

BLOOD AND THUNDER

Letters to the editor reflect the views of our readers and not necessarily those of the Brunswickan. Letters may be sent to Rm. 35 in the Student Union Building. Deadline: 1 pm on Tuesday. Usual maximum length: 300 words. Please include name, student number and phone number

Taxi Blues

Dear Editor:

On October 22, 1992, I ordered a taxi (Student Taxi) to the SUB building on the campus of U.N.B. to take myself (one person) to a nearby motel, a \$2.50 fare. After I got in the cab I told the driver I had to make a quick stop at Harrington Hall. He told me an extra dollar would have to be added to the fare, making it \$3.50. I agreed. After getting back in the cab, the driver proceeded in the opposite direction of my destination. I then asked the driver where he was going. He told me he had a person to pick up at the bank on campus. I didn't object to that. It's when he told me he also had another fare to pick up elsewhere. That's when I said no, I want to go to my destination directly with no more stops. He informed me that because of the reduced fare for students he had a right to pick up added passengers without my permission. I was not satisfied with his explanation so we decided I would go back over to the SUB building at no charge, so I could wait for another cab. As we neared the SUB building a city police car was just pulling up and an officer was getting out of his car. Upon seeing this, the cab driver had a change of heart. He called to the officer to approach the taxi and that I refused to pay him. This made me angry so then I did refuse to pay. The police officer instructed me to pay the cab driver or I would be charged with theft or fraud. The officer was not interested in what took place prior to my arrival at the SUB building. He said I don't care what happened, pay him. I paid the taxi driver and then proceeded to call Student Taxi Ltd. 1987 and file a complaint with the manager. Upon doing so, the manager told me basically the same story as the cab driver. He also told me if I wanted to further complain I would have to take my complaints elsewhere. I then hung up on him.

My feeling is, taxis are here to provide a service to the general public at a reasonable price. Some cab drivers and companies feel differently. It appears they have a system in place so as to maximize their specific interests at the expense and inconvenience of the public. A damn poor way to run a service based industry.

If cab drivers can't make a decent living I suggest you get out of the business, or discuss your problem with your company; don't use the people of Fredericton as a way to perpetrate your shortcomings.

I have never seen taxi businesses operate in the style and fashion as they do in the City of Fredericton. Very inconvenient, inconsiderate and unprofessional.

These feelings I've expressed are really just an echo. Many people have been saying the same thing for a long time.

I'm sure not all taxi drivers and companies fall into the categories I've mentioned. However, Mr. Phil Cormier who drives cab #22 of Student Taxi 1987 Ltd. certainly appears to.

I had a friend of mine look up for me the City of Fredericton By-Law No. R-6 sec.7 concerning the operation of taxis. Passed by Fredericton City Council October 9, 1990. It states: "Every taxicab driver shall transport his passenger by the most direct route without picking up any further passengers between the point of origin and the point of destination of the first passenger, unless permission for picking up such further passenger is first sought and received from the first passenger by the taxicab driver."

It appears through inquiry that no additions or amendments have been made to this By-Law.

Also in the same by-law under *Cancellation or suspension*, No.R-6 sec. 11:

(1) The Chief of Police may cancel or suspend any license granted under the provisions of this By-Law where he finds:

(b) that the holder of the license has violated any provision of this By-Law or has violated any of the duties prescribed in the By-Law.

Furthermore, By-Law No. R-6, No. 18, *Offences* states:

Every person who violated any provision of this By-Law is guilty of an offense and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than fifty dollars and not more than two hundred dollars.

Concerned,
James Taylor

Unnecessary mistakes in article

Dear Editor,

As a close friend, classmate and roommate of the late Dan Barrow I was glad to see an article written about Dan in last week's *Brunswickan*. Although, after reading this article, I was deeply upset to see so many unnecessary mistakes within it. With minimal effort these mistakes could have easily been avoided. A short and simple conversation with myself or any of Dan's other friends would have corrected these mistakes which upset and frustrated many who knew Dan.

Dan, who was from River Philip, Nova Scotia, was a second year Forestry student and a resident of MacKenzie House. While Dan attended Oxford Regional High School he was very active in extra-curricular sports and maintained a high level of academic excellence, graduating as his class valedictorian. Dan particularly enjoyed playing hockey and soccer as well as biking, kayaking, hiking. He also showed a great love for the outdoors and nature in general. Here

at UNB, Dan continued to maintain a high level of academic excellence, finishing his first year near the top of his class and he continued at this level throughout this year.

