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Womynsay

Women in movies: with stars like these...

Am I the only woman alive who feels extremely uncomfy going to anything but "G" movies these days? You know what I mean, girls. You're sitting there with your steady, just starting to understand the plot, when all of a sudden, SHE appears. The sex goddess, the prostitute, the stripper—hell even old grammas like Raquel Welch seem to look and act sexier than you. You suddenly find yourself doing anything you can to distract your man's attention, including spilling the popcorn into his lap. ANYTHING to distract his attention from the endless array of siliconed body parts, Rapunzel-like hair extensions, not to mention the micro-minis these Hollywood creations wear while just browsing through the supermarket.

Am I jealous of Demi's rock-solid butt or Pamela Lee's "natural" curves? No, sickened is more like it. It seems as though women in the movies have allowed themselves to be degraded and cheapened by these unnecessary portrayals. Last year, Maclean's magazine named Ms. Lee "Canada's most famous export," while Demi was able to command more money than most male movie stars for...stripping!!! Is society telling us that in order for a female to be successful, wealthy and recognized, she has to resort to exploiting her own sexuality? Why is it that the majority of professions in which women are offered big bucks involve marketing their bodies as products?

Guys, it's O.K. to admit that you LOVE these women. It's not really your fault -- you've been endlessly brainwashed by the media. Sure, I can see why you don't lust after Oprah or Hilary Rodham Clinton, but have they ruined you so much that you can't see that inner beauty and intelligence are far more appealing, in the long run, than all of those air-brushed, don't-hate-me-because-I'm-beautiful images combined?

Not to imply that Demi is a dummy or anything, but seriously, how much grey matter is involved in gyrating before a camera? I actually feel sorry for these women; by unnecessarily overemphasizing their physical attributes, they are doing themselves great injustice. It is almost as if they are saying, "Look, don't listen." Pamela could break into an Emmy-worthy performance on Baywatch and no one would notice. Guys (no offense) would be too busy thinking how much she resembles Malibu Barbie, while girls would be contemplating how they could bleach their hair that much without it all falling out.

...Oops. I lied when I said that I only feel comfortable at "G" movies. Word has it that the gypsy girl in Disney's "Hunchback of Notre Dame," whose voice coincidentally belongs to Ms. Moore, is for some reason extremely buffed. And what is it with Jasmine in "Aladdin"? Could the chick possibly expose any more of her midriff area?...

A. Davis is a member of the UNB Womyn's Collective.

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But I Digress... Kelly Lamrock



The UNB Student Council has decided to grant the student body the right to vote on a proposal to give \$71,000 a year of students' money to a football team to be named later. They are doing this, of course, because they care very deeply about giving students the right to choose.

Ha. Ha. Ha. Now, being a diehard Packers fan, and a CFL fan so starwath that I endured three years as an Ottawa Rough Riders season ticket holder, I would never laugh at the notion of a good game of pigskin. However, the way this referendum has come about means the Student Union talking about democratic choice is like Michael Irvin doing "Just Say No To Drugs" ads.

Winston Churchill once said that political decisions were like sausages — if you like them, don't watch them being made.

Sir Winston would have enjoyed the Council meeting where the question was set. Progridiron councillors successfully changed the question to put the football idea first, and to bury the little fact that you'll be paying \$71,000 a year for it further back in the question. As Councillour Rodney Chiasson put it, "most people will only read the first part."

VP Finance Monique Scholten, who brings to Council the unique viewpoint that money might matter to the fee-paying wretches out here, suggested that she felt most comfortable making the cost "very apparent" to students when they vote. Foolish girl. Supporting the students' right to a choice does not, to this Council, mean the right to an informed choice. If that ballot question was any more slippery, they'd hand you your ballot in an envelope marked "You May Already Be A Winner!" But I digress.

However, the true bratwurst emerged when Council was told they would have to specify for how long the fee would run. "Ten years!" a councillor yelled, for no apparent reason. Sure, why not, came the reply.

For those of you who hate math, or who work at the speed of the Bank of Montreal, that's a \$710,000 commitment students are being asked to make. In return for this,

the alumni and the university will promise ... Nothing. Ha. Ha. Ha.

That's right, if students, 50% of whom are on student loan, promise \$710,000, the wealthy alumni and administration will see if they'll contribute. All we have to do is say yes to a question binding those currently in the second grade to paying for a football team that can't even guarantee it'll be around for a second year. Some like VP External Anthony Knight and Monique Scholten (that name again...) made the suggestion that maybe a \$710,000 question should wait until the spring, so more guarantees and options can be given to students when we vote.

Ha Ha. Ha. Silly Anthony. Naive Monique. This is about the students right to choose. We can't afford to wait until real choices emerge. But I digress, democratically empowered.

The sad part is, Council didn't wait to look at other options. Turns out other schools, like St. F.X., didn't have to make ten year commitments. Some schools like Laval, gave students a better price than the UNB offer of \$71,000 for four (yep, four) games a year. Some western schools have been able to fund the whole shebang without gouging student pockets. Hey, if students really want this thing, why not a season ticket drive to guarantee funds the same way they keep CFL teams afloat.

Yep, lots of choices, none of them offered to us, because Council didn't think them worth looking at. Lots of questions, too, like how we make sure our money goes to the right kind of expenses, what happens if the team dies after a year, like the UCCB Capers, how we get our money back if the whole thing caves before

opening kickoff, and how much more we'll pay in hidden costs through the university using our tuition fees for athletic scholarships and recruiting junkets.

