

# BLOOD & THUNDER

Letters to the Editor reflect the views of our readers and not necessarily those of the Brunswickian. Letters may be sent to Rm. 35, Student Union Building. Deadline: 5 p.m. Tuesdays. Maximum length: 300 words.

## Disappointing turnout

To the editor:

I am writing this letter to express my disappointment in the turnout at the Fall 1991 Civil and Geological Engineering Senior Report Conference.

The conference was held on Wednesday, November 27th, from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm in the Dineen auditorium in Head Hall. Approximately 100 people turned out, which is a small number considering the auditorium can accommodate over 300 people. Since most people only stayed for one or two presentations the auditorium was usually quite empty.

More than half of these 100 people were required to attend the conference, as members of the organization class, presenters, markers or guest speakers. Therefore there were less than 50 visitors to the conference.

Most of these visitors were members of the university community. Although many people were invited from outside the university, most were unable to attend for various reasons. This was expected.

What was not expected was the poor turnout from within the civil and geological engineering departments. There are certainly more than 50 students and faculty members in these departments.

All civil and geological engineering students must present their senior reports as part of their degree requirements. It is therefore in the best interests of all students to attend the conference to see what is expected from them when they graduate. Posters announcing the conference were distributed throughout Head Hall encouraging all students to attend. Very few did (for those of you who did not, you missed some excellent presentations and I recommend that you attend the conference next term).

All faculty members were sent a conference schedule and an invitation. Many professors only attend the presentations of the students they supervised, while others did not attend the conference at all. I realize that professors have classes to teach and other obligations and I know it is unreasonable to expect every faculty member to attend the entire conference. However, the conference is held only twice a year, once at the end of each term. I do not understand why most professors cannot reorganize their schedules on these two days.

UNB is one of the only Canadian universities to hold a conference of this type and other Universities are now modelling their own conferences after ours. If UNB's Civil Engineering Senior Report Conference can attract national attention, why can't it attract attention within the civil engineering faculty?

Perhaps I overestimated the importance of the conference.  
Kristin McLeish  
Civil Engineering Student

## Problems with the dean

To the editor

I was wondering what the Dean of Residence is trying to do the University of New Brunswick. So far, the Dean has changed the university for the worse. In the few years that she has been office or position (sic), she has changed Frosh Week definitely for the worse. I understand the need for a cut down in alcohol consumption of minors on campus. But, does this mean she has to take away all alcohol consumption activities during this week. Also, telling the first year students that they only have to participate in the activities they want to is a crock of shit. The way that first year students meet people Frosh Week is by being made to participate in house functions. Some of these are water runs, singing in front of the girls dorms, and other activities. The most annoying thing that I've heard about is the changing of the Neville House song. This song was a tradition at University of New Brunswick. I don't see the Dean Stopping the Great Pumpkin Sacrifice because it may be seen by some as leaning towards an occult background. In my opinion, the Dean is trying to change things to (sic) quickly. The most obvious example of this is the problem that happened at Bridges house last year. Don't you think you're moving a little fast Dean?  
Kevin Clark

## Bold as an oracle

To the editor:

This publication is in desperate need of support. Most students feel that contributing to the newspaper is a gargantuan task, and that in doing so they sign an eternal contract of servitude to the Brunswickian. This letter is meant to speak to that point. Addressing the second problem is simple. If you contribute anything to the newspaper you are in no way obligated to continue to do so. The first problem, however, is more complex.

Anything that you read, write or hear no matter how lengthy or brief is appropriate. This university is an academic community and it thrives on academic discourse. Any field of study on which you are spending your life savings, must mean more to you than the mere twenty hours a week you spend in class. Insights into the nature of the mind's chemical imbalances, sexual perversions, (whatever those are), the future of mass-culture, and the meaning of life itself are expressed in conversations every day. Obviously, your fifty-page treatise on nineteenth-century shoelace fashions is too much. Pick your favorite paragraph and submit it. Just because your professors read your writing does not make it worthless. If its good enough for them, its good enough for all you academic peers. Let the

entire student community read your work, think about it, and respond to your ideas.

If you come across a passage in a book, article, or letter that speaks to you, disturbs you or offends you, copy it, criticize it and submit it. A sentence quote from your favorite author is at least some expression of the way you understand the world. All of us are hoping to learn something about the character of our world, that's why we are at UNB. If you can help bring the unbridled stampede of full, excited minds to the newspaper, you can help start a riotous revolution against the pathetic slumber of present university life.

All over the planet, people are rebelling, and the greatest tool of mass action is the media. You have a medium of mass communication begging for you to start a revolt against lethargy and apathy. If the

Brunswickian won't use your work, give it to STU's Aquinian; if the Aquinian doesn't want it, nail it to a bulletin board. Be heard. Perhaps even be understood. Maybe understand yourself a little better. If we cannot do this minute service to the spread of ideas and excited thinking, then there was no point in crawling out of the ocean two-hundred million years ago.

Be heard or be nothing.  
Jon Sears

To quote a famous humanist -  
"Be heard or be nothing."

Write for The Brunswickian, your newspaper.

## Christmas marks got you down?

### Want to do Better in '92

If so, you need the help of the Writing and Study Skills Program. We will teach you how to take notes and study more effectively, how to manage and organize your time, how to write better essays, and how to start preparing early for final exams.

UNB's Writing and Study Skills Program offers free one-on-one tutoring to all UNB students (appointments can be made by calling 453-4646). As well, the following information sessions and workshops will be offered during the 1992 Winter Term:

#### Writing and Study Skills Program Information Sessions

- 1) 15 January 1992, 3:30 pm-4:30 pm, Tilley Hall
- 2) 22 January 1992, 3:30 pm-4:30 pm, Tilley Hall

These sessions are designed for both students and faculty; for the curious, the skeptical, and the academic needy. If you are wondering how we can help, come by and let us show you our materials, our approach, and what we can do.

#### Note-Taking and Study Strategies

18 January 1992, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, \$5.

#### Time Management for Students

25 January 1992, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, \$5.

#### Reading 1: Rapid Reading Strategies

01 February 1992, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, \$5.

#### Reading 2: Effective Use of Textbooks

08 February 1992, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, \$5.

#### Essay Writing: From A to Z

15 February 1992, 9:30 am-4:30 pm, \$10.

#### An Intro. to Library Research for Essay Writers

22 February 1992, 10:00 am-1:00 pm, \$5.

#### Improving Examination Skills

14 March 1992, 9:30 am-2:30 pm, \$10.

#### Thinking of Graduate School?

21 March 1992, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, \$5.

Though the information sessions are free, pre-registration at the Department of Extension and Summer Session (Duffie Drive) is required for all workshops.

**Register early -enrollment is limited!**

For more information, call 453-4646.

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