

# Blood & Thunder

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Brunswick, its staff or its publishers. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Deadline: Monday at 5pm

## Red Roulette Reminisces

Dear Sir,  
My granddaughter sent me a copy of last week's Brunswickian, which included Wesson Smith's reminiscences of the old Red Roulettes. As a former member of that great team (1953-1955) I was proud to see that they're finally getting the recognition that is due them.

At one time it was a point of pride to be a Red Roulette. In fact, I met my wife down at the Riverview Arms back when she was a Red Roulette groupie. Now I am sad to find that not only have we been forgotten, but that we would no longer even be the Red Roulettes, but instead the Varsity Reds. Given the successes of past years' basketball teams and this year's hockey team, how could any red Roulette hold up his head with pride while being identified with these squads?

Despite this, I remain proud of having been a UNB student and a Red Roulette. The teamwork and camaraderie were what I will remember most. To the day I die I will always remember the help of my teammates in the 1955 fire fight against Mount Allison that ended my career. If any of them are still alive, to them I give all my love and thanks, and I invite them to write to the Brunswickian to remind today's students of the greatness and glory that was the Red Roulettes.  
Straight shooting,  
Richard Voisard

## Moncton Women Respond

Dear Madam:  
I am writing this letter on behalf of the Moncton Business and Professional Women's Club to express our feelings reading Mr. Yaqzan's article.  
On re-reading Mr. Yaqzan's article "Opinion Rape" Past and Present" several times and then taking the time to research the media

clips before and after, it seems the media is guilty of sensationalism and taking bits of information out of context.

The article states that the word "rape" has many different meanings and that the word "rape" is quite capable of arousing strong emotions. He also states that social values have changed over the years and suggests in addition to dispensing condoms that boys and girls be instructed that sexual needs for the sexes are different.

Instead of suggesting promiscuous girls "demand monetary compensation for inconvenience", he could have suggested that each person is responsible for his/her own behavior even under the influence of alcohol. He infers that "boys will be boys" unless adequate reasons and circumstances conducive to postponement of the sexual act are provided. We disagree with the notion that if a girl accompanies a boy to his room that she is expected to engage in intercourse.

It is irresponsible to suggest that the feeling of being violated is correlated in reverse with the number of times one has engaged in intercourse.

The Business and Professional Women's Club of Moncton wish to send the strongest message possible that violence, in any form, including rape, is never acceptable.

Yours truly,  
Bertha Mills  
Corresponding Secretary  
Moncton Business and Professional Women's Club

## Suspension A Disgrace

To the Editor:  
The suspension, since rescinded by the University of New Brunswick of Professor Martin Yaqzan for views he expressed on so called "date rape" is a disgrace.

We have to pinch ourselves to remind us that we live in a country that has a Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which upholds, in Section 2(b), the rights of all, even politically incorrect university professors, "to freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression." That a university administration would suspend a 27-year teaching veteran for the mere expression of controversial

views is frightening.

We shouldn't be wagging our fingers in international forums about human rights violations in China or elsewhere. Freedom of expression is very much in peril in our own country, threatened by the new Torquemadas of the politically correct.

The cause of the university administration's panic is almost laughable. Professor Yaqzan's article does little more than restate the views of traditional Christianity, Judaism, and Islam that, ideally, a woman should remain chaste until her marriage. Women who don't or who flirt with what traditional Christianity used to term "the near occasion of sin", by going to a young man's bedroom after a date, should not be surprised that some men may see them as sexually available. Whatever one thinks of these views and however out-of-date they may appear, certainly one should not be in danger of losing his job for expressing them.

A society that seems so threatened that it cannot tolerate a robust debate and divergence of opinion is a sick society indeed.

Sincerely yours,  
Lugh Jackson  
Public Director  
Canadian Association for Free Expression Inc.

## Immature Histrionics

To the Editor:  
"This space reserved for whiny theatre wanks."

It's a small issue, I know. Downright trivial, probably. An offhand blurb in the corner of the entertainment section, no doubt tossed off at 3:00 in the morning when the printer deadline is looming and you have a blank space to fill.

It's a small issue, but one which leaves an extremely bad taste in my mouth. I find it incredibly difficult to stomach that a newspaper which is currently asserting itself as the last bastion of free speech would pull a stunt as offhanded, juvenile and insensitive as this one.

I understand the pressures you are under. As an undergraduate I worked on my campus paper for four years. I know all about space limitations, looming deadlines and editorial constraints. I know that decisions

about what has to be cut are tough, that sometimes difficult choices have to be made, and that you are currently in a media fish-bowl, a situation which puts you under additional unwanted pressure.

But "whiny theatre wanks?"

