

Blood and Thunder

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rm. 35, Student Union Building, UNB Campus
DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Tuesday MAXIMUM WORDS: 300

New Proposal

The Editor
I have a proposal which might serve to address some of the concerns mentioned in last week's issue. Though it is a modest proposal, I believe it has merit. My proposal is this:

Because Jesus Christ, and those who try to follow His example, obviously dedicate their lives to writing letters encouraging Tom, Dick and Harry, to engage in senseless violence against innocent passers-by, and because they tend to make some people feel uncomfortable, I propose that, in lieu of hypocrisy, this country cease to officially recognize the Christian religion altogether. Although our nation has long ceased to be considered a Christian society, there is still some room for improvement.

For example, instead of trying to downplay the fact that there wouldn't be a Christmas without Christ, and trying to make the holiday more commercial than it already is, we should simply cancel Christmas. Instead, we could designate one day when everyone would be nice to one another, then they could go on being normal human beings the rest of the year. Of course, all other religious holidays, like Easter, would have to be cancelled too.

Also, many of our laws are still based on Judeo-Christian values. Because it is narrow-minded to think there may be some absolute right or wrong, and because such views restrict personal freedom, they ought to be completely removed from the laws that govern our society. Some steps have already been made in this direction, as new legislation is now being presented to Parliament in the attempt to legalize the murder of certain groups of small people. More work should be done, however, to lift restrictions in other areas such as theft and violence.

Finally, because our entire system of dating is based on when Jesus lived on earth (B.C. & A.D.), this system needs to be revised. It is now generally agreed that the earth is more than 10 million years old. Therefore, the date ought to be written, for example, "Friday, December 8, 10,421,989", thus eliminating the daily reminder that Jesus was ever here, though it would make wearing watch calendars somewhat more cumbersome.

I believe that if these suggestions were taken seriously, everyone could go on being happy and gay, and we could all go to Hell in peace.

Yours (almost sincerely),
Dwayne Sleep

Fair

Dear Editor,
This letter is in reference to James Gill's last article of In the Pink, whereby, he made the comparison of being Jewish in a Christian dominated society to that of being a homosexual in a society dominated by heterosexuals. Gill stated in his article, that the hype of the Christmas season was unfair to young Jewish children who stood by and watched as their Christian friends received an overabundance of gifts in celebrating the birthday of their Lord, Jesus Christ.

Firstly, James should not young (sic) Christian children feel these so called unfair atrocities since Christmas is only celebrated one day while Hanukah is celebrated for eight days? Maybe Mr. Gill was a deprived child during Hanukah. Mr. Gill's statement should be seen by any reasonable person as being both absurd and illogical, and is merely an attempt on his part to draw attention to his own call for homosexual equality, (which I have no problems with).

Being Jewish myself, and being brought up in Sydney, N.S., it is fair to say that I was a religious minority among my Christian friends. Contrary to Gill's statement, however, my non-Jewish friends and their beliefs, affected me in a most positive way. Growing up in a rather small community, I was fortunate to have the best of both worlds; that being, the maintenance of my own religious traditions, as well as having the opportunity to learn about other religious customs and beliefs different than my own. The problem with people like James Gill stems from their inability to appreciate the joys of Christmas, or for that matter, the inability to appreciate anything that doesn't pertain directly to them. Anyone, whether Jewish or Christian, or homosexual or heterosexual, should, as a human being, be able to appreciate seeing other people enjoying their various religious festivals. Based on Gill's analysis, pertaining to the unfairness of young Jewish children having to cope with the 'Christmas cheer', I suppose he would find it unfair that young Americans living in Canada should have to suffer through the celebrations during Canada's birthday. Should we cancel Canada Day, James? I think not.

It seems to me that Mr. Gill is using his frustration of being a minority in a heterosexual dominated society, to let out his frustration of being a religious minority, (Jewish), as well. Mr. Gill, if you stopped worrying about being such a minority in your society, and instead, learn to appreciate life as a person with

two arms, two legs, and red blood, maybe you'll see yourself as not being so different after all. Finally, James, don't make such generalizations, (the unfortunateness of young Jewish children during Christmas), if they are based on your own upbringing and frustration of not being able to appreciate the joys of life.

Evan Zelikovitz

Smoking

It really bugs me to see people smoke, but it bugs me more when I have to breathe it as well. I know this issue has plagued this campus for quite some time now, and I also know how hard it is to quit. I smoked from the age of fifteen, until a year ago when my doctor told me that I was suffering from bronchitis and asthma, (I thought (sic) it was just a cough). I had no choice but to quit right there and then, otherwise I may have no enjoyed breathing anything for very much longer. I know the hardships of quitting; the weight (sic) gain, the cravings, and the adjustment to our living schedules (sic). I have now seen the light, and come to realize that the pain and torture was all worth it.