Don't worry, be happy. Monique Scholten told Council "A nice man in a nice suit came and talked to us and we just went along with it." The little fact that this is one of the worst deals offered students at a CIAU football school is a small problem. After all, the alumni behind this thing plan have announced that they'll launch an expensive PR blitz to sell students this white elephant, while Council has refused to guarantee that they'll allow a NO side to offer students the other side.

Hello, UNB Student Council? Lucien Bouchard on line 1. He wants your help planning a little referendum in Quebec, and he thinks you've got just the idea. But I digress.

This isn't about choice. We have lots of exciting sports teams at UNB. Some, like womens' soccer have faced the funding axe. The Student Union didn't give us the choice to help them. I'd like to help restore library acquisitions, bring our lab equipment up to date, or improve computer access for students at UNB. \$71,000 would really help. But the Council doesn't want to give me that choice. There's a proposal to set up a scholarship fund to help students go to school. Council hasn't let us make that choice, either.

Throwing a \$710,000 choice out with no warning or debate makes a mockery of everything democracy is about. In a democratic system, elected officials must ensure that the choice is made on a clear question about a well-researched option, with a campaign that gives people equal access to hear both sides.

With all due respect to a group that's doing a good job so far, our Council has failed on this vital score. The majority of the executive - Anoushka Courage, Monique Scholten and Anthony Knight — voted to go back and do their job right. Being honourable women and men, the rest of the Council should take a deep breath and think about listening to them.

Anonymity a necessary right

The following article is the first of a series of columns submitted to The Brunswickan in application for a regular Spectrum column. The writer requested that s/he remain anonymous to everyone but the Editor-in-chief. The Brunswickan does not, as a rule, publish anonymous letters or opinion columns, and the application was turned down on the basis of that policy. However, the debate sparked within the office by this issue suggested that others might be interested in the points raised by the nameless author, so one of the three articles is being published -- name withheld by request.

A few months ago there was an editorial in The Daily Gleaner commenting on a letter written about one of the teachers at FHS by a parent of one of the students. In the editorial it was mentioned that the letter had no legitimacy since it had been written anonymously. It wasn't just a case of the name and address being withheld by request, but rather that the writer hadn't attached her name at all. As a result, The Gleaner refused to publish the letter and the editorialist commented on it very harshly.

The Gleaner is wrong. The fact that the letter was unsigned in no way detracts from its legitimacy. Actually, the fact that it was

unsigned indicates to me a very real fear on the part of the parent that her son would face reprisals from the teacher mentioned in the article if her identity were to become known. Whether or not her fear is or was justified is immaterial; the fact remains that the fear was very real, particularly in today's political climate.

Anonymous letters should be published by newspapers in a free and potentially democratic society. The fear of reprisal has become to great and the stakes have become to high to allow for the possibility of losing a job or being refused a job because you have expressed an unpopular opinion that is at odds with that of your potential employer. It has become a maxim of the mythology of New Brunswick that speaking out against Frank McKenna is the best way to ensure that you will never get a job with his government. Given this type of climate, it is not surprising that some people are afraid to speak out, and if we are to have even the slightest justification for our pretensions of a free society, it is necessary that our right to speak out without fear of reprisal be zealously protected.

But, you might protest, newspapers still allow us to withhold our names from published

letters, they just ask that you provide them with your name so that they can protect themselves. Well, that's bullshit. Even if you do provide your name, they reserve the right not to publish any letters which they do not consider to be appropriate. They should use the same standard for anonymous letters - neither tougher nor more lax. The problem is that I don't trust the newspapers of this country or province. I don't even trust The Brunswickan. I think if a major corporate bigwig or prominent politician wanted to know the identity of a letter writer, the name would soon be in his hands. I think that to be true of The Brunswickan equally as much as I do of The Daily Gleaner or The Telegraph Journal. For that reason, I will never send a letter to any of these newspapers unless I can be assured of my anonymity by the simple expedient of not revealing my identity to anyone, including the newspaper.

It might be argued that this is a sign of cowardice on my part and that argument is entirely correct. I have learned cowardice. I have learned fear. But does the fact that I am a coward mean that I am not allowed a voice? If Canada is to be the country that it claims to be, even we cowards need to have a voice.

Wear blue jeans on October 11

Friday, October 11 is National Coming Out Day. This day means something different to everyone. It is a reminder of how difficult it is for some lesbians to come out of the closet and tell their loved ones that they are gay. It is also a reminder of how far some of us have gone to come out of the closet. Coming out of the closet sometimes results in alienation from some straight friends who feel uncomfortable around gay people. However, it can also result in meeting a lot of new friends who accept you for who you are.

You may have seen posters about the Blue Jeans Campaign around campus. It is a lot easier for gay people to come out if they know that they will not be experience discrimination. The Blue Jeans Campaign is an opportunity for gay-positive people to show that they are against discrimination against lesbians, bisexuals and gays.

Another reason to wear blue jeans on October 11 is to protest against the recent incidents of gay bashing that have occurred in the downtown Fredericton area. Gay people do not live in a completely different world. We chose blue jeans because they are an article of clothing that most people own. What you wear and do not wear is ultimately your decision. We hope that this campaign will also bring about discussion of how there are many people who are against the verbal, physical and emotional "bashing" of gay people.

Katie Wright,
GALA Representative



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