

# Blood and Thunder

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rm. 35, Student Union Building

DEADLINE: 5 PM, Tuesday

MAXIMUM WORDS: 300

### BLEEP OFF

"Opinion", "Bleep Off Puxley", Luis Cardosa, Brunswickan, 2 February 1990.

Studying this remarkable column in a futile attempt to extract sense from frenzy, I found my way completely blocked by unnerving images of Kampuchea, the Chinese Cultural Revolution and Charlie Chaplin's "Little Dictator". An unsettling tribute to the success of the Downey Method of Acceptable Education, the uninhibitedly maniacal tone of Cardosa's verbal brake dancing (sp?) is evidence, not of book-reading, but of book-burning.

The combination of President Downey's book-banning (Malcolm Ross), Mr. Cardosa's jackboot stridency and the amazing number of pseudonymic letters on the subject of UNB's Absentee Professor, adds strength to the belief, held by many (including me) that, on the Orwellian calendar, this country is well into the final minutes (seconds?) of 1983.

To return briefly to the Case of the Absentee Professor, The Gleaner ran, 26 January, a fascinating article which features the protective maunderings of President Downey and Dean Kent on the subject of Professor Davies and professorial irresponsibility.

President Downey, apologizing in that article for his non-performing sixty grand plus p.a. and perks professor, makes the profound statement: "But, let's look at it in perspective; how each of us have failed to match someone else's expectations."

Education is not a privilege to be bestowed on the mightily favoured by other mightily favoured; not a popcorn prize; but a commodity. Bought and paid for by one side, in a contract which calls for its provision by the other side. The Canadian taxpayer has to fork over thousands of dollars for each student year, the student and/or parents have to fork over thousands more for each education year and their LEGITIMATE EXPECTATION, Downey and Davies notwithstanding, is that UNB will fulfill its contractual obligation to provide that education.

Expectations Schmexpectations! If UNB refuses to keep its side of the bargain, then it's time the public got after these scammers. Education is a very expensive and a very important commodity. Too much so to be entrusted to a passel of capricious fatcat self-preserving ivory tower highrises.

Simon Puxley

### CRACKPOT

As one of the students whom Associate Professor Matin Yaqzan requested the administration of this university to "deal with", I am happy to say that the administrations only response was to point out to Matin his inconsistency in advocating free speech for Malcolm Ross while asking that students be shut up. While Matin Yaqzan can be easily dismissed as a feeble minded crackpot it must be remembered that in a province where 16% of the population would vote for the COR party, he is not alone. History has taught us that only by challenging sick ideas can we ensure that they are not translated into action. The letters page of the Brunswickan may be a small forum but it is still too important to be censored by a bigot such as Matin Yaqzan.

Patrick Clement

### UNLOADED IGLOO

How are you. Ime still fine. I hope you dont mind callin ya Ed. E jest figered we could be pen pals. Tell the weerd guy I all redly unloded the igloo. I traded it too my paper boy tell em. I gotta a good deel cos I got his fathers empty beer bottels and a free gleener. And won bottel was still haff full. And it was alpine tell em. Any way I was thummin threw the brunskinn the day befour and nottised on the frunt page atey 4 fer cent of them law guys wanna even up staff. Tell em I dont agry. I aint sane Ime as intellijint as them. Ime jest sane there rong. Supoze they did that evryware. Like bownsirs. No more men is alowed to apply cos they gotta be gurls. And hokky. Arik Lindrose and Mike Reechy wood haff to dress up in drag. And like that edicashun student Stewrt Chase sed 1st week maybee Marryo Lamew and Wane Gredsky wood tern gay. Or football. Maybee with all them gurls theyre wood be a popyulashun boom. So supoze not as menny gurls is in law. Supoze polece did that. Supoze the law facilty reelized theyre aint enuff blacks so they only hire blacks. Or indiuns. Or chineze. Or supoze they aint got enuff cats or dogs in the facilty. Or pigs. Tell them law guys the otta no decremanashun when they see it. Tell em I aint a femunist nether. Or a menist. I like gurls. There fun. And sum of em is smarter then me to. Like Mom. Shes a gurl to. Tell em too hire the most kwalafide fokes even if there a munky. And tell em if they gotta ty too pik the manoraty

if they want. But tell em only if its a ty. And tell em I woodnt rent or sell my igloo to em cos they aint good fare people like my paper boy. And if you got more letters frum guys then gurls and odnt let guys rite til the gurls cach up I aint ritin no more.

Your pen pal

Pat Man

PS. Tell em I saw sum thing like this on the peeples cort and judge Wopper sed the guy was prejudist and thats aganst the law.

### OPEN MINDED

In the Brunswickan of February 2, there was much talk of open-mindedness. I would like to express my views concerning this issue. I believe that open-mindedness or tolerance, as it is sometimes called is being overemphasized and misused.

