

# 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.

## SAVOIE #1

## SAVOIE SLAMMED

To the editor:

In response to Mark Savoie's "Yuk-Yuking it up with the Business Society" (Brunswickan, Vol. 128, Issue 16, Feb. 4, Page 11);

On January 31, I was approached by a "Brunstle" (Desiree) (sic) who said, "I understand you're the person I should talk to to plead for tickets to Yuk-Yuks." Yuk-Yuks is the biggest event put on by the Society this year, and any constructive criticism will be helpful in the future. Therefore I had no problems with giving a free ticket to the Brunswickan in order to get a fair and unbiased opinion of our event.

After pleading with me for a

ticket, I expected the Brunswickan to send someone with a little bit more maturity and professionalism than Mark Savoie. It is my understanding that a critic should not go to an event, "...faced with more than just a little bit of trepidations." The opening paragraph of Mark's review really has nothing to do with the show. It is used to tell the readers of his financial misfortunes, and attack the reputation of several Business Society executives and (much to my bewilderment) a member of the audience. The only thing that this accomplishes is to reveal the bias of the reviewer prior to his actual review.

I would also like to point out that Mark was not "forced" to sit with anybody. A member of our executive was asked if room could be made at our table for Mark. There were a few other seats scattered throughout the room. If the company was that disagreeable to Mark, it would have been easy enough for him to relocate.

Mark also should have paid slightly more attention to the act of Bonnie MacFarlane, the second comedian on the bill. Mark says in his review that she left the stage because she could not remember the rest of her act. This is completely false as her act went on

for another ten minutes after she made this joke, and I wonder if he paid any real attention to the act what-so-ever.

I have been approached by more than one quarter of the audience since the show and, apart from Mr. Savoie's bewildering opinion, have heard nothing but the highest of compliments. The "feminists" referred to in Mark's review approached myself and all three comedians to congratulate us on the quality of the show. They assured us that the comedians were the funniest they had ever seen live. According to the feedback, the comedians represented a nearly perfect cross-section of the personalities comprising the audience. Everybody had their own opinion as to who they liked the most, but Mark is the first opinion I have yet heard who had anything negative to say about the performance as a whole.

All in all, I am very pleased with the feedback (Mark Savoie excluded). The reviews published in the Brunswickan are very valuable to those of us who put on live performances on campus. They help put into perspectives those short-falls which we can improve upon in the future. Seeing a review that is so obviously biased destroys the credibility of all reviews. I hope that in the future you will pick someone who is more professional, and is able to put their personal inclinations behind them when conducting a review. These reviews affect the reputation of both the Brunswickan and those organizations presenting events.

Yours sincerely,  
Gordon Nesbitt,  
Special Events Coordinator,  
Business Administration Undergraduate Society

## SAVOIE #2

## SAVOIE SLAMMED (AGAIN...)

To the editor:  
Dear Mark Savoie,

Usually we do not waste our time responding to people who obviously do not have a clue what they are talking about. But with last week's mention of what constitutes a sport, once again, it brought back memories of a previous brilliant Mark Savoie column on Sept. 17. We were very angry when we read the column but brushed it off as ignorance and forgot about it. When it was brought up again, however, it made us angry enough to write to Mark.

In the Sept. 17 issue of the Brunswickan, Mark Savoie in his "View from the Cheap Seats" column said a few things that we would like to respond to. He stated that "Figure skating is not a sport. Gymnastics is not a sport. Synchronized swimming is not a sport. Diving is not a sport." Mark's definition of sport is "something involving physical skill which a winner can be clearly determined, thus any competi-

tion where the goal is higher/faster/stronger or where a score is kept, is by virtue of those characteristics a sport". It seems odd that the sports that he considers not to be sports fit into his criteria. It seems to us that it takes quite a bit of physical skill to hold your breath for a minute while holding your complete body weight out of the water with your arms and come up, yes Mark with a smile on your face, and continue for another 4 minutes. It also takes quite a bit of skill to throw your body in the air and spin 3 sometimes 4 full rotations and land on a 4 mm wide blade. In gymnastics they have to perform difficult moves on a very narrow balance beam. Do I need to give more examples? A winner is clearly determined in these sports, and the goal is higher/faster and stronger. Higher triple jumps, faster take offs and stronger strokes are all goals of the sports that he doesn't consider sports. According to Mark, no score is kept but as long as the goal is higher/faster/stronger it is a sport. So what's

the problem?

It seems that Mark's biggest argument for synchronized swimming, figure skating, gymnastics and diving not being a sport is because they are judged. But wait, tell us Mark do you consider Boxing, Karate and Mogul skiing sports? These sports are judged, do they fit into your narrow criteria of what a sport is? I'm sure Mark being the sports expert that you are (yeah right!) has tried all of these sports and can perform them all perfectly which obviously means that there is no skill involved.

