

# BLOOD & THUNDER

Opinions expressed in Blood & Thunder, Opinion and Spectrum are not necessarily those of the Brunswickan, its editorial board or its publishers. We reserve the right to refuse any submission deemed unfit for publication.

## THANKS FOR THE CHOICE

To the Editor:

An open letter to those who supported the Right to Choose, last Sat, Feb. 19th:

I am writing to thank you for standing up for the right of women to have control over their own bodies. I wanted to be there with you, however it is not in my best interests at the moment. I found out last week that I am pregnant. I have decided to have an abortion.

My situation is such, that, for me, there is no alternative. I know in my heart, I have made the right choice. It has by no means been an easy one to make. (For those readers who think I have chosen

the easy way out.) I have to wait two weeks before I can even find out when I will be able to go to the hospital, if that's where I decide to go. The alternatives are to either go to a clinic in Halifax or Maine. I would rather be at home while I undergo my operation, however, it may not be possible, I may have to wait a few more weeks. So, I wait, being sick everyday, trying to focus on school and mid-terms. I asked for a leave of absence from my part-time job because I don't feel well, physically, but most of all emotionally. Most of us do not ever expect to be in this situation, but it happens. I never thought this would happen to me. I've always tried to take responsibility for my body, but here I am. And I'm telling you, anyone who is against the decision I am for, has no idea what it is like to go through what I am going through, unless they've been there.

You can judge, you can imagine, but you have no idea. Being young, a student, unmarried, is not a "normal" or "typical" pregnancy. I feel ashamed (not of my decision) because I did this to myself and I feel lonely, even though I have some of the best friends anyone could ever hope for. *No one is pro-abortion!*

I would rather go through what I am going through, knowing that I will not raise a fatherless child who was not planned for or wanted, and whom was carried by a mother who cried almost every day she carried him/her. I am not trying to say what I am doing should be and is right for everyone, because I know young women who, in my situation have raised beautiful, happy, children. I applaud them for their decision. But I also know I have to be happy with myself, because I know I'm doing the right thing for me and my unborn.

The 700 pro-lifers who likewise marched last Saturday, are not in my shoes and I am relieved to say, have no right to my body or my privacy.

If you do support the right to choose, be proud of it, it is a valid and justifiable opinion. Again, thank-you to those few who were there last Saturday representing me and my situation, I saw you on the news and am so thankful, I just can't tell you how much.

Thankful.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

1987 was the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless, and, as opposed to addressing the housing issue in accordance with the objectives set out by the United Nations Centre for Human settlements, the former Conservative Government did just the opposite. In his last budget, former Finance Minister Don Mazankowski completed a dramatic shift in Canada's housing policy. Essentially, the Conservatives new housing policy was to no longer have one.

Successive cutbacks in subsequent federal budgets have put an end to those programs aimed at providing affordable housing to low-income Canadians. Without even a minimum of public debate, the Federal Government compromised the future development of cooperative housing and social housing throughout Canada. Regrettably, the human right to shelter seemed no longer a concern of the Government.

In a letter addressed to national organizations preoccupied by the housing conditions of poor Canadians Mr. Paul Martin, now Minister of Finance for

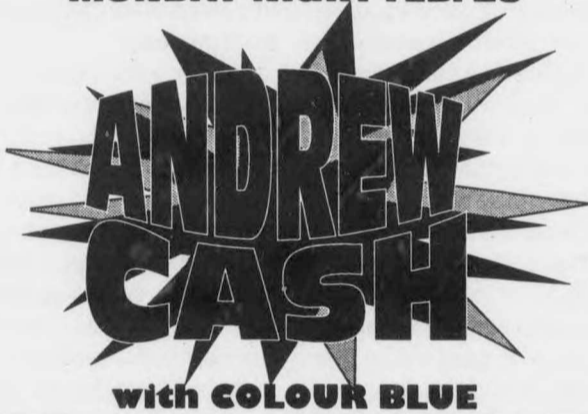
the Federal Liberals, wrote during the election campaign last fall: "Let me make it abundantly clear, a Liberal government is committed to stable and secure funding for the non-profit and cooperative housing sectors. We believe the federal government has a positive, pro-active role in national housing policy and the responsibility of accessibility and affordability to over one million Canadian households living in need of adequate shelter."

1994 is the International Year of the Family and the next federal budget will determine where the new Liberal Government stands regarding the housing needs of poor Canadian families. The time has come when the promised goods of meeting the needs of 1.2 million Canadian households can be delivered. Hopefully Mr. Martin will share the view of the United Nations Committee that severely criticized Canada last year for its lack of funding in the area of housing, and restore adequate funding for the development of non-profit and cooperative housing in the upcoming budget.

by Brian McIntosh  
Co-Coordinator, Fredericton area coalition for Social Justice

## The Attic On King

MONDAY NIGHT FEB. 28



THIS WEEKEND FEB. 26 & 27 **POETIC JUSTICE**

**The Home of Rock 'n' Roll**  
THE ATTIC 377 King St. OPEN: 1PM - 2AM DAILY

## DRIVERS

Dear Fellow Students, Faculty Members and University Staff, The October 8, 1993 edition of "The Brunswickan" aired my particular pet-peeve concerning traffic courtesy on the highways and byways of our venerable university's Fredericton campus. Readers may recall that in my capacity as a pedestrian I thanked the many drivers who took the time to stop and allow us foot-sloggers to cross the busy thoroughfares "On-the-hill", while in my capacity as a driver I somewhat sarcas-

tically commented upon the lack of pedestrian acknowledgement (sic) of such courtesies, many of which occur at non-crosswalk areas. As I noted at that time... "Surely life at U.N.B. is not so onerous that you cannot afford a wave, a nod, or, heaven forbid, a smile!" ... to acknowledge the many drivers who obey both the letter and spirit of the laws concerning yielding for pedestrians.

So why this letter you ask? Well, it may just be wishful thinking or perhaps my slightly overactive and possibly somewhat egotistical imagination, but I truly believe that I have seen a marked improvement over the past few

months!

So to all you "noddors", "wavers", and "smilers"; CONGRATULATIONS! on behalf of all pedestrians, thank you and keep it up! Remember, smiles are one of the very few pleasant things which are contagious.

Rod Smith

## VARSITY MANIA

Dear Editor:

RE: the back-page ad in *the Brunswickan* (February 18th). This full-page ad mentions only the men's basketball game against Acadia, on February 18th starting at 8:30 p.m., yet neglects to mention that there was to be a women's game starting at 6:30 p.m.

I find it troubling that Varsity Mania should treat the men's game as more important than the women's game. Reading the well-written promotional article for the event ("Reds Gear for Maniacal Weekend, p. 19), both games are seen as important.

The women's Varsity Reds team has worked long and hard this year, and their work can be seen in their fine 15-2 won/loss record. They deserve support for their efforts from the entire university community.

I hope that in the future Varsity Mania will be more fair in their promotional activities.

Sincerely,  
David Murrell

## WANTED

Submissions for **BLOOD & THUNDER.**

Please remember to include your name, student number and phone number, or your letter cannot be printed.

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