

SPECTRUM

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The Wimmmin's Room

How stupid do they think we are?

OPINION/ Racism, threats and intimidation at UNB.

by Valerie Kilfoil

Really, now, just how stupid does the administration at UNB think students are? My guess is that they think we are pretty damn stupid if they think we are buying the bullshit that has been shovelled out of the Business Administration faculty in recent weeks.

The background to the story is as follows: During the course offered this past summer, eight foreign students made a complaint of racism against a professor in the Business Administration faculty.

An investigation was held, and the acting dean of Business Administration concluded that there was no racism involved, despite incidents being witnessed by both Canadian and foreign students.

Then, and this is the good part, Acting Dean Dan Coleman and the two other professors involved decided to charge the students with PLAGIARISM. Yea, right, get the net and reel me in.

So, another investigation was done and, big surprise, the students were found guilty of plagiarism and told to redo the project.

But it has not stopped there. The students involved in filing the complaint have continued to be harassed, threatened and blackmailed by the administration.

Over the week-end I was told that two of the students involved in this complaint have now left UNB. One of the students had his funding cut off by his home government after UNB wrote a letter to his home country. The administration swears the letter had nothing to do with the racism charge...yea, right, get the net again and reel me in.

The other student left with the impression he had filled graduation requirements. When he arrived home, he received a letter stating he had to redo the project to graduate. How the hell UNB expects him to do the project from halfway around the world is certainly a challenge for any keener on campus to try and figure out.

I think we have a major problem with racism here, but not everyone would agree (although all of the students and professors I have talked to do). I realize that some people do not see or understand racism and sexism because they have never experienced it or because their own prejudices blind them to it.

However, if you cannot get angry about racism, at least get angry that your intelligence is being insulted. I do not think it takes a brain surgeon to figure out that something is terribly wrong with the attitude of this university administration toward students who choose to speak out.

All students have the right to file complaints. But for the person who investigated the complaint to then turn around and charge the students with plagiarism is setting a very

scary precedent. It is a blatant attempt to intimidate other students who may wish to file a complaint. And I am insulted that the university thinks students are stupid enough to buy this load of shit.

Odd, isn't it, that the professor who taught the course could be confident enough in his marking abilities and knowledge of the subject to tell students what their mark would be BEFORE he even read the paper; but yet stupid enough not to know after he had marked the paper that it had "allegedly" been plagiarized. It is a good thing for that professor that those students complained of racism, otherwise he never would have known that they had plagiarized their paper. It is a damn good thing those students asked to have their paper remarked by another professor otherwise they might have pulled a fast one and gotten away with plagiarism!

It is a good thing Dean Coleman is so smart that he knows everything about every subject in business administration, otherwise he never would have found out about the plagiarism. Whew, to think he might have been sidetracked by racism charges instead.

Now come on! What student in their right mind would plagiarize a paper then complain to the administration AND the Human Rights Commission about the mark! THIS is what Dean Coleman expects us to believe...I think we need that net again.

If Canadian students think this situation does not affect them because they do not experience racism, then they should think again. Look at the power the administration is holding over these students...and we are ALL students. So much for fair play, student rights or democracy at UNB.

As an active feminist at UNB, the administration's attitude appalls me. And as just a regular student it angers me.

I agree with Edet Foloso Archibong's letter to the editor in last week's edition of *the Bruns*. Racism, like sexism, is not about words alone, it is about the message behind the words, the attitude. Anyone can claim they "didn't mean anything by it" after he has been called on the remark and needs to cover his own ass. That is the easy way out and the UNB administration jumped at it. But that does not address the context or the attitude behind the words.

And I agree that Dean Coleman is endorsing the use of discriminatory and degrading languages in the classrooms by saying that no harm was done by the remarks made by the professor in question to foreign students such as "kiss your God if you get a C in this course."

I think a lot of harm is done to foreign students as well as women by racist and sexist professors. And we have a lot of them here at UNB. Last year the UNB Wimmmin's Col-

lective started compiling our own files on sexist professors. The list also includes two convicted wife beaters who teach on campus and a student who is a rapist. Foreign students should do the same. The information could prove very valuable in situations like this and it can help other students avoid taking courses from certain professors.

I also think all students should do something. I know the Student Union is very involved in the case, but so far everything is going on behind closed doors - and that is just the way the university wants it.

Recently at the University of Prince Edward Island, hundreds of students showed up at a rally to protest a cover-up of an on-campus

rape. The students got an apology and concrete results from the administration.

I think UNB students deserve the same honesty, consideration and commitment to solving the problem of racism (and sexism) on campus and I think we should demand that we get it.