The Dean of Forestry, Dr. Ian Methuen and Dr. Daniel Keppie, as well as many of Dan's close friends and classmates attended the memorial service held on Thursday October 22 at the Trinity United Church in Oxford, N.S. This was followed by a committal service at the United Church Cemetery, River Philip.

Dan Barrow died Friday October 16, 1992, near his home in River Philip, Nova Scotia. Dan held a special place in the lives of many people and Dan's memory will be cherished in our heart forever.

Darren R. Dean

Very upset with article

Dear Editor,

Dan Barrow was not just some guy that a memorial service was held for, and as a good friend of the late Dan Barrow's I was very upset to read an article littered with so many unnecessary mistakes and written in such an unfeeling manner as the article written by Mimi Cormier in the *Brunswickan* of October 30, 1992.

Dan was a second year student in the Faculty of Forestry, not Forest Engineering. Although this may seem like a trivial fact to some, those who knew Dan, or any other Forester, know that the difference is there and that it does matter. Dan was a top student in his class here at the University of New Brunswick.

The article of October 30 contained two other mistakes that I feel could have, and should have been avoided. The article states that Dan died "early on Sunday, October 16...", Dan did die on October 16, however one look at a calendar will tell you that that day was a Friday. The other mistake is that the location of Dan's memorial service, another fact that may seem trivial, but is not, the memorial was actually held in Oxford, Nova Scotia and not Springhill.

As you can see these mistakes could easily have been avoided had people who knew Dan been approached for questions. As it stands, none of Dan's close friends were talked to.

I hope that in the future, articles I read in the *Brunswickan* will be more accurate and better proofread. Not only are Dan's friends upset by the mistakes in the article but I feel that Dan himself, being as organized as he was, would be disap-

pointed as well.

Dan Barrow was a friend to all. He was smart, good looking and well liked by all who knew him. He will be missed very much by his family, friends and those whose lives he touched with his caring personality.

Tina Buott

Ed note: The Brunswickan apologizes for the mistakes which occurred in last week's article. A brief article correcting the mistakes is in the news section of this issue. The following is a letter from Mimi Cormier, the Brunswick staff member who wrote the story on the memorial for Dan Barrow.

Reasons for mistakes

Dear Editor,

In their letters, Darren Dean and Tina Buott make complaints regarding an article I wrote about a memorial service held for Dan Barrow, a UNB student.

One of their complaints is that I did not contact any close friends of Dan to verify details. At the time I was writing the article Dan's death was very recent. I did not want to approach the students who were closest to Dan and experiencing the most pain, such as Darren, who was Dan's roommate. Many of Dan's friends, like Darren, had returned home to Nova Scotia making them difficult to contact. Darren, Tina and I are residents of MacKenzie House like Dan was. I did speak with other residents of MacKenzie, and got some information at a counselling session held at MacKenzie House October 18.

Darren points out that Dan lived in River Philip, not Oxford Junction. I had confirmed Dan's home address with a student directory that lists Oxford Junction. I apologize for that and other errors that

were the result of mistaken information I got from several sources.

Tina states that Dan did not die on Sunday, Oct. 16. That was a misprint. The article I submitted stated that Dan was reported missing on Friday, Oct. 16 and was found dead on Sunday, Oct. 18. The error resulted from an editing mistake, since part of the story I submitted had to be removed before printing. This was to fit the story into the space allotted to it for the issue and was beyond my control.

Other facts I had written into the article had also been edited out, such as the fact that Dan was a former Bridges House resident. I realize that Dan's life meant more to his friends than a brief "unfeeling" article in the paper. Harsh as it may seem, the News Editor reminded me that the story was a news article and not an obituary, perhaps it would've been better written by someone who knew Dan but no one approached either *The Brunswickan* or myself about it.

I actually spent a week trying to convince the editors that story was newsworthy enough to be printed! Sadly, several students and staff members die every year with no articles about them in *The Brunswickan*. I personally did not know Dan, but other MacKenzie residents urged me to submit a story.

Other things mentioned by Darren and Tina such as Dan's academic accomplishments were mentioned in the article.

Believe me, I tried my best to have a suitable article printed. Friends of Dan Barrow may see the mistakes as inexcusable. If those errors caused Dan's friends any more grief than they already had, it was not intended and I sincerely apologize.

Mimi Cormier

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