Fuck you.  
Perhaps it is unreasonable to expect anyone to give a damn that four young playwrights spent considerable time and effort putting together a festival of original work. Perhaps we are naive in assuming that any of the 10,000 people who read your newspaper would actually care to know that audience response was overwhelmingly positive. Perhaps we are selfish and demanding in our hopes of getting some positive feedback in a town where the only theatre critic routinely rips apart any show that doesn't leave her with a warm and fuzzy feeling inside. Different members of Stage Left have criticized the Bruns for not running a review of

"At Play"; these members were expressing their anger that what they consider to be a significant cultural event was utterly ignored. Criticism and the free exchange of thought is what a campus newspaper is supposed to be for; these are the ideals you have espoused throughout the whole Yaqzan affair. If you are unable to respond to criticism of your newspaper without taking it personally and resorting to childish cheap shots, then I suggest you do everyone a favour and get out of the publishing business. Freedom of speech means you have the right to be as asinine, childish and immature as you want to be. Such behaviour, however, is not a trademark of good journalism; passing your newspaper off as such while engaging in such immature histrionics is simply an exercise in hypocrisy and self-delusion.

Sincerely,  
Stephen MacIsaac

## OPINION: VOICES THAT CARE ARE CRYING OUT

BY: SAINT GEORGE

I am extremely disappointed and not because of the "Yaqzan-Opinion". I am disappointed because a similarly serious case of alleged racial discrimination involving some international students passed through this campus without attracting the attention of the local media other than The Brunswickian. I am amazed to find out that the university community is so capable of swiftly reacting, within a matter of days, to what we all agree to be anti-social opinions or acts.

Taking cognizance of the present outrage on the rape issue, I dare to ask whether rape or sexual harassment is any different from racism. There are lots of similarities. Victims of racial discrimination can experience similar emotional trauma as rape victims. So why did the case of alleged discrimination involving a professor at the Faculty of Administration in the Summer of 1992 die or appear to have died a natural death? Where were the students of this university during that period? Can one infer that the silence of the students at large implies general support for racism? Where were all those who promptly responded to the opinion on Rape? At least Yaqzan only expressed his opinion whereas the professor was charged with "alleged racial discrimination, academic inconsistency and professional misconduct" (The Brunswickian, Oct. 1, 1993; page 9 (Opinion)).

All of a sudden the complaining international students became the objects of a subsequent investigation. One of the international students, who was bold enough to lead the fight against the professor's alleged racism, almost sacrificed his academic pursuits. He dared take it upon his shoulders because he self-financed his education and therefore could press on till the end. No wonder one of the students who was a party to the initial complaint quietly changed his initial stance. This is similar to a rape victim who, despite having gone through a traumatic experience is treated as if she was the aggressor. So why such a vast disparity of voices of concern to Sexual Harassment and Racism? The answer is simple. It is because international students are helpless, voiceless, insignificant groups of students. This is despite statements we hear at Orientation sessions that international students are precious to the university community because they bring diverse culture blah blah blah..... As for the Student Union, I don't know in whose interest they operate. They circulated a petition demanding the University appoint a second instructor for all of Professor Yaqzan's courses. Where was the Student Union when the international students were allegedly discriminated against? Sure they could have come up with a similar petition, but they apparently don't care much about racial discrimination because racism is not in their books. By "books" I am referring in particular to the Beaverbook '93. Offenses such as Plagiarism and Sexual Harassment have been thoroughly treated in the Beaverbook, but no mention was made about the S.U.'s stand on Racism. Anyone who cares should check the contents of Beaverbook '93. Some people can be fooled sometimes but you can't fool all the people all the time.

Sure, some brochures on racial discrimination awareness were enclosed in registration packages at the beginning of the year. However, that campaign was a very faint attempt at addressing the issue because no one is sure about how the complaints procedures outlined in the brochure will be implemented. International students organizations were not consulted for their opinions before the brochure was made up. Rather, some individuals were consulted, the definitions of racism obtained from the Human Rights Commission and excerpts culled out of the existing Sexual Harassment policy to produce the brochure. Then a selected few international students (by what criteria I don't know) were asked to look at the draft and present comments. The problem is, what if the international students in general prefer an independent committee chaired by a member of the Human Rights Commission to look into cases of racism until such time that we have a Racial Discrimination Policy on this campus? What if the international students are not comfortable with the procedures stated in the brochure? Who do they turn to?

It is clear that sexual harassment and rape will receive extreme attention because there are vociferous women's organizations who are prepared to see that justice is done for today's woman. For the world to be a better place to live in, the global community is increasingly gaining the understanding that issues regarding sexual harassment and rape against women cannot be ignored. What about Racism? Who speaks for the silent students who encounter racial discrimination especially on this campus? How long shall we sit by unconcerned while international students, though most susceptible to racial discrimination, experience a Culture of Silence just to protect their sources of funding? In this regard we must remember Racism while we discuss Rape because not only do the two start with the letter R, but also inflict similar emotional pain to the victims. We must remember, it is the inaction of those who should have acted that allowed folly to rule over wisdom. Furthermore, voices that care will forever shout aloud against racial discrimination of any form. Any takers from the media? I rest my case!!

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