

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, Student Union Building. Deadline: 5 p.m. Tuesdays. Maximum length: 300 words.

Active Member

As an active member of the CHSC for 5 years, I feel very uncertain about the current activities of the Student Union. Instead of spending their time and money helping the students they are preferring to spend it on a chance that they may take over a profitable business. This is also a risk to assume that the CHSC will remain profitable if the SU succeeds in the endeavor.

The CHSC was incorporated (sic) to be separate (sic) from the SU, has operated successfully through the years, and has always provided the service that it was intended for. In recent years, the CHSC has even been able to support activities outside the Social Club, for example the refurbishing of the UNB weight room, which has been neglected for years.

I don't feel that Social Club profits should be used to reduce the cost of Bar Services to the residences, as has been suggested. True that residence life is a major part of campus life, however, it is only a small part, and why should the money from one group be used to finance another, especially when a CHSC member cannot easily attend a residence event?

As for the reason why \$90,000 is in a bank account, I remember just a couple of years ago when the CHSC was in debt by almost this amount. I think that it is good practice to keep a fund available in case this ever happens again. It's called sound business practise.

And as for all these "Free memberships" that are given out, yes they are free, however they are complimentary memberships, not having the same rights as a paid membership.

If the SU would have spent their \$35,000 against their losses they incur (sic) from bar services, we would all be better off.

Please, leave the CHSC for the students who want to take advantage of this service, and let the money we spend there go to benefit who we think best.
Jeffrey Burgoyne

Greed Over CHSC

Dear Editor,

I am writing as a concerned member of the College Hill Social Club regarding the alleged take over of the CHSC by the Student Union. I have visited both camps of the warring parties and have listened to both arguments attentively. As far as I can see, this battle boils down to the 98,000 dollars profit that the CHSC has made last year. Despite the Student Unions attempt to pass their motive off as, "better programming for the UNB student population," it is more than evident to me that the sole purpose of our Student Representative Council is the acquisition of these funds.

What will happen if this occurs? Where will the money be spent? Everyone knows that the CHSC is a non profit organization. All of the money that is earned goes back into the club, or to better the university student life as a whole. Currently the social club is involved in many programs that does just this. It presently sponsors UNB's Hockey team, Swimming team, Wrestling team, Rugby Club, Women's Soccer Club, and many intramural teams, with up to 200 to 300 dollars each team or club.

On top of this they are in negotiations with the Dept. of Athletics to donate up to 10,000 dollars that will go toward a new ice machine and a new Universal Gymnasium. They are also in the process of obtaining a new computer system to help stream line costs for the club and a new audio visual system which will help promote new upcoming talent.

What does the SRC plan to do? Currently they don't have a plan that helps support Athletics, nor do they have one that will

improve the social club as a whole. In fact, it appears to me that plans of the student union are entirely subject to change without any warning or excuse. That's what happened to the original proposal isn't it?

If the Student Union takes over the CHSC they will have to raise student fees in order to include the \$15.00 membership fee for the social club. The only problem with this is that not every member of the student population is a member of the Social Club. In fact not every member of the social club is even a member of the UNB student population. What about the STU student population? How will it be serviced? Has the greed of our Student Union ingored (sic) our STU brothers and sisters?

Does the Student Union expect to charge the 75% of the UNB student population that does not have a membership to the Social Club the extra fee? I hope not. Call me crazy, but, that's not exactly what I would call fair!

The Social Club has repeatedly said that it is willing to cooperate its efforts and resources with the student union to improve the quality of Student Entertainment, if this is the SRC's sole purpose. What I am wondering is why has the Student Union set aside an alleged (sic) \$39,000 of our student fees for legal, and propaganda fees - without our permission - if all they have to do is approach the Social Club management in a civil manner with a reasonable proposition? Why do they have to take over the CHSC to fulfill (sic) their goals, if their goal is to offer better programming for UNB students?

Currently the College Hill Social Club is a privately student owned, student organized operation that provides a haven for a particular segment of the UNB and STU population. This haven is non political, and not associated with the University whatsoever. It is sort of a student legion where the students can go to forget about everything. Now it is profitable and its members will begin to see the benefits (sic) of these profits. Can the Student Union provide all of these things if it took over? You are the judge.
Sean Dockrill

Libel or Slander

Dear Mr. Lazar,

On your reference to slander, perhaps you should learn the difference between slander and libel. Especially since you're on council, after all, it may save you some embarrassment someday.

