

Blood and Thunder ... continued

Yaqzan 29 cont.

ployees that is free of OBJECTIONABLE and DISRESPECTFUL CONDUCT." Since I (and many others) feel the same way, will the Brunswickan and the Student Union (elected to represent US) use the ruler that is being waved (for the world to see via CNN) immediately stop publishing these articles? Will the Student Union back up their decision because as it currently stands, the Brunswickan is in DIRECT and COMPLETE violation of the University Policy? Freedom. Others gave their life for it.

What happens if as a collective group we all agree on everything we think, say and do? UNB would become an institution of last resort! Maybe that's where it's heading.

The positions taken by the Student Union are comical realizing this and its becoming an outspoken opponent of Mr. Yaqzan. I wonder if this has any connection in scoring brownie points with the UNB Senate and Board of Governors which must decide on backing the SU in its SUB expansion? Our SU wouldn't stoop that low would they? guess again.

It is a shame that, regardless of his views, Mr. Yaqzan's contribution to UNB since 1967 is forgotten and he is suspended. Guilty until proven innocent they say.

I noticed Tristis Bhaird is organizing a women's only forum to address rape-related issues. For women ONLY? Let's negotiate a free trade agreement with Mexico. BUT THEY ARE NOT INVITED! Will this agreement be honoured in Mexico? It won't be long before these brain-dead people to realize that CANNOT reach their noble goal if what THEY perceive as the other half of the problem (men), are not involved in reaching that goal.

Please take note Ms. Wanda Baxter (Blood & Thunder: Yaqzan #10), not just women who are raped according to statistics, yet our view is shortsighted, wrong and offensive to men who have been raped. Perhaps for your view you should be given the boot. Let's not and call it freedom of expression. I agree with your article, but you too left out others who have suffered. So you see, your article, as well as Mr. Yaqzan's, can be twisted around.

Rape is wrong, morally and criminally. We must work together as a group to achieve a solution. These feminist groups, although the cause is just, their methods are familiar. We called it Nazism. Trample over everyone to achieve your goal. Your views are correct not theirs. Here on campus we are waiting for our swastika or SS armbands to be handed out so we can be part of this feminist movement which forgets freedom of expression or the right to disagree.

I applaud Mr. Yaqzan for his expression of his beliefs AND the resulting flood of discussion which has fol-

lowed. Let's get him back to his job OR let's totally destroy the Brunswickan, UNB and Canada, for we can't have people with whom we don't agree being allowed to mingle in society, can we?

Should the UNB VP Mr. Tom Traves be the new UNB censor. Duties would be to censor all thoughts which may be expressed. If Mr. Yaqzan had not stated his teaching position in the article, would UNB have suspended him anyway? Probably. Must keep those alumni donations rolling in. If UNB censors expression of thought, the dollars will stop flowing even quicker. That's what it boils down to, money and pyramid building (each group views only their way is correct).

I hope that the Teachers Association will back Mr. Yaqzan, not for his ideas, but for a teacher's right to express their opinions in a public medium.

Maybe there is life after death. UNB will find out.

Name withheld by request

Yaqzan 30

The Editor:

Regarding the heavy-handed intrusion of UNB Thought Police into the Matin Yaqzan affair, this Albertan would like to offer freedom-loving New Brunswickers some cold comfort.

Last August Ralph Klein, the Premier of Alberta, informed reporters he wanted to ban a series of World War Two trading cards, professing outrage at their depiction of scenes of mass carnage. Not to be outdone, Alberta's social services minister, Mike Cardinal, weighed in saying he'd like to see Archie comic books banned, too (all because some youthful readers—not to mention the censorship-happy minister himself—failed to understand a term like "native" could have multiple meanings). This in a province where the infamous "gag law" (Bill C-144) had been struck down weeks earlier, to the consternation of the politicians whose brainchild it was and to the great relief of most Albertans who bitterly resented having their right to free speech so restricted.

If I mention these episodes now, it's for two reasons: first, so New Brunswickers alarmed by the suspension of Professor Matin Yaqzan for an article he penned wherein he expressed his provocative views on date rape will realize that elsewhere in our fair dominion, as in New Brunswick, the perennially opportunist Powers-That-Be are likewise not at all interested in defending or preserving the principle of free speech—apparently, they all prefer to take the easy way out and do the politically respectable thing, principle be damned; second, to underscore the fact that most Albertans (like most New Brunswickers, I suspect), no matter what self-serving politicians, career-driven bureau-

crats, ivory-tower professors, social engineers or "human rights" lobbyists may insist, do not want some patronizing Big Brother (or Big Sister, for that matter) second-guessing them and telling them how they should think, speak, feel or act on any given issue.

