

Blood and Thunder

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rm. 35, Student Union Building, UNB Campus
DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Tuesday

Blood 'n' Thunder policy

All letters to the editor must be double-spaced on one side of the paper. They must include the author's name, student number, and phone number.

We will withhold names on request and let you use a pseudonym.

As a matter of policy, we will not print letters that are libellous, distasteful, encourage criminal acts or that are racist, sexist, or homophobic in nature.

Letters should be of a reasonable length (300 words, please) and may be edited for grammar, clarity, and length.

Reaction to Perspectives

I read the *Political Perspectives* column in *The Brunswickan* of March 29, 1985 written by Mr. Blake Patton.

In that article I found few statements were wrong and some others required classifications and explanation. As a Pakistani, I have tried to correct and clarify the few statements and ideas which were originally expressed in the said article. As a Pakistani I felt it my duty to do so.

Even after my utmost try to be brief, the letter appears a bit longer but I hope due to the importance of the subjects discussed you will kindly give it place in *The Brunswickan* next issue. Letter is attached herewith.

I thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Saifullah Khan Tanoli

To the Editor:

The *Political Perspectives* column in *The Brunswickan* of March 29, 1985, touched three subjects i.e., Pakistan, Islam, and Amnesty International, requires few corrections and clarifications.

Mr. Patton, the author, wrongly states Pakistan (95% Muslim) is a secular country and present government of President Zia is transforming it to an Islamic Republic. Actually Pakistan was always officially an Islamic Republic and not a secular state. The so-called progressive elements (communists and semi-communists) in Pakistan are with ambivalent manifesto whose aspirations appear to be to

rule/or otherwise create chaos in the society.

Regrettably, Mr. Patton writes that the Islamic Republic means institutionalization of barbaric punishments. To me this suggests either Mr. Patton's utmost ignorance of Islam or his deliberate attempt to distort the facts about Islam. Islam is a *Deen* which means a way of life. It constitutes a religion, a political system, an economic system, a justice system etc. and it provides guidelines to societies and individuals alike in their everyday dealings. The Islamic punishments cannot singularly be applied in an unIslamic system or society. The society has to be fabricated into an Islamic framework before the implementation of punishments. Practically however, Islamic punishments are a scaring tool rather than harming strokes because the pre-requisite conditions such as certain number of eyewitnesses etc. are difficult to meet. I also find it very unjust to hide the fruits and beauty of the Islamic system and just mention the punishments. After all God does not want to harm his own loving creatures. Further, the thought of harshness of punishment is subjective, just for the sake of argument for example, I may find it barbaric and uncivilized to imprison somebody for 20 years or to imply capital punishment (which by the way 85% Canadians support).

Islam is not by force and I am a Muslim by choice like majority of the Pakistanis. If the majority of the Pakistanis went to see the Islamic system in their country why it creates uneasiness to some people. After all democratic rules should take precedence. I as a free thinking person oppose any kind of punishment to political opponents (if true) in Pakistan by President Zia's regime but support severe penalties on those who prefer violence and disrupt public peace.

I agree with Mr. Patton about the unfortunate sufferings of human beings in several countries because of their political beliefs, and appreciate Amnesty International's campaign to save humans from horrible tortures. However, I would like to point out that AI's campaign, hopefully not intentionally, does harm the targeted country's image. AI also campaigns to cut off economic and other aids to such countries, thus scourging the nation and the people as a whole, and not the individuals responsible for degrading acts. I will suggest to upgrade the human values

around the world, AI should have struck the roots and not the branches. Sources should be contained. This can be done by public awareness campaigns by unveiling the countries or secret services (if any) involved in bringing in power such degraded individuals. Hopefully public pressure in such countries will help to restrain their governments in playing with the lives of the people in the underdeveloped and developing countries. The principle should be that if you cannot do good for someone, don't do the bad either.

UNB English Department

Dear Sir:

The Department of English wishes to inform both students and faculty members about two matters which have given rise to a good deal of misunderstanding in recent years: our introductory writing courses and the University's Competence in English Test.

We offer two introductory writing courses, ENGL 1013: Fundamentals of Clear Writing and ENGL 1123: Fundamentals of Effective Writing, both of which, given their purposes, are limited-enrolment courses. During the current academic year, we have taught 19 sections of 1013 and 5 of 1123. We would have offered more sections, but did not receive the funding from the University administration that would have enabled us to do so. Therefore, at Registration, we had to turn away some 250 students who wished to improve their writing or who were advised to do so by their faculties. This rejection angered numerous students, as it did certain deans and directors who seemed to believe that we had the resources to lay on as many sections of 1013 as were called for. I wish to forestal further outbursts of this sort by explaining what is in store, come next September.

As of now, we have the teaching strength to offer 8 sections of 1013 and 2 of 1123, and it seems probably that we will receive funding for four additional slots of 1013. Of the 8 of 12 sections of 1013, it will be possible to provide in 1985-86, six are reserved for students for whom the course is compulsory, they being students in Physical Education, Forest Engineering, and Geological Engineering. If you belong to another faculty, and

wish to try to reserve a place for yourself in an open section of 1013 at a specific time in the timetable, you must either visit Professor William Cragg, Director of Introductory Writing Courses, in Room 325, Carleton Hall or write to him during the summer. We can do nothing more. Obviously, hundreds of students who would benefit from these courses will again be refused entry at this fall's Registration. There is no point in complaining to the Department of English, either now or in September. If you are concerned about this state of affairs, you should direct your animadversions to Dr. R.E. Burrige, Vice-President (Academic), as it is he who determines the teaching strength of every department on campus.

We are also held accountable by many for the Competence in English Test, and are blamed because many students who fail the test are left with no adequate opportunity for improving their English so as to meet the University's requirements. In fact, this test is administered through the office of the University Secretary and is governed by the Vice President (Academic). It was created by the University Senate, not by us. We did not design the Test, we do not give it, we are in no way responsible for it. I can assure all readers that if we were responsible for such testing, we would not permit illiterate students to reach their graduating year. It may not be widely realized that the regulations of the Test are such, that a student who has failed it one or more times, or who simply refuses to take it,

can progress to his or her final year at UNB still incapable of composing a grammatically correct sentence. This bizarre dispensation invites very obvious questions, questions of a sort that should never be raised in a self-respecting university.

Sincerely,
R.H. Cockburn

Chairman,
Department of English

A word of thanks

A WORD of thanks:

On behalf of WORD (World Disarmament) I would like to thank all the people who assisted our group in putting on our Pub on April 4th.

As each individual who gave of their time and effort contributed equally to the evening's success I feel it best not to list names in order to avoid an inadvertent omission.

So many were involved in assisting WORD in this venture that, in retrospect, the event could not have been anything but a success. It is at times like this that the words 'thank you' seem highly inadequate, however, a heartfelt 'thank you' is all our group can offer.

On a personal note, there is a person who must be singled out for a special note of thanks. This individual was the reassuring calm I personally needed throughout the preparations; especially on the final day. This person's name will also remain anonymous, however he knows who he is.

Sincerely,
M. Kaye MacPhee
President—WORD