As for the editorial, Mr. Dawes asked me to write it, I suppose because I was more familiar with the subject. I agree that it was perhaps a bit one sided. I'm sure that you would of liked someone from the Student Union to write it. Oh! But I forgot, the SU wasn't saying anything on the subject at the time. Can you say that magic word "SECRET"?

Now Mr. Lazar, I don't know what fairy tales you've been reading but there not very good ones. Three years ago when the CHSC asked the SU for a bailout, the Student Union FLATLY REFUSED. They did not ask the CHSC for a seat on the board or a percentage of the profits. Negotiations NEVER got to that phase. I was there Mr. Lazar, you weren't.

The point of the Tracy incident was merely to point out one of the many screw-ups made by the Student Union. In this case it was quite blatant, the judge even said so. Through reading of our own history we learn of our mistakes and hopefully how not to make them again. Perhaps you should take a history course Mr. Lazar, you might learn something.

Bill Traer

P.S. Mr. Braithwaite and Mr. Small. I can answer your 8 questions easily that you asked last week.

1. Speaking of rumours and falsehoods, obviously you haven't done your homework. The membership fee has been \$15.00 for the past four years. Two years ago the membership was priced at a sale price of \$10.00 for a short period of time.

2. The grad students went to the club and asked to buy a blanket membership. UNB and STU can easily do the same thing.

3. Its common bar etiquette to let in other bar staff of ANY CITY. However in the case of the CHSC they must have a card or be signed in, thus the complimentary membership. By the way, they are NON-VOTING memberships.

4. They asked for them as they have in the past years. The SU could get them if they asked too.

5. Very simple, the membership list isn't completed yet. Considering their membership drive started after you asked for the list...well, nevermind.

6. I'm not really sure what the club plans to do with their \$60,000.00 surplus, not \$90,000.00 as previously reported, as they still had to pay off part of the debt. Furthermore the club has painted the place for the past several years because they couldn't afford to do real renovations. Over the past few months the club has started to replace damaged furniture, etc. Soon they'll have to start replacing the expensive stuff which is 8 years old (ancient for a bar) such as beer fridges (10 grand) dishwasher (10 grand) cooler (25 grand). Hey it all adds up.

7. Irrelevant question as a board member can be a UNB/STU full or part-time student, grad student, lifetime member or anyone else affiliated with the University, in other words, anyone who is a member.

8. My, my, aren't we the pot calling the kettle black. When someone says that they are going to take you over no matter what you do, in no way can this be considered bargaining in good faith in any circle. Once the Student Union is willing to negotiate in good faith I'm sure the CHSC is more than willing to discuss matters with them.

Gay Forum

A university education is supposed to expand your horizons and expose you to many different viewpoints. This does not seem to be happening. What is "normal"? Who decided that everyone should be normal? Society is a mixture of many different people. Some of those people happen to be homosexuals.

It is my view that reading Gay Forum is an opportunity to gain insight into an undeniable part of humanity. If God had not intended for there to be homosexuals, then he would not have made any. I do not think it is Gay Forum readers who require sympathy and understanding. A little less blind condemnation would be nice, however.

The fact that I support this column does not mean that I am gay. I merely like to meet a person before I decide whether he or she is "sick" and "abnormal".

Hot Rod

I realize that the editor of the Brunswickan has issued an apology and a retraction of Hot Rod's classified (sic) ad (Used girlfriend for sale), however I do not believe that this matter should be put to rest so easily. Considering that this is a place of higher education, let's try to learn something from this unfortunate incident.

Hot Rod's ad reflects and insidious form of mysogyny (sic) (hatred of women). Sexist "jokes" like this one can not be openly and rationally debated for what they really are. Any attempt to argue that these "jokes" are vile and offensive is met with the retort, "what's the matter... can't you take a joke?!" As a result, "jokes" like Hot Rod's work subtly to degrade and devalue women. That's not funny!

There are many women in a position to take this ad very personally, and to feel belittled, betrayed and worthless. Any woman whose relationship is going poorly could be left wondering whether these comments were directed at her. And all women face the possibility that such a "joke" may one day be levelled at them. A similar "joke" aimed at a racial or ethnic minority would draw immediate outrage. Why? Because we recognize that such "jokes" contribute to an ideology that promotes inequality, gross injustice, and hatred of minorities.

Mysogynist (sic) "jokes" are not funny. Mysogynist (sic) "jokes" are demeaning and demoralizing. I am pleased that The Brunswickan editor realizes this. I can only hope that Hot Rod and his colleagues soon come to this realization.
Kelli-an Lawrance, M.Sc

Things were better?