The Globe & Mail reports Professor Yaqzan "has been ordered to stay off the Fredericton campus" [Nov. 12] while the controversy generated by his article is resolved. Should one be relieved Professor Yaqzan was not put under house arrest? At this rate perhaps a time may soon come when, like the court historians of the now defunct Soviet Union, our intellectuals will also boast that while we Canadians may not enjoy true freedom of expression, no one will deny that he or she "enjoys" freedom of thought here in Canada, otherwise so "glorious and free". One thing is certain, ominously certain: we needn't look to our ruling elites to protect our rights.

Sincerely yours,
O. Slepokura

Yaqzan 31

To the Editor:

When a university (the last bastion of free thought) engages in punitive actions for the exchange of ideas there is an injustice being done to us all. Matin Yaqzan has not been convicted nor even accused of date rape. His only "crime" has been to offer an offensive opinion on the subject. For offering his opinion professor Yaqzan has been: chased by the media, suspended by the university, his academic performance has been called into question and many people are calling for his dismissal. Many have picked up on the rumors that professor Yaqzan is a poor teacher. The key word in this is RUMORS. They have been regurgitated so often by the media in the last week that one is led to believe that they are facts which they are not. Not only are they only rumors they are also irrelevant. After twenty seven years of teaching, if the university does not know if professor Yaqzan is a good or bad teacher and is now looking into removing him for this reason then the university has been remiss in its duty to the students. This is an obvious witch hunt tactic being employed by the university to appease the screaming hordes. If it is not then perhaps Tom Traves would be willing to open the books on his past performance for review.

As far as creating a hostile learning environment Prof. Yaqzan has, as I have previously stated, not been accused of date rape. He has expressed an idea which is offensive to many. Does this in itself create a hostile environment? I think not. Although politics is perhaps not the best place to search for an analogy the opinions of certain political parties such as the Confederation of

Regions party (COR) have often been deemed offensive. Yet a professor who openly supported that party would not have the screaming hordes calling for their dismissal for creating a hostile learning environment.

Also called into question by the university is the appropriateness of professor Yaqzan identifying himself as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of New Brunswick. He did not identify himself as an expert in the field of human sexuality and is not an expert in this field. He identified his field of expertise and did not deceive anyone about it.

There was no need for him to be an expert in the field. He was not writing for an academic journal. He was writing for a student newspaper which exists by design as a vehicle for the free exchange of ideas and for the debate of these ideas. Shouting down and punishing those who express ideas which are offensive to our sensibilities does not change opinions it only keeps them from being expressed openly. Opinions can only be altered when an individual is forced to examine his or her ideas in the light of open debate. Professor Yaqzan has offered an opinion. Debate what he said do not destroy his career for expressing it.

Alastair Johnstone

Yaqzan 32

To the Editor:

I am writing on behalf of the students at St. Francis Xavier University in response to Matin Yaqzan's claim in the last issue of the Brunswickian (sic) that "a boy could not be expected to be a master of his sexual impulses" and that "the girls should be taught that while hugging and kissing might be pleasant and adequate experiences for them, they are simply a prelude to sexual expe-

riences for boys, and cannot be carried on indefinitely."

Under Canada law, the proper term for an unwanted physical act is sexual assault, acts which can range from unwanted kissing or fondling to forced sexual intercourse. Sexual assault is a violation of a person's physical and psychological integrity, regardless of whether they are a virgin or have had numerous sexual partners.

It is a myth that sexual assault is a crime of uncontrollable sexual passion or urge. Sexual assault is an act of violence and aggression, not a crime of passion. The motivation is not sexual gratification, but rather the need to gain control over and dominate another human being. Most sexual assaults are premeditated, not perpetrated on impulse. It is the spreading of this myth that the assailant is carried away by uncontrollable impulses that diminishes the seriousness of the crime and may even cause some to excuse it altogether.

Caroline Keenan
VP St. F.X.U.
Students' Union

Yaqzan 33

Letter to the Editor:

This is what I understood from Dr. Yaqzan's opinion. The context was date rape within the university community.

As long as I can remember, virginity in a male has been ridiculed, hence the pressure not to be a virgin. Most males are subjected to it their entire adolescent lives. It may not be a need but it certainly becomes a necessity to say truthfully that one has "had" a girl.

What is Sam Malone? What about Captain Kirk? Whether you're a TV., movie, sports or rock star, there are women to be conquered. That a message has gotten to the viewer.

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