This brings me back to my original question; why do I have to breathe other peoples smoke? When we established designated smoking areas on campus I figured that if I avoided these areas, I would live smoke free, but I was wrong. Now that the cold weather (sic) is upon us, I constantly see people disobeying the rules, and lighting up almost (sic) anywhere. Smokers always claim (and I used to as well) that all non-smokers should leave them alone, but you smokers do not see how bad this problem really is. If you enjoy the fact that your clothes, breath and general 'space' sticks (sic), that's fine, but stop polluting my atmosphere. Please try to smoke outside or in your designated 'stink holes', I for one have a really hard time breathing when you smoke somewhere that I cannot avoid. I know that when I smoked I tried to be considerate towards the non-smokers around me, I wish you could do the same. I would not want to see a bunch of people in yellow jackets with the words "Smoke Police" written on the back, handing out fines to violators. If that is what is needed to stop smokers from wounding non-smokers, than (sic) let it be.

Had to get it off my chest
Jonathan Lazar

Regrets

Dear Editor,
REPLY TO: Henry Snuffaluffagous (the man of Neville who is not man enough to print his real name) and the men of Neville...

My initial reply to you regarding my decision not to support the bedpush was strictly personal and based solely on the individual making the request. No members of my house, or committee were aware of it. If you look closer you will notice the response you received was signed by Keith Morrison not Keith Morrison, on behalf of Neill.

Speaking as President of Neill House, however, we regret the impression your letter conveys which implies we do not support charities or believe they are stupid. We also regret, due to our limited budget, that we can not donate to more of the many worthy causes.

At the start of the term I personally delivered a cheque to the Varsity Mania crew on behalf of Neill House, which represented a house participation of over 60% at their opening event of the year. All process from this affair were to aid Cystic Fibrosis. Neill houses' top attendance at this year's Terry Fox Run and second best attendance at the blood donor clinic also reflects our concern and awareness for others less fortunate. Other charity fundraisers which we will be participating in or making direct contributions toward again this year include: Special Olympics, the Heart Foundation, and further Cancer support. We also wish to have a larger participation in the charity Ball this year, and see it become the charity event of the year.

I openly apologize to the organizers of the Empty Stocking Fund and Frederickton Food Bank for any offenses taken. I made a mistake by allowing my personal indifference with the party involved-who also based his letter to me solely on the same prejudice-to come between myself and your purpose. I hope that in the future Neill House will find a way to include your organizations in our charitable consideration. I also regret that House Pride had to suffer personal indifference.

Keith Morrison

Mystery Critic

Dear Editor:
After reading Mr. Kwame Dawes Editorial: "The Mystery Critic", I felt compelled to write.

As a former Bruns staffer I find it difficult to remain calm when someone criticizes the paper in a way that is not constructive, but even more irritating, if the critic does so anonymously.

Obviously the individual has time on his/her hands if the

editing/proofing is so detailed. I strongly suggest that the "critic" take his/her time and put it to better use...like going to Room 35 in the SUB and actually work on the paper. Perhaps once the critic sees what it takes to put out a weekly publication the criticism will be tempered with understanding.

Mr. Dawes admits the paper can be improved and it is that attitude which must be noted and appreciated. It is one which is positive and obviously shared by the other staff members. They accept constructive criticism, even encourage it, and then the criticism or suggestion is acted on.

I think the entire staff, particularly Mr. Allan Carter, should be congratulated. Each week the Brunswickan is improving; in layout, in quality of news stories, in consistency of print format.

A final word to the "mystery critic"...criticism is the art of judging with knowledge...can you say "knowledge"...uhuh, I thought you couldn't.

Sincerely
Kaye Brookland

Comparison?

Dear Kwame.
Responding to the request made in the final paragraph of your editorial of 1 December 1989, I can truthfully say that I have found myself reading the Brunswickan more (and more of the Brunswickan) this fall than at any time during the ten years at UNB. I have particularly enjoyed your editorials, some of the "Opinion" pieces, James Gill's columns, and Steve Griffiths's contribution.

I have some idea of what it takes to serve up a student newspaper each week. I think you and your colleagues at the Bruns are doing a commendable job.

Yours sincerely
James Downey
President

Michigan

Dear Editor,
My name is Autumn Cole, I'm in the 6th grade and I attend Immanuel Lutheran School in Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

Over the next few months my class will be studying about Canada. I would appreciate it if your readers could send us postcards and tell us about their area in which they live in. The school address where they could send them is:

Autumn Cole
Immanuel Lutheran School
47120 Romeoplank Rd.
Mt. Clemens, Michigan, USA
48044

Thank You!

Sincerely,
Autumn Cole

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see the first on the phone... As she hangs up another... I'll just slip my assignment under his door! Poor Maggie. Give her a break would you?