Say yes to our future Quebec, women, and the proposed constitution

ANALYSIS/ Jason Morton discusses the Charlottetown accord.

by Jason Morton

There are only three short weeks before we will be asked whether we are going to vote yes or no in regard to the constitution reforms agreed to in the Charlottetown Accord. It is important that we as students consider the implications and the outcomes of this referendum, for after all, it is our futures that are on the line. The result of the October 26 Referendum can influence the sort of country we will be living in after graduation and when we enter the real world. I realize that there are certain aspects that are very complicated and not easy to understand. Being the Chairperson for the YES committee here on Campus I have had several discussions with fellow students who have expressed many concerns and questions. Although I would like to personally sit down and talk to every one of you who goes to UNB and St. Thomas University, and explain why I feel that the accord will greatly benefit us as future working citizens of Canada, due to the large population of our school it is impossible to do so. Therefore, for the next three weeks I will publish in the Brunswickan a Question and

Answer type article. If you have some questions or concerns, simply write them on a piece of paper and drop it off at the Brunswickan's office (Room 35) in the SUB. The St. Thomas/UNB committee for Canada will also be putting up booths all over campus and setting up debates and speakers which, we will advertise all over Campus. Additional information and non-partisan reading material can be obtained by calling 451-8683 or 1-800-561-VOTE or by dropping by our headquarters on Beaverbrook Ct. (beside Greco Pizza).

As for this weeks, the following are some general questions and concerns that some of you have already expressed to me:

Q. Does the tentative agreement give special status to Quebec?

A. No it does not. Some people are concerned with the fact that Quebec is guaranteed 25 percent representation in the house of Commons. This guarantee of seats is not limited to Quebec, in fact Prince Edward Island is guaranteed 4 MP's in the House of Commons even though, if it were based solely on population it would only be allowed 1 or 2 seats. New Brunswick will be guaranteed ten seats forever, which

is more than we would be allowed if it were based on population.

Q. Have women been involved in the decision process and have their concerns been met in the tentative agreement?

A. This is a big issue nowadays, and rightfully so. In ARTS 1000, I remember several weeks being dedicated to Women's role (or unfortunately, lack of) in Western civilization. Well, in this present day Western civilization, Women were heavily involved in the making of the Constitutional Accord. Women had prominent roles as Senior advisors to the federal government and to many provincial and aboriginal delegations. For example, Nellie Cournoyer (NWT), Mary Simon and Rosemary Kuptana (Inuit Tapirsita) have been called the "Mothers of Confederation" for their role in the Constitution discussions. More specifically, the constitution deals with women issues in the Canada clause which affirms gender equality as a fundamental Canadian value and thus strengthens the Charter. As well, the equality of Aboriginal women will continue to be protected in the Charter of Rights.

SWAT: A look at statistics on university students' sexual behaviour

The SWAT peer educators at UNB would like to welcome back all upperclasspersons and extend a special welcome to all freshpeople. For those who have not yet heard of our AIDS education program, SWAT peer educators are volunteer students who have taken a 20 hour program to prepare them to discuss STDs, AIDS and safer sex in a knowledgeable way. Our SWAT Program is designed to help students acquire the necessary skills to practice safer sex. We use a variety of games and activities to help students clarify their myths about AIDS and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs), identify the risks of different sexual activities, learn how to carry out safer sex, and how to communicate with their sexual partners about safer sex. Throughout the year we will provide our weekly readers with the latest information on AIDS and safer sex issues.

According to a recent study of the UNB population there is a great need for an AIDS Peer Education Program on campus. Data from the study indicates that 82% of all UNB students are sexually active, with an average number of 4 sexual partners each. This means that 22% have had only one partner, 34% have had 2 to 5 partners, and 22% have had 6 or more partners. Forty-six percent of sexually active students have had sex with a casual acquaintance and 24% have had unwanted sex. Data from the UNB study also indicates that a large number of the sexually active student population are practicing unsafe sex. Approximately 67% of sexually active students have had vaginal intercourse without a condom in the last 4 weeks while only 27% have had intercourse using a condom in the last four weeks. Consequently STDs are very prevalent among the university population. Eight percent of UNB students have had at least one STD. However, this is probably a modest estimation since many STDs are asymptomatic (no symptoms) and as a result many STDs go unidentified and subsequently unreported.

A resource room, located in Room 120A of MacLaggan Hall, is available for any personal questions, access to condoms, and information about testing for HIV and other issues around HIV including referral when necessary. Questions and concerns may also be referred to Professor Grace Getty, Coordinator of the UNB AIDS Program who can be reached at the Faculty of Nursing (453-4642).

Condom Rating Contest

Since this week is AIDS Awareness Week there will be some special activities taking place on campus, including our own condom rating contest. If you have often wondered which condoms are the best to use you may be interested in helping us out with this survey. We are seeking approximately 1000 volunteers, who will be asked to rate the condoms on the basis of the following criteria: sensuousness, smell, comfort, lubrication, sense of security, and ease of handling. We are relying on those interested to pick up their condom packs, complete with 5 different types of condoms and instructions, in the SUB at noon on Friday Oct. 9th. All research should be completed and the survey passed in by the end of this school term so that the results can be published in *The Brunswickan*.