

-BY KWAME DAWES-

While it may seem politically unwise for the Brunswickan to publish material that is overtly critical of its editorial decisions, a valid case may be argued for the wisdom and integrity of a paper that dares to do so. Of course this may all be clever politicking: you dare to print negative material about you to give the impression that you are in fact a free press. Leaving such speculations behind, it may be more profitable to look in detail at the material being published in an attempt to bring all concerned (including the readers) to a place of understanding and at least a tacit consensus.

We feature this week, the complaints of the Student Women's Committee of UNB about what they feel to be instances of sexism in the Brunswickan. The responses to these complaints have been very interesting to this writer and I suspect I should share some of those I heard with the readers.

- 1. That woman again! I mean, what's her problem?
- I have nothing against feminist, but I think sometimes they just go too far.
- Honestly, I hope this is not a repeat of last year. 4. This is absolutely ridiculous. The Brunswickan should never bow to the pressure of a minority. How many
- people are in that Women's Committee anyway? 5. She has some very good points. 6. Now I am confused. I thought I understood sexism.
- What is sexism?
- 7. She wants to curtail freedom of the press, that is it. 8. The Bruns should clean up its act, she has a few good points, I mean I don't agree with everything, but she has some points
- 9. You ask anybody on campus, women especially, they would tell you that all this is really being picky, really picky. People like the jokes, they do, they see nothing wrong with them so what's the deal?
- 10. Too bad nothing is said about the racism in the paper. 11. They should come and work for the paper, this is what they should do.

Interestingly, these responses have come from both men and women and there seems to be an unstated notion that if women themselves think that all this is exaggerated, those complaining have no case. The logic of such arguments is faulty and it displays an apparent ignorance about the nature of battles against prejudice and discrimination of any kind. Often the enemy is found within the ranks of those campus

because the language of those fighting these issues has tions in the realm of oppression. Queen Victoria is a case in become a clichéd rhetoric which uses an alienating jargon that excludes those who don't belong to that clique. One of the challenges facing the feminist movement today is the apathy of many women who have been lulled into thinking that they have already received so much and made so many the student paper that this editor felt it wise to print some of gains that there is no need to assume an aggressive militancy against the system. This is further aggravated by the fact response to this presentation then a way might be found to that many of the commonly held ideas about what con- begin the process of education which will not only allow for stitutes sexism in something like the media have not been ef- clearer understanding of the things that constitute infracfectively communicated to the younger generation to the ex- tions on human rights, but will also force those who are tent that younger women find little fault in many of the strong advocates of certain ideas to become far more explicit issues brought up. By failing to grasp the importance of education (as it was approached in the early seventies, the sight of the level of awareness of those on this campus and sixties and more explicitly in the late nineteenth century), all across this continent. the advocates of feminist rights have alienated a large cross section of the very people who claim to speak for.



point.) It is in light of the dangers of ignorance and the need to acknowledge that there is in fact a cross-section of people who are sensitive to certain issues and ideas being propogated in the material prepared by the SWC. If there is wide-spread

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INTRODUCTION

published 21 October, 1988, with the classified ads. exception of one classified ad which apeared in Vol. 123, No. 5 14 October

The following are examples of sexism included reflects a general ignorance of potential lawsuit being launched by the story on several counts inherent in forms of campus media. gender bias and a lack of knowledge organizers of the Campus Discovery 1. We object to the exploitative nature The articles, advertisements and car-toons have been culled from "Canada's clude: "Campus Discovery Calendar that underage women students were question did not mention this. Oldest Official Student Publication," Contest"; "Sexual Harassment effects encouraged to participate illegally in a 2. We further object to the fact that The Brunswickan. This is not the first time The Brunswickan has published (sic) 10-20% of students"; "Many pin-up contest, the grand prize for which was a trip to France, and are of publicity for this event without Note that the response to the first letter, Note that the response to the first letter, "Note that the response to the first letter,"

defamatory and insulting to women, the sensibilities of women and men on following illegal advice, and 2) daring

MATTER OF IGNORANCE

. On page 1 of the 21 October 1988 having signed such a document. Some of the material which has been issue, the cover story centers on a The SWC takes exception to material which is degrading, Still other examples are offensive to now being sued by the organizers for 1) regard to the degrading nature of the signed "Alone and Lonely" makes no the sensibilities of women and insuring to women, nor is it the first time a formal com-plaint has been lodged. It is, however, the first time that a complaint has gone public and a formal report has been cir-

STUDENT'S WOMEN'S COM- tracted from Vol. 125 (sic), No. 6, Dyen" advertisement; and two photos elsewhere (e.g. pornographic artist responsible as Mr. Brian Linklet-

regarded the education of women as a waste of time. The role of women is to look good/please men/get married/and enerally subordinate their own lives to he service of others, namely men. Out of eight frames of "Viewpoint" only one focuses on a woman. The men all want to "graduate", become "rich and owerful," etc. Only one man wished become "Tall, dark, blonde, and lizzy." The only woman featured vants to become "a sex symbol." Was only one woman interviewed? Did she ay this? Did other women respond? What did they say? Only the male staffers of The Brunswickan know the answer to this and they are not talking. t is safe to say, however, that male editorial bias played some role in which rames/captions were chosen to go to

seriously, we resent this type of flippancy and regard it as an insult. Women on this campus play the same tuition fees, spend the same amount of time in the classroom, spend the same amoun of time away from the labour force. work on the same papers, assignments write the same final exams and earn the same degrees as men. Many women who are married/single parents and/or unemployed do all that men do and on behalf of all women on this campus when we say that we did not come to UNB to "grow up to become sex sym-

WOMEN

THE CARTOONS

'hese cartoons cannot be considered and female subordination. As anyone associated with the press knows, most newspaper that we help pay for. editors are male. The media is, typical ly, a male dominated realm in which women's voices are rarely heard. This may partially explain the misreprese tation of women in and by the press.

