

# SPECTRUM

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## "Oops!"

What a surprise. I wrote a column about the need for a coffee shop because the bar wasn't enough, and the next week the bar closed. This is not what I had in mind. Of course, I'm not paranoid enough to think my opinion had anything to do with the closing, but it does cause one to pause.

What I was expressing in print a lot of others were expressing with their consumer dollars. They were going elsewhere to get together. I doubt there is an easy explanation for this exodus. Not everyone had the same reason for staying away, as we found out during two call-in broadcasts of Dos Lesbos and Fruit Cocktail on CHSR. The one lesbian who called in commented that the management of Dancetrax did not make accommodations for lesbians, and the women felt alienated from it. Management disagrees. They claim that the women didn't tell them what they wanted. When they were approached they did their best to satisfy the need.

I don't know who to side with, myself. It is true, I felt a definite "gay-maleness" to the club. As a new lesbian in the area and potential customer, I was not overwhelmed by their desire to appeal to me. Then again I didn't approach them about my wishes. Why should I? I will never go to the management of the Cos to ask for something different, either. Both these places are business establishments. They mean little to me on any level except where I want to go (or where I have to go to meet people I want to associate with). That is why the Fredericton gay community needs to get it's collective butt in gear. I certainly would care what went on in Dancetrax if it was partly mine.

That brings me to the other side of this dilemma. How in hell can we expect to have an establishment that is our own, which does cater to our wishes, and through which we can be a community if we don't and won't get involved? We got one lesbian caller in a total of two hours of air-time! Brave soul that she was, she was also someone who had the spunk to tell the management of a bar that she wanted something more from them. She is an anomaly in this town. She gives feedback to the organizations that affect her. I have no idea how many lesbians read this column, or how many gay men read Positively Pink. I have heard back from women who are talking to me, so I know that some do think about what I say. But y'all don't talk about it to anyone else. Metanoia for the last two weeks has been about some dangerous, and borderline phobic attitudes regarding

homosexuality and AIDS. The people who responded through Blood and Thunder are the AIDS activists, not the gay community. I can understand becoming tired of having to argue the same old religious debate over and over, but if you don't you run the risk of society believing these people are right. Besides, vocalizing your feelings about these issues gets

you involved. It brings groups together. You really do feel better about yourself if you stand up to your oppressors.

My feelings on the closure of the bar is it's a shame that the lesbians who did go, and the gay men, have now lost a safe place to be gay in. I still feel, quite strongly that another forum has to

## What's this sweatshirt/teeshirt thing?

What's this sweatshirt/teeshirt thing? It seems rather silly to me that people wear sweatshirts and/or teeshirts from places in the USA they have only barely heard of. Miami, not the crime infested city, but the University of, which is situated in only slightly less infested Coral Gables, is a classic example. As an aside, Coral Gables saw more of its residents murdered than all of CANADA saw of its residents murdered in 1990! Moving on, in 1976, in the old Orange Bowl, the Orange Bowl is not only an event, but an ediface, I attended a football game between Miami and Penn State. There were nearly 50,000 fans at that game. It was pitiful for the Hurricanes. Of that 50K, fewer than 10K were rooting for Miami. You say,

"D.J. how did you know this?" It was plain to see, that very easily, 70 to 80 percent of the crowd wore Penn State's blue and white. Keep in mind, this was nearly 2,000 miles (not "clicks")

from State College, Pa. I guess it's the "Bandwagon Effect" (BE). Notre Dame has always had the "BE" going for them. In the USA it's called "subway alums". Meaning, most of ND's fans are basically "low life types". People who have never set foot in South Bend, much less, gone to university there. People whose lives are so meaningless and dreary, they have nothing to do but kick the dog, beat the kids, swill beer, and root for Notre Dame, the Mets, the Maple Leafs, or (insert cheerless, dismal city/team of your choice). Another one is HAAVAAD. Harvard, is basically, your elitist, Northeastern USA, snob school, which smugly tolerates women and minorities, as it is their social duty to do such things.

