

Blood and Thunder

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Rm. 35, Student Union Building
DEADLINE: 5 PM, Tuesday
MAXIMUM WORDS: 300

Long Overdue

I would like to thank the anonymous letter writer to the Brunswickan on March 23, 1990 for pointing out the change of format of the paper to include multiculturalism, third world affairs and culture. This departure is long overdue and it is in keeping with our evolving multicultural Heritage. Mr. Dawes, the Editor of the Brunswickan, should be commended for bringing his unique experience, vision and ability to include articles about issues that reflect the university community at large. Article on multiculturalism, third world affairs, and culture can only lead to an awareness of people's needs and in the process dismantle barriers that get into the way of all people's freedom.

Being informed in a realistic way about people in our country and the world can help to build bridges rather than walls in understanding people's needs and can lead to more harmony among us. The education and learning that comes from these articles published in the Brunswickan and lead us to discover why each of us feels and behaves the way we do. Awareness of all people helps to break down perceived assumptions about "other" people's needs and desires, and allows for a more just understanding which may lead to end some of the discriminatory practices we now have in our society.

An exploration into why we as humans do what we do can lead to a process where we ask, "What is getting in the way of each of us having what we want without so much pain?"

The answer will come from the process of exploration, education and awareness plus a will to be less self-interested and more inclusive.

Reading about third world affairs and culture in the Brunswickan, magazines, journals or books enables one to see the connections and similarities among different countries, culture and people.

As people of the world we build our societies based on many things among them history, climate, material availability and society's philosophy towards its people.

Some societies are more environmentally caring, some materially caring, some people caring. We can learn from the dangers some societies may face when they focus on only one of the above. For example, if a society puts material caring before everything else, it will not be helpful for its people. A balance of the environment, material and caring for its people will produce a healthy, creative and just society where

humans can spend their time to accomplish things that will benefit society rather than trying to solve the problems that come with an unhealthy society.

I would therefore like to thank the editor of the Brunswickan for including articles that can only enhance learning and through it the reduction of conflicts and a healthier society.

Kay Nandall

He-Man

It was brought to my attention that the last few lines of the article I wrote for last week's "Woman's Room" column might be construed as homophobic.

In speculating about the sexual orientation of the "He-Man" law students who printed up the infamous misogynist t-shirts, I was trying to point out the contradictions inherent in the "He-Man" ethic: i.e. that "He-Men" are self-professed woman haters, but that, because compulsory heterosexuality/homophobia is an integral part of their code, they feel obliged to be sexually involved with women. It would make MY life easier if woman-hating "He-Men" slept with other "He-Men" and left women alone. The whole macho ethic seems to be a bit illogical.

The remark in question was (admittedly) a cheap shot, but it was directed at "He-Men" and their sexist/homophobic macho code, rather than at gay men. I regret that I did not make this clear in my article.

Maria Kubacki

Anonymous Weenie

Dear "Disgruntled Grad",

Congratulations! Your letter in the Bruns was quite a piece of work! You must be so proud! I mean, really, there are probably very few individuals on campus who are capable of combining such venom, spite, malice and self-righteousness in a cowardly, anonymous letter - I'm just proud to be in the same university as you!

But enough BS - you spineless little weasel! You are not justified in attacking the Grad Class Executive because the Christmas Formal and the California trip had to be cancelled.

Gisele Pataki made a diligent effort to put on a successful formal. The event was both well-planned and well-promoted. It was not her fault nor the fault of any other Grad Class Executive Member the

formal had to be cancelled. The California trip had to be cancelled for similar reasons. It too was well-planned and well-promoted. In fact, if I recall correctly there was a large ad in the Bruns for many weeks last semester, not to mention numerous posters around campus to promote the trip. Is it the Grad Class Executive's fault that so few people wanted to go? Maybe it is - after all, they should have known that such an original and thoughtfully planned trip would fail. In fact, they should be ashamed of themselves for trying to make our last year at UNB special.

With regard to the Gates Project, maybe you did make some valid points - but nobody will notice since you threw it in with all that other vicious garbage. Both, I and many other 1990 grads will be proud to return to the gates years from now and see our names engraved on the bricks. We'll be sure to look for yours - "Cowardly, Anonymous Weenie" isn't it?

Finally, I must commend you on your attack of Jamie Petrie. It was the most disgraceful item I've seen in the Bruns column. As Jamie's friend, I was appalled by your statements, which amounted to no more than a malicious, personal attack. And, I am angered that you could do such a low, underhanded thing as make such an attack anonymously. Thus, I proudly sign my name to this letter and hope that you'll respond in kind.

