do not feel that it is any of my business, it is just that, his personal life.

I feel that if Dr. O'Brien puts into action the suggestions put forth in Mr. Kearnan's letter he is making a grave mistake to the potential learning of

students at St. Thomas University.

Jill Sullivan

More Hip stuff

Dear D. Prowell and D. Murray

When a band is booked, they are booked to play at a certain time. The reason the show seemed late to you is because a group of drunken males yelled for the Hip through the opening act. This caused Mess O'blues to justifiably cut their set short, so thank yourselves for the wait. Secondly, it is impossible to turn a profit off the bar. If the bar sales exceeded cost, CP wages, and administrative fees, the surplus is held by bar services against future losses. The Student Union loses money to provide this service. You mentioned the "already alcohol fuelled fire." Gosh, could people have been drunk before they got to the concert? Were you yourself so drunk as to not notice the DRY BAR and the early wet bar closing? The only mistake Campus Entertainment made was to assume the UNB students could drink responsibly. You signed that you were hung over, so you were part of the problem. Grow up.

The CPs did their job, removing the sloppy drunk, the heat exhausted and those who tried to get on stage. Your analysis of their actions isn't worth much, since you were drunk. CPs take a lot of garbage from people like you, just for being there. Next concert, listen to how people treat them at the door. They have more patience than I do. you should thank them.

The Hip wasn't displeased with UNB at all. Their tour manager said it happens at every concert, and instead of getting the band to calm the crowd down, they played harder and knocked off early. Easy money. Since you have so much input on choice of venue, CP training, and organization, why don't you come and help out? Join myself and the other regulars. You can sweat, get blisters, eat pizza, carry beer, meet the band, see the show free, and drink after the concert. Until you're ready to help out, get your facts straight, or even attend a concert sober - shut the f - k up.

Christopher Pollard

The Bible and You

Dear M Nye and cowardly "Disgusted Taxpayer", accept it! The Bible can be used to prove anything and every interpretation is to some degree wrong, unless you profess to have retranslated the Spirit which became the Talmud. I warn you, that borders on blasphemy. Look me up, I'll be only too happy to prove to you, using scripture, that Jesus was married.

Dear O. Phillips and J. Reid, great idea. We do need a feature on heterosexuality and fetishism. I will try to start one next year, and yes it will deal with bisexuality and sadomasochism. If you weren't so lazy, perhaps you'd provide this column yourself. The homosexuals get the press because they bother to write the articles. Simple as that. Thank God for Nick Oliver (see B&T 2 week ago).

Ross Miller: Dear supreme being, who the hell turned you on? Darwin would puke on you. Homosexuality is unnatural, eh? How do you explain male monkeys playing with each other

sexually before learning such with females? Unnatural? What about male lions that have fallen out of favour? The females expel them from the pride, they form nomad hunting pairs and happily hump each other when the Spirit moves them. Unnatural? There is an entire species of lizard which is self fertilizing female. Note - not asexual, but blatantly female. One female will mount the other and mimic the copulatory movements of their closest related dual sex species. Well, well, well, natural lesbians. Enough said.

The only problem with the gay supplement is that some minds are bolted shut (a prerequisite for Christianity, since faith is the prime requisite and reasoning denies faith) and that it was not, as a whole, well written. I must also agree that Terry Richards is a pain and a poor writer. Well said, Mr. Richard Hall.

Christopher Pollard

Straight guys differ

Dear Editor

A reply to Neil McCormack. Neil, you are not the only "straight" guy in this town - there are many of us. You are, however, a "straight" bigot. 'Nuff said'

Signed
A straight Guy

Let's talk sex

Dear Kwame,

Replying to the sort of letters that any attempt to seriously discuss matters of sexuality in this paper usually elicits is rarely worth the effort, however, as one of the bumper crop in the *Brun*s of 22nd March was addressed directly to me, I suppose I should take the trouble. Here goes.

M. Nye takes great exception to the article "Homosexuality and Christianity" I wrote in the gay and lesbian supplement published two weeks ago. I must congratulate him/her for making a point I was trying to address with an eloquence I could not have achieved this side of parody. By creating a whole set of assumptions about my motives in writing the article. This respondent proceeds to fly off on a truly amazing set of tangents, producing an interpretation of my text that bears little if any relationship to the original. Give that we both, in all probability, share the same language, have not dissimilar backgrounds and live in the same culture, this was precisely one of the points I was trying to address. The accusation that I was trying to prove that "homosexuality is not a sin", merely betrays Nye's prejudice. I see little point in simply inverting a belief and trying to argue that "black is really white", or in pedantic quotations of great chunks of text. In quoting alternative interpretations of the Sodom story from Genesis, I wanted to illustrate the fact that historically, several different interpretations have been made of this text, without judging which was THE TRUTH.

