

Blood & Thunder

Students should be a priority in election

To All Students:
I am writing as one of many mature students with children who have been adversely affected by the McKenna government's recent cuts to the daycare subsidy program. I am a full-time student at UNB and I have three children. Returning to school was a frightening prospect for me as it is for many mature students. But I faced the challenge anyway. I did not have the opportunity to study at university for various reasons when I graduated from high school in 1977. But attaining a university degree was something I always longed for.

In light of what has happened, I can no longer make ends meet. I simply cannot afford daycare and therefore am forced not only to withdraw from university, but to leave the province if I am to continue.

My plans are to attend another university in Ontario. I will not give up my dream. What's more, I am determined to give to my children the life that they deserve for indeed, they too have sacrificed greatly and willingly that I may attend to my studies.

This is the type of issue that affects everyone. It is just another example of a government out of touch with the people whom it represents and of not having its priorities straight. People are the greatest resource and the best hope for the future prosperity of our nation. This is a daycare issue in practical terms but a much more fundamental one in terms of our futures and the futures of our children.

If you are a younger, more traditionally aged student, please don't think that your voice does not count. It has never been more urgent for you to vote. But before you do, *Please Get The Facts!* Don't vote for a certain party because your friend is. Your vote is a precious right so don't waste it.

My hat is off to the UNB Student Union and to CFS (The Canadian Federation of Students) for the work that they are doing to raise awareness and foster the participation of students in the upcoming federal election.

Like it or not, politics affects all of our daily lives. Please vote so that students are finally placed in a position of priority where we deserve to be.

Mary St. Onge

Questions about assault aftermath

Dear Editor:
While casually glancing through the last week's *Brunswickan*, I was shocked to have read the article claiming that the report of the assault in Aitken house during Orientation week was false. The first thing to go through my mind was the question of how a woman could make up such a story and be so convincing. With such an increased focus on both acquaintance and stranger assault both on and off campus through movies, pamphlets, crisis centres, and the like, this is not a matter to be taken lightly. When a woman gets willingly involved in a situation that she later regrets and tries to blame the man, that one woman cast a shadow of doubt on the integrity of the genuine.

However, I believe that this does not pertain to the alleged victim in this case. Having witnessed the traumatic aftermath of the woman in question, I felt that this case was laid to rest too fast. In my attempts to rationally assemble some sense out of the police's point of view and my experience with the woman, I decided

to contact her and hear her side. According to last week's article, the police have claimed to have found "anomalies" in her testimony. Considering the emotional damages inflicted upon this woman will be remembered for a lifetime, two weeks is not enough to face the facts. Sometimes it takes years for a man or woman who has been assaulted to face what has happened and not blame themselves. Through education, we have learned that the level of intoxication is irrelevant to becoming a victim of assault. However, according to her side, she claims that this was not the case. Even though she mentioned that she had very minimal to drink, the attitude she received was that she got herself in a situation that she could not get herself. She was told that a woman her age would have a low tolerance to alcohol. The woman later revealed to me that she never admitted to the accusation being false and she felt that she was the one being persecuted as opposed to the assailant. The woman also questions whether the assailant was really arrested because she was never asked to identify. She was essentially told that sometimes when one is drinking, they do things they later regret and that she could tell the authorities the truth, which she had been trying to do. To add insult to injury, she is now being charged with mischief.

This has become a controversial case and my main concern is that if victims finally get the courage to go to authorities and are made to feel that they are at fault, what will happen then? When one reads an article of someone else's misfortune, it is easy to be detached. However, those of us who were there to see her tears were deeply affected, men and women alike. Consider this question: why would a woman subject herself to this much emotional distress for no reason? Whether or not this woman's claims are true or not we will never really know, I only hope that this one asshole doesn't stigmatize men in general, just as much as I hope that this one woman gets a chance to be heard when she's ready.

Cheryl McLean

"Feminist dogma creeping"

Dear Editor:
Applause to the Wimmin's Room for their magnanimous gesture to accept "housewives" into their sisterhood. The contrast between last week's reasonable, intelligent (though long overdue) statement and the general tone of last year's entire series in staggering. The previous content covered the two extremes of disturbing radicalism (the stuff you got sued for) and hopeless inanity (the never ending search for a tampon on campus). I sincerely hope that this new trend will survive.

Unfortunately, the feminist dogma that saturated the Wimmin's Room last year is beginning to creep into other parts of the paper, namely the editorial and the article about the Take Back the Night/Clothesline demonstration.

The misuse of ambiguous statistics in the article was not to the extent that it has been in the past articles both by the Wimmin's Room and the *Anti-Poverty News*, but it is still there. It is not quite as surprising that female victims of elderly abuse outnumber male victims 2:1 when you realize that females 65+ outnumber males 65+ by a ratio of 1.5:1. Some might label this propaganda, but it is at the least irresponsible journalism.

The editorial has continued the "feminist" conception of the woman

as the innocent victim of society. Now that women have more freedom, they must realize that with freedom there comes responsibility. Double standards protect women, and when the double standards go, so does the protection. So we have to look after ourselves now. Self-defense courses for women aren't the tragedy that the editor portrays. They are a natural conclusion to the

"liberation" of women. It's a way of taking responsibility for the freedom of walking alone at night, of going where you want, when you want. Some of these fears have come from experience, but much of the hysteria has come from what the feminists are telling us. Maybe I'm just lucky, but I've been walking alone at night (taking back the night!) for years, both here and in Saint John, and I

have never been bothered by anyone. I would hate to think of the independence I would have given up if I had called a cab/safewalk program/friend every time I was faced with the prospect of walking alone at night. I would have felt like a child. Isn't that what we're supposed to be fighting against?

