

BLOOD & 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 p.m. Tuesdays. Maximum length: 300 words.

Racism Certainly Does Exist!

Kindly publish my letter in reaction to articles on racism in the *Brunswickan* of the 8th Nov. 1991. I was not intending to respond if it were not for this sentence: "However, he also points out the fact that some people may offend out of ignorance, and in this case, the charges can be waived." That's how lightly UNB takes racism!

As far as I am concerned, a racist attitude is in itself based on ignorance, thus one wonders as to how and where the university draws a line between racism and ignorance. For instance, 'ignorantly' I have been asked whether we live on trees; to me this is a racist question to which I have responded: "Yes but your embassy is on the tallest tree." My response is a direct response to a racist question. A genuine question would be "How and where do you people live?" or "Tell me about your country." Because obviously no human being lives on trees, at least not where I come from. This is but one example of many.

International Students can tolerate racism/discrimination in all other areas except for the classroom/lecturer room. Some of these "other areas" are: being seated (sic) in the blue lounge and having young Canadian boys throwing rolled paper at one; on a busy day at the SUB, joining some people already at the table and timing them to leave within 2 minutes (we now look positively at this type of behavior, at least one gets a table for oneself); joining the other students at the library to study and within 2 minutes they are gone (at least one gets to concentrate).

There are many more examples. However for International Students, the most painful and unbearable is the one in the lecture halls. Due to the high costs of coming to UNB one does not dare react to the obvious ignorance/racism as should be the case. For emphasis I intend to state the cost we have to incur: Strain on marriages and possible parting due to distances between partners; Distance from all loved ones and support mechanisms; Children who grow up without either father or mother (possible emotional trauma); Careers at stake (failure means a lost job and success means the sky is the limit); Stress from homesickness (let alone studies); Last of all are material things such as lost salary, projects in which one had invested.

It is for these reasons, that when a prof. is either ignorant/racist, it is very, very painful to a foreign student. The stakes are as high as one's own life.

Please UNB, do not say racism does not exist, but ask International students how they are treated by some prof.s and thus build mechanisms into the system to protect them. No one will cry "racism" if at the end of the day he may be victimized by the system. Does the university which we love dearly ever do the following? (as examples)

1. Cross-check mid-terms and finals for culture fairness in questions? We have had our share of exams in slang. Also when time is used against one for English is one's 2nd language.

2. Survey to find problems encountered by International Students and endeavor to correct these.

3. etc.

To conclude, I will relate a condensed incidence. A prof. a week before the final examination stated in class that he was taking a group of kids camping. The kids were expected to bring their own food and gear. One group forgot to bring food and had to starve for a weekend, and he further stated "At least they had a first hand third world experience". The class laughed. A few days later, a student stated that blacks are only good at skinning animals. Hadn't this student been given grounds to be racist? Or can we conclude that both are ignorant and waive any complaint(s)? Can we expect A's then from foreign students in this class?

Having quoted the few examples, one wonders whether International Students, if given their certificates today, would not be

on the next plane home?

"Jacksonville" (This name is false for fear of victimization. That's how bad it can be.)

What Have You Done That's So Radical?

Yes, I'm back and this time I would like to address the Daughters of McCarthy, in other words: The Wimmin's Room. I, like others, was unaware that 'the list' had actually been completed. As an aside, how could anyone get the facts from you when you refuse to identify yourselves. Knowing that the list exists, my question is when did we exhume McCarthy? Enough said. I would now like to address your use of the term radical. Yes, I suppose you are radical in a surfer context, but not in relation to doing anything positive for equality. You claim to be radical, as you sit in your corner crying foul. I say that you are not. What have you done that's so radical? To quote David Mamet, "Action talks, bullshit walks!" While I do not advocate 'radicalism' per se, I admit that it is an effective means for advancing the cause of equality. You have listed groups using radical behaviour to advance equality and your absence was duly noted. You question whether you have gone far enough. I say that you aren't even close; and please don't try to emulate American standards. They don't own the country yet. Why don't you do something to combat attacks on campus, like distributing rape whistles or start a campaign to combat the rape shield decision. If all you can claim is 'the list', then you should be ashamed. Your 'list' will bring only scorn to a cause that needs support. I also enjoy some humour by Friday, unfortunately I'm finding it in a column that should be effecting serious change not laughter.