There is style or artistic element in these sports that you have mentioned but there are also very physically demanding moves to go along with them. We feel that it is unfair to dismiss these athletes and their intensive training and sacrifices because of the judging process. We do agree with Mark that often the judging is blatantly subjective but it is not fair to blame the athletes for this and dismiss the whole sport. It is up to the particular sport body to alleviate that problem. Why don't you bitch to them instead of to us.

And, by the way one of us being a synchronized swimming competitor judge and coach I'd like to know where you came up with the idea that we are judged from the moment we walk on the pool and by our smiles. This is untrue and absurd, and I suggest that you research your claims before opening your uneducated mouth. Stop giving a sport which you know nothing about a bad name!

Although Mark's last article was about Nancy Kerrigan and Tonya Harding, we did not respond to that because like everyone else we're sick of hearing about it. It was this "Figure skating is not a sport" comment that made us angry. Wake up Mark! Synchronized swimming, figure skating, gymnastics and diving are all Olympic sports.

Maybe the Brunswickan could invest in getting you BETTER SEATS than the Cheap Ones that you have obviously been sitting in all year. Maybe then you'll learn more about the sports you're criticizing. Then we'll talk!

Stacy Wood and  
Susan BeLong

## OPINION

BY MARCUS LUTHER

## CANADA'S CHANGED POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Monday, October 25th, 1993, will go down in history not only as the second day following the Blue Jay's second World Series Victory, but more significantly as the day on which the earthquake of "People's Power" reshaped the political landscape of Canada. The total flattening of "Mount P.C." is the most evident feature of this reshaping. The fact of a liberal majority government pales in significance next to the fact of having the Bloc Quebecois as official opposition. Imagine Lucien Bouchard swearing allegiance to the Queen of Canada! In fact he did!

The reform party, having won handsomely in the west by default, is faced with the task of representing their narrow, regional, and bigoted views on the national stage. The only sure thing in the next parliament is that, given the political extremes which the opposition forces represent, the next session of parliament should give the reporters and comedians much to write and joke about.

For the liberals, there are a few points which must be kept in mind:

- i) that Canadians resent politicians who forget who elected them and why they were elected.
- ii) that people are constipated with the political rangling on the constitution.
- iii) that the economy should be front and center of the table.

The issues of NAFTA, which the American Congress recently approved, the G.S.T., and unemployment, are issues which were prominent on the liberal platform and should they fail to deliver, God alone knows what will become of them at the next elections. Again, the story of the P.C.'s can be repeated at the next election, so the Liberals should take note.

The majority of liberal seats were won in Ontario, a province where the failed policies and betrayal of the N.D.P. provincial government, coupled with the erosion of the industrial based, caused largely by the 1988 Free Trade Agreement, and high unemployment have caused voters to seek refuge in the Liberal Party. Out west where the Progressive Conservatives have their origins, the Reform Party has won a powerful mandate, although by default, to give western Canada the presence in Ottawa which it rightfully deserves. British Columbia, being the fastest

growing provincial economy in Canada, may yet be the province to lead Canada out of the present state of economic slowdown. Ontario's industrial base stands to be further eroded with the passing in the US. congress of NAFTA. The Reform Party may be its own worst enemy, having within its ranks contradictory forces which on the national political scene would highlight the negatives of the party which are yet to be questioned and exposed by the media to the same extent as those of the P.C.'s. The virus of racism is still alive and well with the Reform Party, and also within COR here in New Brunswick.

In the House of Commons the extreme right-wing characteristics which are at the core of the Reform Party Platform, will be on display. Canadians who voted for the Reform Party did so not because they supported wholeheartedly everything that Reform stands for, but to vent their frustration caused by nine years of Tory rule. As such, the Canadian public will not stand for the sort of bigotry which has been seen to come out lately. Remember, Canada sacrificed thousands of sons and daughters on the field of battle in Europe to rid the world of Nazism. Canadians may resent deeply the poison of racism which is central to the policies of the Reform Party. Reform M. P.'s will do themselves and Canada no good, and will be viewed as repugnant and out of place should they not smell the coffee. Probably upon their arrival in Ottawa, Reform M.P.'s may realize that only the Native People of Canada can be excluded from the category of immigrants, and that Canada is a Nation of immigrants whether they came in 1493 or 1993.

The progressive Conservatives may yet have a significant role to play in Canadian politics. Having been on the political stage since confederation, this party is part and parcel of the fabric of Canadian Political Culture; and though it is torn to bits in the aftermath of this storm (Elections 1993), Canadians may yet view the P.C.'s in favorable light should they be able to heal their wounds of battle, most of which have been self-inflicted.

The one sure thing in all this is that Canadian politics will never again be seen as boring - and yes once more - the journalists, cartoonists, and comedians will be kept busy, as of the first sitting of parliament.

# The Attic On King

**Friday & Saturday  
Night**

**Down Town  
Blues  
Band**

Bands play from  
10 pm til 2 am

**A Salute to CCR:  
Tuesday,  
Feb. 15  
Bayou Boys**

**Sunday Night ••• Marty Hall**

THE ATTIC 377 King St. Fredericton  
OPEN 1pm - 2am DAILY  
**The Home of Rock 'n' Roll**