The editorial also talks about how
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OPINION: RACE RELATIONS AT UNB

by Aurelius Gordon

This article forms part of a consultative and educational process aimed at enhancing the academic, social, and cultural environment of the university. The need for such a proposal grew out of a very unfortunate incident in the MBA Department, related to charges of racial discrimination, academic inconsistency, and professional misconduct against a Professor of the M.B.A. Department brought by students in the Strategic Management course of the summer of 1992, complaints concerning the use of racial slurs by another member of faculty outside the above mentioned department, and other related incidents...

After several meetings between the students concerned and the administration of the University including Dr. Robin Armstrong, the President and Dr. Tom Traves, the Vice President Academic, both of whom were very sensitive to the issues and helpful resolving the case within the MBA department, the following proposal was made to the University by the Board of International Students, and the Caribbean Circle with a view to:

- i) preserving the long standing, and good relations which UNB has enjoyed between the local and international student and faculty and staff community,
- ii) Enhancing the University environment by promoting human dignity and the academic and professional integrity of all.

The New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, the Dean of Students, the International Students Advisor (who is also appointed by the Federal Government to the Board of Directors for the International Centre for Human Rights) and the UNB Student Council have also played a great part in helping to solve this problem.

It is hoped that students as well as faculty, administration, and staff will come to grips with the issues raised so that genuine dialogue can take place. This can only lead to a better UNB.

To those who are quick to raise the flag in protest as they cry out against what is deemed political correctness, please remember:

- 1) There is absolutely nothing politically correct or incorrect about the preservation of human dignity and
- 2) Preserving the human dignity of another is preserving one's own humanity.
- 3) It is in the very best interest of the University of New Brunswick that all efforts be made to have a race relations policy in place which can be put into the University Calendar for the 1994-95 academic year.

Following is an excerpt of the proposal made to the President of the University of New Brunswick by the Board of International Students and the Caribbean Circle.

Proposal to the President, The University of New Brunswick

POLICY

1: Every member of the University community has the right to study and work in an environment free of discrimination and harassment on the basis of race. (The term "race" is understood by the University to refer to race, ancestry, place of origin, color, ethnic origin and creed/religion. These are grounds enumerated within the New Brunswick Human Rights Code and The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms - Article XV.) To this end, this policy applies to all members of the university community.

2: In order to develop and maintain an environment free of racial discrimination and harassment, it is the policy of the university to:

- a) promote dignity and respect among all members of the university community and not to tolerate any act of harassment or discrimination on the basis of race;
- b) provide educational opportunities that raise the awareness of the university community on issues associated with race relations, racism and racial harassment and also provide skills training programs that assist in handling or preventing racial problems;
- c) hold all persons in positions of authority, who make or influence decisions regarding potential or current faculty, staff, and students, responsible and accountable for:
 - i) communicating the tenets of this policy to all who come under their jurisdiction and,
 - ii) fostering an environment in their area that is free of discrimination and harassment on the basis of race;
 - d) prohibit reprisal or threats of reprisal against any member of the university community who makes use of this policy or participates in proceedings held under its jurisdiction.

3: Notwithstanding the provisions of this policy, individuals have the right to seek the advice and services of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission at any time.

4: Racial Discrimination and Harassment.

4.01 Racial Discrimination is defined as: differential treatment of an individual or group that is not based on individual or group performance, but arises only from racial-group membership.

4.02 Racial Harassment is defined as: unwelcome attention of a racially oriented nature, including remarks, jokes, gestures, slurs, innuendoes, or other behaviour, verbal or physical, which is directed at an individual or group by another person or group who knows, or ought reasonably to know, that this attention is unwanted.

5: Reflecting the tenets of the New Brunswick Human Rights Code and The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the University asserts that racial discrimination or harassment on the basis of:

- a) doctrines or practices which declare inherent superiority due to race, or
- b) claims that human abilities are determined by race

RACE RELATIONS OFFICE

6: In order to improve the awareness, knowledge, and skills of its faculty, staff, and students on race relations, the President will establish a Race Relations Office.

7: The terms of reference of the Race Relations Office are:

- a) to promote an understanding and acceptance of racial diversity on the University campus;
 - b) to provide the University with information about racial discrimination and harassment, by conducting awareness programs.
 - c) to be the official recipient of complaints of discrimination or harassment on the basis of race and to assist those who make inquiries to determine if a violation of the policy has occurred;
 - d) to inquire into conditions and incidents leading or tending to lead to tension and conflict based upon race and to take appropriate action to eliminate the source of tension or conflict;
 - e) to maintain records and pertinent statistics on all matters of alleged discrimination and harassment on the basis of race referred to the Race Relations Office and to develop in consultation with the Committee for Race Relations a records management policy;
 - f) to provide a confidential advisory service to any individual or group on complaints of racial harassment or discrimination, which may include:
 - i) hearing the concerns of the complainant;
 - ii) assisting the complainant in determining if racial harassment or discrimination has occurred; and
 - iii) delineating options for action available to the complainant.
 - g) As appropriate, the Office may also:
 - i) investigate the complaint;
 - ii) assist in the formulation of a written complaint;
 - iii) advise the respondent and complainant of their rights and responsibilities under University policy and any relevant law of the land (e.g., New Brunswick Human Rights Code and the Canadian Criminal Code);
 - iv) on determining there is no basis to a complaint, terminate an investigation; and
 - v) proceed with a complaint, where warranted, either at the request of a complainant or independently.
 - h) to submit an annual report to the University's Committee for Race Relations.
- The efforts of the Vice-President Academic, The Dean Of Students, The International Student Advisor, and The UNB Student Union in raising awareness on issues concerning race relations must be complemented. As the oldest government university in the nation, the University of New Brunswick has a moral responsibility to be a leader in matters of race relations. This is in the best longterm interest of the University.