Greg Doran

Disappointed with Red 'N' Black Review

As proud students of UNB and performers in this year's Red 'n' Black, we are deeply disappointed by the lack of professionalism displayed by your reviewer in last week's article.

Extensive amounts of time and effort were invested into the 45th annual Red 'n' Black to make it a success. Directors of the multi-faceted show devoted countless hours of their spare time to create an entertaining night for all of Fredericton to enjoy. Talented students offered their abilities to become part of a reputable UNB tradition. And when it was over, Beverly White informed them all that they had, essentially, wasted their time.

We are writing in hopes of correcting this error-laden message.

Ms. White's analysis of the production left much to be desired. Although she does point out some positive elements of the show, her review is infected with an uncaring and condescending attitude. Instead of criticizing constructively, she merely criticizes and thus, ruins her credibility as a capable reviewer.

Perhaps Ms. White aimed her writing at being a form of humorous entertainment. If so, let this letter be a strong indication that she didn't even come close - not by a long shot.

We are disappointed in the *Brunswickan*, as well, for denying their good-reporting responsibilities and sending a HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT to cover this university-centered event. To be unjustly criticized by someone who admits to having no previous knowledge of the Red 'n' Black is a little too hard to swallow. Maybe next year you can start redeeming yourself.

The reputation of UNB's fall talent show has, no doubt, suffered an unfortu-

nate blow at the hands of Ms. White and your newspaper. In the future, we hope that you will support - not deter - the progress of fellow UNB students.

In conclusion, we would like to sincerely congratulate all who volunteered their time to this year's smashing success. We would also like to encourage next year's potential performers to disregard this fatuous review and let your abilities shine in '92.

Sarah Haley
Mark Sypher

Confused about this "Equality" Thing

Yes...once again I am confused and once again I am hoping you can shed some light on something for me... It really does not have anything to do with school, although the campus community is involved. It has to do with the social scene (a.k.a. mainly the bar scene) and equality: human equality.

I have noticed, through experience and through talking with other women, that an 'un-escorted' woman will almost assuredly be verbally accosted, leered at, physically invaded, and mentally demeaned. All a woman needs is a token male, whether it be a friend, brother, cousin, or boyfriend, and she has no fear of being approached by some creep. Why? Because, with this token male, the lizards assume a woman is protected, she has someone to defend her ... WHAT A LOAD OF CRAP!!!

The clincher of this whole ordeal is if a

woman defends herself verbally she is continuously challenged and if she defends herself physically, not only does she usually lose (and bleed and bruise and spit up teeth), but she is then regarded as some "Hoity-Toity Butch" (Yes, that is a quote, intelligent hey?)

This is what confuses me: Is equality an illusion? Am I fooling myself thinking that progress has been made on how women are viewed in society?

Some people have told me that social harassment varies from bar to bar, which is true, but I don't go in for this "If you go to a specific bar people assume you are there to be picked up." No one should assume anything about someone they do not know. There is nothing to assume about a woman who dresses up and goes dancing - with or without a male escort. The 'assume' concept is about as moronic as 'No means maybe, give it a shot ...'. So, someone says: go out in groups. This is logical in any circumstance, however, a group of women still get harassed and the token male is still needed.

Another sad aspect of this whole ordeal is that myself and other women will get so sick and tired of this pathetic treatment that we will be forced to stop going out (we spend a lot of money and tip well too, by the way, what a loss) and that is not fair. I am waiting for the day that I can go out by myself and be considered worthy of consideration by everyone, especially by men that do not know me.

It must be mentioned that I know not all men are seething, slimy creepazoids. I do not want to throw all men into this stereotype. I would have occasion to wish, however, that the nice guys were as vocal as the lizards.

I am not suggesting vigilantism, but I do urge women to defend themselves with pride and should a situation arise where there is a physical threat DO NOT mess around... go immediately to a cop and explain your situation.. get it put in a computer somewhere: it helps. You can also look around for support.. Another woman would prove a point, but the nearest vocal nice guy will suffice as well.

I mentioned the campus community.. there are a lot of us, most of us have goals, and we have a common tie. I realize this sounds super-cheezie, but we have to begin respecting each other, really, no illusion please. If this respect was a universal understanding I think we could notice a change in a short time. I would like to be able to continue going out, exam time is too stressful to stay home and play solitaire, y'know what I mean?

So... what do you think? Let me know.

Darcie R. Birdsell, confused at large...

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