

Blood n' Thunder

to the "Sexual Harassment Policy" that UNB does have. Had things become "rife" on the campus; were male professors raping and abusing women in public before action was taken? I think not. What a policy does it indicate that there is a problem and there can be a problem. It allows minority students to feel confident that the administration cares about these issues. Workshops on racism are good, but mechanisms, unique to the problems around racism have to be put in place to ensure that when instances of racism occur, they are properly and fairly dealt with. UNB has no such policy at the moment.

There is a trend in several Canadian schools to deny the existence of racism by simply ignoring the need for a policy to deal with racial discrimination cases. It is a duplicitous trend that is not simply unwise, but deeply irresponsible. It is not enough to simply say that there are opportunities and avenues of complaint available to students through "normal channels", because normal channels fail to recognize the peculiar circumstances that surround complaints of racial discrimination. A few Canadian schools have learnt this the hard way and have managed to implement mechanisms to deal with racial discrimination. UNB should follow suit. If we are the leading school in the area of attracting international students, we should also lead the way in ensuring that the experiences of these students are positive. Make no mistake about it, pretending that there is not a problem will not get rid of it. Making absurdist comments that characterize letter writers like myself as hysterical alarmists is also dangerously duplicitous and simply silly.

This is why I am appalled at the apparent sincerity with which Traves appears to have spouted those absurd percentages. What concerns me more is the fact that the figures also ignore the actual people who have made up that 1.2%. What is that, four people, may five? Is that a small number? Is that a number to be ignored by the University or to make the University simply declare that there is no real problem? This, by the way, after the recent *Maclean's* report that UNB is most notable for the number of International students that attend the school. Quite frankly, if UNB is to live up to its reputation of being a good place for interna-

tional students, it will simply have to do something quickly about a racial discrimination policy.

Let us be clear about this. UNB has had a problem with racial discrimination in the recent past, and I am sure George Equakun and his fellow students can list current complaints of racial discrimination at UNB right now. For those who doubt this, I would be happy to list the ten or so instances of clear discrimination that I had to deal with while I was at UNB. I don't care whether one would like to say that such problems will always come up—that is cold comfort. I have experienced racial discrimination at UNB and one of the most painful experiences for me during my six years in New Brunswick was my involvement with an ugly case of sheer racial prejudice in the classroom—a case that prompted much of the talk that is coming from Traves about coming up with a policy. I should hasten to add that this case did not involve the department I was associated with, but I became caught up in the quagmire of administrative foot dragging and faculty collusion in hiding this problem, all to the detriment of the students involved. With a proper policy, things would have been far less problematic. When I left UNB, I was assured by Dr. Armstrong and Dr. Traves that the administration was committed to a policy to address racial discrimination issues. I have waited three years, patiently looking for news of this policy, and I have seen nothing of the kind.

As an alumnus of the school, and one who has very fond memories of tolerance and genuine human interaction at UNB even in the midst of the instances of racism, this reality bothers me terribly. It is hard to be proud of an institution that drags its feet on issues that affect so thoroughly, the quality of life of students. I know that my letter will prompt the inevitable denials and angry retorts of the administration, but I am used to that and that does not bother me. What I do hope, however, is that graduates like myself, will not have to start bringing external pressure to bear on the university to do something about its handling of this issue.

This year UNB honored an outstanding international student graduate, the Prime Minister of Guyana, by bestowing upon him an Honorary Doctorate. Does he know that this school is still

tip-toeing around something as fundamental as racial discrimination? Quite frankly, this news would, I am sure, disturb him, and well it should. There is nothing preventing the school from taking strong action on this issue. Why wait for external forces to start putting pressure on the school to act? Why not be proactive? I suggest that Traves regard this issue as one of his last tasks before going off to Halifax. Why? Simple. Halifax has been the home of some of the most embarrassing racial tensions in Canada, and the centre for some of the most impressive anti-racist activity in Canada. Arriving there with a sincere track record of wanting to stamp out racial prejudice would be a good statement for Traves to make. Arriving there with a record of vacillation on this issue will speak volumes about how he will function in that new environment.

Thanks for the space. By the way, the paper looks excellent. I am impressed. More power to all of you.

—Kwame Dawes

FHS Class of '85 Reunion

Dear Editor,

The Fredericton High School Graduating Class of 1985 is now planning for their ten year reunion which will be held in December of 1995. Some very special activities are being planned for the class of '85 which was the bicentennial graduating class of the largest high school in the Commonwealth. We now have the onerous task of locating our nearly 850 graduates, many of whom have moved away from the New Brunswick area and may be going by a married name as well. We are asking anyone that graduated from FHS in 1985 who reads this letter to send in your current address so you can be included in all correspondence relating to the reunion. If you were not a grad that year but know of the whereabouts of some of the graduates, we would appreciate your input. Also, if you have any brainstorm and want to share a suggestion, please contact us. All suggestions are welcome! I look forward to seeing you in December 1995.