The recruiting advertisement/car toon perpetuates the idea that women are meek, uncreative, unsure of their ability, cry easily and require male guidence in the work place. The fact "Norman Bates (ha, ha, ha...)" is the hat female employees may be referred to as "Toots" in their place of work is antamount to sexual harassment. Furher, the body english of the male sponsible for the inclusion of this caroon is the Entertainment Editor, Mr. teve Griffiths

In regards to the Loung Lizard caroon, it should be noted that the picture lepicted symoblizes "Sharkey"

cartoon, it should be noted that the PREPOSTEROUS. Violence ag it. figure depicted symoblizes "Sharkey," mascot of The Brunswickan. Note the of this type of material in a sture semi-clad female figures hanging off newspaper or any other kinc him in seductive postures. When ap-proached in connection with the Mr. Comeau's response to this m t publication of this cartoon, Editor in was that he "could not go thr hief. Stephan Comeau, stated that he had refused to print it the week before. future, either. We find Mr. Com In an October, 1988 issue, however, he excuse reprehensible, irresponsible decided to run the cartoon after mak- unacceptable. magazines) any time in the future for ter. It this how women are viewed by "Censorship!" "Freedom of the press" their own profit. Most young women staff members of The Brunswickan, the another phrase which crops up wit are unaware of the ramifications of student population, and members of uncanny regularity. The authors citth the community? Is this valid use of our this mandatory student fees fund?

BLATANTLY OFFENSIVE

"PERSONALLY YOURS"

"Personally Yours" speaks for itself. ing to women as "great chicks who like Brunswickan failed to meet the stan-

EA FING DISORDERS

'he article on eating disorders (page , written by a woman who admits to uffering from such a disorder herself, is misleading in that it implies that eating disorders are a problem of 'students," and not a problem women. Research has shown 'that eating disorders are conditions which effect white, middle-class women and effect less than 0.5% of the male population.' It has also been determined that these disorders are due, at least in part, to societal pressure for women to conform to an ideal but unattainable

standard of physical beauty. That, Fred Horsley, Director of Counselling Services, is cited by the author as regarding such disorders as the affliction of "the bright, the sensitive and the creative" is not especially comforting. As women who take our education The issue of gender is entirely ignored in this article.

> 10. THE VAN OYEN ADVERTISE-MENT

This ad denotes bondage and i gratuitous use of female flesh for the purpose of furthering a product. What is the product? Who is the advertiser? The Brunswickan. The Editor in Chief, Mr. Stephan Comeau, stated in a meeting with one then some. We are sure that we speak of the authors of this report on 21 October, 1988, that since The Brunswickan "needs the money, n paid advertisement is turned away. Since media costs consume \$17.16 p student per year of mandatory studen IMAGES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST fees, and since CHSR/Th Brunswickan share a yearly budget of 01,173.00, we see no reason why 42 % of the full time enrollment and 69% of the part time enrollment, i.e., women anything but images of male power have "nothing to say" about the kind of advertising which is placed in

THE CLASSIFIED ADS

These classified ads cannot escribed as anything other that voman-directed violence as sanctione by a patriarchal society. In Classified Ad #1, the woman in question presented as nothing more than chunk of disposable, decaying mean sychotic killer of women in the Hi chcock film; Psycho.

Item #2 suggests that the "whips and chains" is "the usual" editor is undeniably violent. The artist which "girls" tire. This suggests that women enjoy male-directed violence, sexual and otherwise, and experience so often that it becomes a bore. S 75% of homocides involve women

are killed by men that they know since the incidences of sexual assure date rape, sexual harassment, in With regard to the Loung Lizard etc. are staggering, this type of "fu women is no joke and the publication every ad" and would not do so in

One of the most common roadb women face in fighting issues of sexisi in the media is the old familiar ci report find it interesting to note not many individuals involved in the medi can remember the first part of thi phrase but conveniently forget the second part: "Freedom of the press -- with responsibility." It is our opionion that the responsibility of the press included he accurate representation of all people regardless of gender, racial origin, social status or sexual orientation. With mention of the unacceptibility of referr- this in mind, we feel that The

Letter from the SWC to Dean Frost, Student Union President, with regard sues raised the report. Mr. Dean Frost,

President, Student Union University of New Brunswick, Dear Mr. Frost:

Further to our conversation of this norning, the Student Women's Committee thanks you for the opportunity to discuss our grievances regarding sexism in The Brunswickan.

As we agreed upon earlier, the SWC will grant The Brunswickan a two week grace period, ending with the issue of 04 November 1988, in order that they may demonstrate their willingness to act in a more responsible manner with regard to their portrayal of women in our campus paper

Kate McKay, a member of the SWC has offered to act in a consultative role and provide The Brunswickan with information on women's issues upon request. The SWC has also agreed to provide recommendations for Council's consideration with regard to ending the sexist misrepresentation of women by We trust that there will be no further

equirement for action by the SWC as it is our hope that this matter has now been resolved.

After meeting with the Student Union President and editor-in-chief, the SWC was assured that The Brunswickan would "clean up its act". The following articles were culled from the new-and-improved, non-sexist, ner racist, non-homophobic, nonciprint Erunswickan. See figures 6,7,8

Sincerely Karen-Jean Braun President Student Women's Committee (UNB)

12. JAYDE'S ARTICLE

This articles has been brought to the attention of the Rape Crisis Centre, who undoubtedly find little humour in

Gang Rapes.

The SWC agreed to the publication of this material and were able to see the copy before it went to print. While they do not agree with the full content

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of this Features Page they were kind enough to encourage the dialogue that