

# 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, Student Union Building. Deadline: 5 pm on Tuesday. Maximum length: 300 words

## Why the ignorance?

We would like to express our concern with what singer Arnold Lanni of the group Frozen Ghost is noted to have said during the concert held on Buchanan Field, Sept. 12. Between songs, Mr. Lanni, to an audience of several hundred students, remarked that "when the going gets tough, [we should] hire a minority to get the job done". While this comment could in the written-form be interpreted to mean that minority individuals are very hard-working people, the mood and circumstances strongly support that this is not what he meant.

Mr Lanni believed that he was being funny and that his humor would be well-received. He did not pause to think, however, that his comment could offend a great number of students, not only those coming from foreign countries, but also white Canadians who do not enjoy racial jokes in the name of entertainment. As representatives of both groups, we deeply resent Mr. Lanni's arrogance, and we have no respect for his comments which are borne out of ignorance.

It is a disgrace that a person who is

in the business of communicating with large audiences should choose to promote racial tension and discordance, instead of acceptance and respect both of which are so necessary and fundamental to our humanity.

Nicholas Baggaley  
Mousumi Sannigrahi

**Ed Note:** The following letter is from Arnold Lanni responding to the above letter, "Why the ignorance?". Nicholas Baggaley and Mousumi Sannigrahi, sent a copy of their letter, "Why the ignorance" to Arnold Lanni. Mr. Lanni then phoned the Brunswickan asking if he could reply to the letter in the same issue. Given that he received the letter from the people who wrote it before its publication in the Brunns, the Brunswickan saw no problem with allowing Mr. Lanni to respond in this issue.

## Arnold Lanni Responds

I would like to respond to the 'Letter to the Editor' entitled "Why The Ignorance?" by UNB students - Nicholas Baggaley and Mousumi Sannigrahi. I am the son of Antonietta and Antonio Lanni, two immigrants who came to Canada from a war-torn Italy. They came here without money, clothing or a knowledge of the language spoken here. The comment that I am accused of - "when the going gets tough, hire a minority to get the job done" (which incidentally is written out of context), is in fact my own reaction to the treatment of minorities in Canada both now and when my parents first arrived here.

Racism in the 90's has taken the form of self righteous politicians who boast of 'saving the minorities' by enforcing the hiring of 30% minority individuals in the work place. For the life of me I cannot understand why equal opportunity, regardless of race, gender or religion, is not what is being enforced. When my parents came to Canada they were given work because 'immigrants would work cheap,' a common act of racism in that time. Now people are not hired by ability or knowledge but instead by quota, a common act of racism and sexism in our time.

If Nicholas and Mousumi were to take the time to learn about whom they accuse, they would find that I am opposed to racism and sexism and would never use my position to promote them. In fact, a number of the songs that I have written (for example, Should I See, Something to Say and Step by Step) are specifically written as anti-racism or pro-equality songs.

The 'promotion of racial tension and discordance' of which they speak, has once again been fueled by the ignorance of a few (in this case two) who have twisted and misrepresented the truth.

Fortunately, I have had the chance (albeit less than 24 hours) to respond to, and diffuse the statements of Nicholas and Mousumi. Had I received a simple phone call, these two surely would not have proceeded to contradict themselves. They themselves have attempted to further 'racial tension and discordance' by submitting their paranoid misinterpretations to *The Brunswickan*, a paper that undoubtedly has a greater reach to the students of UNB than Frozen Ghost did on the night of September 12.

Arnold Lanni

*The Brunswickan's first general staff meeting will be held today at 12:30 in the main office (rm 35) of the Student Union Building. All current staff are urged to attend. In addition, any others who are interested in joining the newspaper are also invited.*



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