—Karen (Englehart) Forward, President Class of 1985, FHS, PO Box 275, F'ton,

Legislation betrays sport

Dear Editor,

Attached is a copy of a letter to the Justice Minister that you may be interested in placing in your editorial column.

—Seasons Greetings, Bob Kierstead

"Honourable Allan Rock:

I am writing to express my deep disappointment at your betrayal of the Canadian Olympic Shooting Team. During the past several months, you have consistently gone on record pub-

licly promising your new gun legislation would not harm the legitimate competition shooter.

I was shocked last Thursday when I received the information release from your office introducing your new legislation. Your legislation in which you promised not to harm the legitimate competitor, has eliminated 4 shooting events from the Canadian team high performance competitive program. Your legislation has banned the firearms used by the Canadian women's sport pistol team, the firearms used by the Canadian wheelchair shooters, the firearms used by the Olympic rapid fire team as well as the firearms used by the standard pistol and centre fire teams.

The firearms you have banned are used by Canada's female, wheelchair and male teams in international competitions representing Canada at Commonwealth Games, Pan American Games, World Championship, Continental Championship and Olympic Games. Your legislation effectively puts an end to Canada's participation by our female, wheelchair and male teams in these events. Your legislation will also place in jeopardy the 1999 Pan American Games which are slated to be held in Winnipeg. Without the participation of the shooting events, the Pan American Games will probably be moved out of Canada.

Giving you every possible benefit of doubt, I could only assume that you may have received incompetent advice from your officials, and you being a complete neophyte regarding firearms would not realize that your advisors had drafted legislation to end legitimate competitive high performance shooting programs in Canada.

We in the Olympic shooting program tried to offer you the benefit of our expertise to avoid this very situation, since we knew you do not have the knowledge to evaluate the impact of the legislation drafted in isolation by your officials. You chose not to accept our offer of assistance and now the fears of competitors all across Canada have been realized, you have outlawed their sport.

Your ban on all firearms with a barrel length of 105 mm and less and all .32 caliber pistols has eliminated the very pistols used by Canada's high performance competitive program. Either this is an oversight due to your unfamiliarity with firearms or it is a devious betrayal of Canada's legitimate high performance Olympic shooting competitors, by you as a Minister of the Crown.

If it is the former and not the latter, you will direct your officials to contact the national sport governing body for shooting sports in Canada, the Shooting Federation of Canada, for advice to correct this terrible travesty. I trust that your office will contact us immediately to resolve this devastation of our sport, and that it is not really your intention

that I become Canada's last Olympic shooting coach.

—Yours in sport excellence!,
Robert Kierstead, Head Coach,
Canadian Olympic Pistol Team

Diatribe Hyperventilation?

Dear Editor,

Scott Jack and Shawn Corey, better known as what passes for the "International Socialists" on campus, have been hyperventilating all over the pages of the "Bruns" recently because the UNB Student Union won't endorse their preposterous protest on December 16th. Let 'em hyperventilate, I say.

The I.S. (no friend of democracy, surely...) says that the UNB student leaders are not representing students because they won't throw away all the work they've done to satiate Msrs. Jack and Corey's pathological desire to play "Rebel Without a Clue." Does this mean students aren't being heard?

The New Brunswick Student Alliance (aided by the UNBSU) has launched an extensive alternative plan to the government's hacking and slashing—we've taken it personally to the Prime Minister, Minister Axworthy, over 50 MP's, and the public through extensive national media coverage. As a result, this "Green Paper" plan will not pass in its current form. To get real change, you've got to fight bad ideas (the government's) with good ideas (students' ideas).

The International Silencers (oops, Socialists) want to silence students—reduce us from thoughtful, full participants in our government to one monotone whine. The I.S. tells us "don't think, shut up and let politicians do the thinking." That's not good enough.

"Socialists Screaming For The Status Quo." How sad.

This is even more galling when Mr. Corey brazenly says in the "Bruns" that this rally won't make a difference. He's right. Our ideas, our presentation will. His rally will only detract from that.

In the real world, for students on this campus who are counting on us, the price of failure is too high. It is pathetic for Mr. Corey to feign concern for ordinary students while selling them down the river. Mr. Corey thinks the most important thing for students is that he gets to have his rally. In the real world, what matters is getting them back to school next year by stopping these cuts.

Yet Msrs. Corey and Jack are so contemptuous of the working class that they'd rather simply yell than (heaven forbid) come up with real plans to help them. I'm glad their little I.S. world is so secure, but students deserve more.

International Socialists? Sounds more like "Hot Tub Socialists" to me.

—Kelly Lamrock
Chair, NB Student Alliance

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