Purvie Rajani

Lots of Sense

What "Smoking Policy"?

It was very nice to see the Student Union take actions against Smokers in the SUB, earlier this year. But, what's happening? There may be signs prohibiting smoking in the SUB, but there are still people smoking in there. I really do not think that these smokers are illiterate, after all, they did make it to university didn't they? But, what I do know, is that these people have no right whatsoever to smoke in the SUB. I also know for a fact, that I am in the majority when I say this, too. Student Union, can you help us out in this one?

Not One "Quarter" of sense.

Lemme ask you one question. The university has graciously given us, in residence, coin operated washing machines and dryers. Thank you very much, but are you going to follow up on this gesture? I mean, over eighty-five percent of us, in residence, do our laundry over the weekend. Of this group, about sixty percent of us are able to

attain the proper coins (quarters) needed for the operation of these machines. But where does that leave the rest of us? The Mega Spot and the Smoke Shoppe in the SUB both refuse to give any change for operating the machines, and the Residence Security Building is closed during the weekends. Hell, this makes a lot of sense, does it not?

Dan Michielsen (TBF)

Grad 1990

Last week you published a letter signed by "Disgruntled Grad." Since this person obviously does not want to speak to us personally, we would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few of the points made in that letter.

First of all, "Disgruntled Grad" claims that our two General Meetings were poorly advertised. For the first meeting held Tuesday, 17 October, 1989, an advertisement appeared in The Brunswickan on Friday, 13 October. As well, over 300 posters were distributed all over campus on Sunday, 15 October. On the day of the meeting itself, notices were placed on tables in all UNB cafeterias and libraries. The same schedule for Brunswickan ads and posters was followed for our second General Meeting on Tuesday, 20 March, 1990. On that occasion, our posters were specifically designed to stand out from the blizzard of posters for the Student Union elections. The end result is that all members of the Class of 1990 had nearly five days notice of both of our meetings.

"Disgruntled Grad" then had a few words to say about the Christmas Ball and the California Trip. Neither of these events took place due to poor ticket sales. Tickets for the Christmas Ball were on sale for two weeks before the event was to be held on Saturday, 2 December, 1989. Only 42 had been sold by Friday, 1 December. The California Trip was advertised in The Brunswickan for three weeks. Six grads showed up for the information meeting. We were elected in March 1989 to plan events for the Class of 1990. We are not babysitters -- we cannot force people to attend Grad Class 1990 events. Our primary focus has always been Grad Week 1990.

As for the Class of 1990 Gates Project, it was proposed to members of the Class at our first General Meeting. Approval of the project was overwhelming and enthusiastic, and this support has been confirmed by donations to the Gates from several hundred grads. No one has force them to donate, and if the members of the Class of 1990 had not supported the project in

October 1989, the Class of 1990 Gates would never have gone past the proposal stage.

"Disgruntled Grad" also criticized the election of Jamie Petrie as Valedictorian. There were six candidates for Valedictorian this year. All were given the opportunity to address members of the class at our second General Meeting. Mr. Petrie became our Valedictorian because the largest number of grads voted for him. This is not a new or radical approach to elections.

Finally, "Disgruntled Grad" implied that there has been a lack of information coming from the Grad Class Executive for members of the Class of 1990. This is not the case. We have provided grads with information about our events, the Gates Project, and Grad Week through our meetings, posters and notices in The Brunswickan. We have always welcomed questions and suggestions. Usually at least one member of the executive can be found in our office during lunch, and we are all listed in the Student Directory if grads can't reach us in person. We will be sending all potential grads information about graduation and Grad Week 1990 activities during the first week of May. We will always welcome any questions or ideas that grads have about Grad Class 1990 events.

Sincerely,
Marc Braithwaite - President
John Marshall - Vice President
Michael Elliott
Secretary/Treasurer

Own Business

This letter is in response to the "Disgruntled Grad" (March 30, 1990 Edition), whose comments in "Blood and Thunder" beg to be answered.

This grad obviously has the worst case of self-pity I have ever seen! He attacks the Grad Class Executive on three counts, as well as the Valedictorian election of Jamie Petrie.

Being a 1990 graduate myself, I am trying to keep an open-mind and read his/her comments objectively. But there are several points this "Grad" has made which must be addressed:

In my opinion, this "Grad" has a right to be unsatisfied with the Grad Class Gate Project -- it has turned into a bit of a farce (allowing non-grads to participate), and it did appear that the Executive acted on their own accord. In retrospect, however, they did allow those 150+ grads attending the first (well publicized) Grad Meeting to vote in acceptance or rejection. The Grad Class voted unanimously to accept and the

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