

BLOOD AND THUNDER

Letters to the editor reflect the views of our readers and not necessarily those of the Brunswickan. Letters may be sent to Rm. 35 in the Student Union Building. Deadline: 1 pm on Tuesday. Usual maximum length: 300 words. Please include name, student number and phone number.

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Sick of "sic"

Dear Editor,

I want to protest the presentation of Andrew Van Wart's letter of February 5. I noted the six "(sic)" entries in the text of his letter, an apparent attempt to emphasize his misspellings. Perhaps poor Mr. Van Wart did not have a spell checker available. Clearly, *The Brunswickan* does not, as there are several spelling mistakes elsewhere in that issue. Why the concentration of spell checking on this letter? Perhaps an attempt to discredit Mr. Van Wart's letter? I thought you would have found a more honourable way to reply to his criticism. Needless to say, my letter will be spell checked!

And to Ms. Daignault: I have

heard the phrase "... if this were a man problem we would have found a cure by now" from feminists as well as Mr. Clapoir. It is used by feminists to show that problems confronting males are quickly solved, while problems confronting females (wimmin?) are rarely addressed. I agree that it is sexist in nature (I suspect any discussion on menstruation is), but I don't consider it a "male" phrase.

Sincerely,

Steve Boyko (alumni)

Ed. note: The reason "sic" is used in letters is because the Brunswickan does not, unlike other newspapers, edit letters to the editor. Thus, when typos are made and they do not include a "sic" they then are clearly our mistake and "sic" entries are used to indicate that this was how the original letter was written by the author.

Sarcasm 1100

Dear Editor,

My dream would be to teach a course in sarcasm and have such bright and intelligent people, such as Ms. Daignault attend. Is this a personal attack? Maybe. Is it being sarcastic? I'm not sure, what do you think Ms. D.? The sarcasm in my previous letter was to emphasize a point (I don't need to describe this again) and Ms. Daignault missed it. I was also wondering... if one of my statements is sexist then are you implying I am sexist? This could also be called an attack of a personal nature but, you must be above doing such a thing.

You devoted an entire paragraph to not dignifying my drivel, yet only half of one sentence to date rape and child molestation.

You devoted an entire paragraph to not dignifying my drivel, yet only half of one sentence to date rape and child molestation. Why did you not devote the entire letter to child molestation in Canada or examining what is being done by manufacturers of feminine hygiene products to further women's causes? Do they do anything?

I do have to agree with you on one point and that is *The Brunswickan* is more than a campus newspaper, it is a community newspaper. The *Brun* is put in local stores, left in government buildings, and other businesses, it is read by many people off campus. If you are embarrassed by the drivel why don't you write something constructive. I'm sure Mr. Carter of *The Brun* would like to be in the position of having too many writers and articles to choose from. But... I am just a man and sexist so I probably don't know much anyway.

G.T. Clapoir
Alumni '90

No level of spousal abuse acceptable

Dear Editor,

The authors of *Metanoia* and *The Wimmin's Room* have been discussing the impact of the Christian Church on our society, with Ms. Hurley asserting that the Church is a misogynist institution. I am sure many people have been closely following this interesting dialogue. The results of a University of Calgary study entitled "Religious involvement and Spousal Violence: The Canadian Case" as reported in the *Alberta Report* (Volume 20, #7; February 1, 1993; Pages 30-31; available in the H.I.L.) may be of interest. The categories, 'Catholics', 'Mainline Protestant', 'Conservative Protestant' (Fundamentalist), 'Other', and 'Religious None' were used.

"The Researchers admitted that they expected [male] Conservative Protestants ... to be the most abusive".

Contrary to the researchers expectations they found that Catholic men were the least abusive followed closely by Conservative Protestants. *Alberta Report* asserts that, "The idea that religion diminishes male violence was also supported by the fact that the more frequent the church attendance, the higher the reported harmony". Ironically "...it was Conservative Protestant women (not men) who were the most physically abusive category of any".

However I feel that no level of spousal abuse is acceptable. We must all work together to end society's repression of women.

Your's truly,
Reg. J. Fleming

The pros and cons of NAFTA

Dear Editor,

The North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA, is the proposed trade agreement between Canada, the United States and Mexico. This agreement, signed December 17, 1992, is now in the process of being ratified by the three governments. The purpose of

the agreement is to diminish many restrictive trade barriers so that freer movement of goods and services can take place within the North American market.

The freer movement of goods and services allows freedom of movement for multinational corporations. This has generated much criticism of the agreement. It is maintained that the agreement will enable exploitation of impoverished Mexico. However, NAFTA is also touted as the solution to an unstable Mexican market. It will help utilize Mexico's major resource, i.e. labour. The consequences of the agreement are not certain, but it is certain that Canada's relationship with Mexico will be affected.

Free Trade agreements have proven that there are many repercussions which result. Many Canadian industries and jobs have been affected as the result of the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement. For this reason the outcome of the NAFTA agreement is certain to have an affect on our domestic economy.

NAFTA negotiations have taken place mainly within closed sessions. The agreement process appears to have been less open than the former Canada-US agreement. Public input has not been observed as an important contribution in this process. With the possible consequences to the Canadian economy, should this agreement be addressed publicly as was done with the former Free Trade Agreement? Should NAFTA be further scrutinized as to its possible impacts before it is ratified?

St. Thomas University is offering an opportunity to gain information on NAFTA by hosting a panel discussion. This event will take place in the Ted Daigle Auditorium of Edmund Casey Hall, Tuesday 16 February from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Guests include Joanne Wright, a masters student at UNB, discussing NAFTA's particular affects on women, Sidney Pobihushchy, chair of the Political Science Department at UNB, and Harry Quinlan from the Department of Economic Development and Tourism in New Brunswick. Richard Myers of the STU Political Science Department will chair the event. There will also be literary information available on NAFTA. This is an occasion to become more fully aware of NAFTA and hear some of the potential problems and solutions being addressed.

This event is hosted by the St. Thomas University Campus Ministry Social Justice Group.

Campus Ministry Social Justice Group

TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

The Brunswickan is looking for individuals who have some experience in Macintosh computers for the position of Technical Coordinator. The Technical Coordinator is a honorearia position with a seat on the Editorial Board. All interested persons are asked to contact the Brunswickan office at 453-4983 (ask for Allan Carter).

Do you know how a Mac works?
Do you know what System 7.0.1 is?
If you answered yes to these questions then you have the qualifications to be the next Technical Coordinator!!

GSA Announcement

The following executive positions are open for nomination:

1. First Vice President
2. Arts Representative
3. Physical Education Representative

Nominations forms can be picked up from the school of Graduate Studies, Old Arts Building. All nominations must reach the GSA c/o School of Graduate Studies, Old Arts Building,

by Thursday,

February 18 at 4 pm.

Elections will be held on Monday,

February 22.

Times and locations will be posted.



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