Why don't people pick schools which have a history of fine education? Howard University which was one of the few places an Afro-American could seek professional education is a rather interesting choice? Maybe you

## The Black Triangle by Tristis Bhaired

be created. A coffee house was mentioned by the lesbian caller on our show. It would be great to see this come about, and I for one would patronize it regularly. The women's dances which have been going on are our only light in the tunnel right now, so Bravo! to the

women who organize and attend them. The radio shows and mine and Adrian's column are here for you, use them! Beyond this I would love to see GALA here on campus get more members, and for crying out loud, get FLAG going again.

## Well this is what I think by D.J. Eckenrode

and Gold of Florida State. That won't be so bad. Bobby Bowden has long been noted as a man of high morals, who has worked for opportunities for both many minority groups and the underprivileged alike. But here's another idea:

It might be nice to see a few more "Black Bears" sweatshirts on campus; our wrestlers, not the U of Maine. Or a "Beavers" sweatshirt or better yet, a "Lady Beavers" sweatshirt might be nice. We've made it to a least one sports pinnacle, you know. UNB has more mascots than any other school/university in North America. (Former record holder, Auburn, with puny three, Travelers, War Eagles, and Tigers.) We have ten. Can you name them? Can you place them with their respective sports teams? Perhaps, if you were more cognizant of them, instead of some drug infested place like UCLA or a racist place like Arkansas, you might have some fun with it!

## "I'm not a feminist, but . . ."

by Alane Marie Boudreau

I am not sure that we have all heard those words (or some variation of them) at one time or another; most likely, if you are a wimmin, you have used them. Those common words have long served as an introduction to a statement that is usually in favor of wimmin's rights. In other words, it's a statement that for all intents and purposes is feminist, and for all intents and purposes is being spoken by a feminist. The odd thing about feminism is that there are alot of wimmin out there who are feminists by definition but who refuse to call themselves a feminist. Sometimes it's not so much a problem with calling themselves a feminist, but more with being labeled as a feminist by other people.

There are alot of reasons why some wimmin do not call themselves feminists. The biggest reason is that there are alot of negative connotations associated with the term feminism. When asked how they would describe a feminist, many wimmin respond "butch," "men-hater," "aggressive," "lesbo," and "militant." As a feminist, I can assure you that this is a terribly inaccurate picture. I would like to recommend that each and every one of you out there take the time to discover the true definition and function of feminism, but I realise that this is a lot to ask and that we are all busy people. Therefore, I will offer my miniature soap-box version for all of those who prefer the easy way to. Here we go . . .

"Feminist" is a very broad

category. I describe a feminist as a wimmin who believes in equal rights for wimmin, and who recognizes that we don't quite have them yet. (We really don't you know.) Within the feminist movement there are all different kinds of feminists: socialist, liberal, and radical, to name a few. All these feminists have different ideas on how to improve the lot of wimmin, yet we are all working together. There certainly is strength in numbers.

Unfortunately, misconceptions breed and perpetuate themselves at all levels of society. I expect it to take a long time before the general population truly understands the term feminism and feminist. Maybe if more wimmin had a clearer idea of what the feminist movement is trying to

achieve and how it affects them personally, then more wimmin would be willing to call themselves a feminist. And who knows, maybe if more women were to recognize themselves as feminists then being a feminist wouldn't be such a bad thing to be after all. I'll keep my fingers crossed.

In the meantime, it's okay for wimmin to use the phrase "I'm not a feminist, but . . ." - because then at least she is speaking out. In those situations I'm not at all offended when a wimmin refuses to identify herself as a feminist. You see, I realise that if a wimmin is using that particular introduction, then she is about to say something positive and empowering (and feminist) in regards to wimmin, and I think that that's just wonderful.

## The Wimmin's Room