Dear Kwame,

It is tempting, as a recent alumnus, to wax nostalgically about how, "things were different when I was here," which can come dangerously close to, "things were better when I was doing them." It is, perhaps, unavoidable that I would compare Terry Richards' "Gay Forum" to my own "In the Pink." In what follows, though, I intend no qualitative assessment of gay forum, I merely wish to take exception to some of Mr. Richards' arguments.

In writing the column "Gay Forum", I question whether Terry Richards is offering any service to the gay community (let alone the lesbians, who appear to have slipped his notice) by pursuing a line of argument which gay and lesbian liberationists have long since abandoned.

Just as mature and active feminists have moved ahead from the essentially irrelevant skirmish to purge the letter sequences "m-a-n" and "m-e-n" from our written language (having already won the more important battle of inclusive usage) so too, lesbian and gay liberationists have abandoned the argument of privacy as one which is assimilationist and counter-productive.

To argue, as Mr. Richards does, that we must fight for the privacy of our bedrooms is simply to turn those bedrooms into larger closets. Closets stand for prison, not for privacy. The argument also admits inter alia that being gay (or lesbian?) revolves around sex. While it is true that my sex life is private, my lifestyle is public, and that is as much a part of my sexual orientation as my sex life. It takes more than the public statement, "I am gay" to truly come out of the closet.

So where does this leave the issue of "outing"? It must be remembered that this is a tactic used by radical activists for a political purpose. Where no political goal can be achieved, there is no justification for the tactic. In cases where our purposes are served by the unmasking of a hypocrite, I will lose little sleep over the issue. Radicalism serves an important role in defining the issues, and holding public attention.

I am not a heterosexual, and I do not want to achieve a definition of equality where I am rewarded for being an intimation heterosexual with my monogamous partner, a house, and two cats. I am gay, which means I am different (in more than just the sex of my partners) and it is those differences that I want accorded equal concern and respect. Non-gays have been trying to throw off the yoke of the "traditional family" for over fifty years, why should we be foolish enough to copy it into our own community? The only rationale is a desire to assimilate to the larger society, by adopting norms (like monogamy) which are alien to us, and which have been used to oppress us in the past.

Women should not be expected to behave like men to succeed in a capitalist society,

people of colour should not be expected to adopt culturally alien norms, and so too, as lesbians and gay men we should be able to live our lives in social units which we have developed ourselves to serve our own social purposes.

It is time that gay and lesbian activists identified the major issues which are facing the community today, and engage in advanced and constructive debate, rather than whining about how hard done by we are, and fighting for our right to continue to be oppressed.

James Gill ('90)

P.S. Contrary to Mr. Richard's implication Rep. Barney Frank (D-Mass) was not "outed" over the Goble affair last year. He came out voluntarily in 1987 and was re-elected with an increased majority in his largely working class district two years ago.

Assault

To the Editor,

Having just read the October 26, 1990 issue of the Brunswickan we felt obliged to respond to the article "Two Women Attacked on Campus".

How often do sexual assaults have to occur on this campus before they are considered deplorable acts. What on earth are women supposed to make of the comments by Rick Peacock that students should be encouraged to use "common sense". We would like to know what is non-sensical about a woman walking on campus at 5:00 p.m.? We would like to know what is non-sensical about a woman walking "near Harrington Hall" at 11:00 p.m.? Oh yes, we forgot! We women are not supposed to walk anywhere without our daddies, our boyfriends or our husbands anytime the boggie man might jump out and get us. What about the real issues. Why aren't women safe on the streets, in our homes, on our campus?

Now, what can a man appauled by sexual assault do? They could always join the "escort service for female students who prefer not to walk alone". Since men do the majority of attacking why isn't there an escort service provided by concerned males to accompany their "brothers" safely home without attacking any women along their way. To keep promoting the idea that women need men to protect us is just compounding the problem. As women we need to learn to defend ourselves and not to be helpless victims.

Why aren't men being told to "take precautions" and heed "common sense" and stay at home after dark so they don't attack women. It makes much more sense to impose a curfew on men than to teach women not to walk alone at night. Oh, but maybe we should just jail all the victims of crime and let all the criminals run around. Uh-oh, we just called all men criminals and nobody will like that! But we don't think that all women are victims and instead of offering escort services why doesn't this university offer women self-defense courses and well lit paths and parking lots.

Women should be taught to fight back not to huddle at home alone in fear. Let's have the university offer some reality-based solutions that acknowledge the fact that sexual assault is a crime perpetrated against victims not brought on by them.

N. Brown
R. Brown

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