My basic premise was that seen in perspective, the fundamentalist obsession with homosexuality as a modern "mark of Cain" leads to a distortion of most of the basic tenets of Christi-

anity. At no point did I even imply that these tenets had no relevance in the 1990s - that interpretation is purely a fiction of Nye's own devising. Tenets such as loving your neighbour, loving your enemy, protecting the weak and powerless, standing up against injustice, bearing witness to what you believe true, showing hospitality to strangers, not using the needs of your fellow humans as an excuse to turn a fast buck, respecting the dignity of fellow humans, leaving judgment in the hands of the Almighty, &c, have rarely been more relevant. If homosexuality was of such over-riding concern, why did Christ have nothing to say on the subject? And why is the only reference to Sodom in the gospels used to condemn inhospitality to strangers?

As for Nye's invocation of the curse on text-changers (Revelations 22:19), this has been used for centuries to stifle Biblical scholarship and any intelligent debate - basically, agree with my interpretation or burn in Hell! It results in the kind of theological cat-fighting that the great Christian humanist Erasmus once called "the cleft between the buttocks of Holy Mother Church." It also denies the historical fact that a great deal of editing was done into producing the modern text. The homogeneity Mr/Ms Nye refers to is hardly surprising, when that editing was intended to clear up obscurities (due to different versions of texts being used, differing translations of dead languages, &c) and render the official version heresy-proof. Such a process need not have any bearing on authenticity incidentally. Some of the material edited out was deliberately suppressed, some was simply lost (live the verses of the Gospel of Mark restored, in part, earlier this century). What is their status in the light of the curse on text-changers? What is the status of the Nag Hammadi papyri, discovered in the 1940s, and containing almost as much material as the extant New Testament? (to say nothing of the status of the Talmud, Torah or Koran).

The principle purpose of my article was to stimulate some sort of rational debate, which does not, of course, demand agreement. While I respect Mr/Ms Nye's right to disagree, I would prefer that s/he take me to ask for what I did write, rather than with what s/he assumes was my motive for writing. Unfortunately, his/her response is merely an example of the sort of dogmatic arrogance that gives Christianity a bad press.

Speaking of bad press, Kwame, while I have every respect for your desire to create a forum in this newspaper for a variety of opinion, why was the letter from a "disgusted taxpayer" inflicted on us? We can read this sort of verbal diarrhoea anytime in the letter page of the "Daily Gleaner." Is there really a need for another forum for this sort of drivel in this town?

Sincerely, but oxymoronically,
Adrian Park (another taxpayer! Not that this has any relevance!)

"Queer we are here" - inappropriate

Dear *Brun*s,
I have nothing against homosexuality, it doesn't bother me and I know

people who are gay. (By the way, I must add that I'm heterosexual for those who are wondering.)

Although the "We're here. We're queer. Get used to it." Statement on the front of the Homosexuality Supplement two weeks ago stood out quite well, it succeeded in making those people who are "homophobic" even more tense. The statement wasn't a good idea.

I think that people are too paranoid and make too much of a deal over who's homosexual and who's not. Who cares? (obviously some do). I mean, if someone wants to lead a life being gay, so be it! It's their life! Same goes for heterosexual people. The only difference between homosexuals and heterosexual is their sexual preference.

I get so tired of hearing people saying that being gay is a sin, it's bad, it's evil, etc. etc. The disgusting jokes, ignorant comments (and comic strips), and disrespect towards gays just because they would rather sleep with someone of the same sex rather than of the opposite sex gets a little monotonous after awhile. What about fornication? (A lot of that goes on!!) That's a sin as well and that's sex between, oh no, heterosexuals! Why don't we say that both types of sex is a sin? Yeah, don't have sex at all - (masturbation is a sin too you know...) Wouldn't our lives be so much fun then? I think not.

Sorry. I get a little upset over these things, but I've said what I wanted to say.

Thanks,
"tired of it all"

The Brunswickan will run a "Blood and Thunder" section in next week's edition. The rest of the paper will be a "spooof;" but the letters to the editor supplement will be open for serious letters.