Open-mindedness is a solution to many problems in today's society: prejudice, crime, discrimination, etc. It can help people understand and accept one another. It preserves human dignity.

However, I do think that there are certain issues for which open-minded thinking cannot apply. One of these is truth. Truth is by definition objective and not subjective (I would call "subjective truth" opinion or perception, and not truth). If something is true, it is true and cannot be false. This might seem obvious, but if one is open-minded concerning the issue of truth, one might think that either everything can be true to a certain extent, or that truth varies from one individual to the other. This is wrong and dangerous. Truth is truth and if this concept is distorted, how will we ever find the truth?

Supposing someone stumbles upon the truth about the meaning of life, for example. And let's say that this discovery is important for the future and survival of our world. This person has the option of taking this truth to be the truth, which it is, or of viewing it as one of many possible truths. If the second option is taken, this person might miss out on the meaning of life, or, worse, the future of the human race might be jeopardized.

I hope this example illustrates the danger in using open-mindedness where it is inappropriate. This is important to me, since I have found the Bible to be absolutely true and containing the answers to life.

Reuben Deil

### PRACTICAL JOKE

Approximately 2 months ago, I was the target of a practical joke and was the centre of sarcasm for about a week. Soon after, I felt the need for redemption.

I submitted a poem in last week's Bruns in the hopes of making this person believe she had a secret admirer. However, before I could reveal my joke to her (and I know we just would have laughed about it) she received a prank phone call concerning this poem which made her very upset. Although I take full responsibility for her anger, I take this opportunity to publicly apologize to her. It went too far and I'm sorry. Also, I would like to thank this caller for making my life miserable. Heaven forbid if I find out who you are.

Though, out of all this bad, some good has surfaced. I now realize a few things - you can never really know someone. And emotions like jealousy, fear and paranoia can be dangerous things, even more dangerous is someone who can manipulate these emotions on someone else to use to their own advantage.

Well, Miss Manipulator, you know who you are. We, but I can only speak for myself, ask why you have a need to constantly know every aspect of our lives and to use it to your advantage. I might suggest spending more time concentrating on your own life, instead of everyone else's. This time please stay out of my life because I am out of yours now . . . permanently.

John Babin

### STAY OUT OF KITCHEN!

Let me get this "straight" . . . (no pun intended) . . . Prof. Yaqzan is concerned with student behavior? Does he not mean "student opinion"? Are we to understand that it is acceptable for Prof. Yaqzan to express his personal opinions in the Bruns, while students are forbidden!?! . . . PLEASE!!!

Prof. Yaqzan is concerned that certain students have "started a campaign of insults and insinuations against him. Does he not realize that his "opinions" are insulting, offensive and abusive to a substantial portion (at least 10%) of the student population, professors and residents of the Fredericton area? Obviously not!

Prof. Yaqzan's letter to Dean Austin asks if anything would be done to "let these students know that insulting faculty members is neither in good taste nor a welcome trait for UNB students."

Where does Prof. Yaqzan suggest students voice their concerns regarding his

"insults?" I believe we live in a free, democratic country, if I'm not mistaken.

So, Prof. Yaqzan, "if you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen!" Until then, maybe you could rally a little support for your campaign by contacting a certain UNB education student who appears to be just as narrow minded as yourself. (Quick, report me).

G. Costello

### NOT ALONE

Last week in your newspaper I was asked why I wrote the editorial "Secret" (January 19/90) about my homosexuality. The purpose of this letter was written for more reasons than just saying I was gay. I was out of the closet long before my letter was printed. I wanted to show others like myself that you don't have to be afraid to say who and what you are. I felt the hardest part about being in the closet was that feeling of loneliness, that no one else was like me. Knowing you're not alone makes things a little easier. Perhaps this is hard for straight people to understand because they have never had to live their life in the closet. Living your life in such a manner is like living in jail because you are limited from doing so many things. The joy of living is basically doing what you want to do.

Finally, if my letter helped others in any way then the real purpose will have paid off.

Terry Richard

### OFFENDED

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to a letter from two fellow Education students, published January 26. In this letter, Stuart Chase and J.C. Cormier condemned another fellow Education student, Terry Richard, for publicly admitting his sexual preference. Richards' sexual preference deviates from what Chase and Cormier believe society deems as "normal". Being "normal" guys, Chase and Cormier resent Richards' position in the Education Faculty. Both believe teachers are role models, and therefore, should be "normal" guys, just like them, and not deviants from this norm.

I do not know either Richard or Cormier, but I do know Stuart Chase, and personally I've always thought him to be an intelligent guy. However, I find myself offended by his philosophy of teacher as role model.

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