

## 16 editorial

BY MACK MORGAN

There is clearly a lack of communication and confidence between the residents of Neill House, the Neill House Don, the Dean of Residence and the Dean of Students.

Four Neill House residents have been evicted from their homes and the House Committee has been made to prostrate themselves before a Inter-Residence Disciplinary Committee following a letter to the Chair, Tim Randall, from Dean of Residence, John Craighead. The letter alleges several incidents of misconduct resulting from the consumption of alcohol at a social two weekends ago and a belligerence towards the Don, the Dean of Residence and UNB Security. And, as is the Dean's prerogative, the residents' improprieties must be dealt with in a timely matter. But this is clearly a case of the university acting as an agent of justice for, of course, the benefit of itself.

But did you know, nearly 70 residents of Neill had lodged complaints against their Don, to the Dean of Students, Tom Austin and the Dean of Residence back in late November? Did you also know, according to Neill House President Brad Coughlin, these complaints have gone formally unresolved? Members of Neill House have even met with Dean Austin but there seems to be no expedite action forthcoming from his end. To not act in a timely matter concerning students' complaints suggests a stagnant and hypocritical Residence community.

In spite of these 70 complaints, Dean Craighead still maintains his full confidence in Mr. Wedge's abilities as Don. However the majority of Neill House residents would seem to disagree with the Dean's confidence.

The recent stirrings in Neill suggests, to some, a house of corrupt residents but, to those who are less myopic, there seems to be an underlying theme of little or no authority, or sense of a common purpose.

If the House Committee or individual members are found to have committed improprieties, would this not lead one to conclude there had been a lack of supervision or discipline from the onset? For example, under the law, parents are responsible for the actions of their children, while the children are in their care. Stronger mentorship is needed within the residence community and mutual respect between members of the residence community must flourish.

The Inter-Residence Disciplinary Committee must provide an open forum for the students to act as a group—to face their accuser(s), and be judged by their peers (i.e. other residence dwellers). Residence members must be represented by some form of legal counsel. More than likely this task would fall on the Student Advocate. If there are accusers, then, they must be subjected to cross examination by the accused or their counsel. Some will undoubtedly find this idea cumbersome, however it does ensure the fundamental rights of all involved are protected.

The unwillingness to deal swiftly with Neill House residents' complaints clearly indicates a lack of mandate on the Deans' part. I'm behooved and troubled by any dean who wantonly side steps a vital and current issue, to refer 'judgment' at a later date rather than a sooner one.

If persons are brave enough to speak out against the system, do not ignore them or complacently file those complaints: act swiftly, fairly and above all, get results.

## The Magwamp Journal

Well, I don't really have much to say about Neill house, but I do have a few thoughts on Neil's [i.e. my] house.

I live in a quiet residential suburb of Fredericton, NB, an area zoned for one residential unit dwellings. It's called Windsor Street, which I'm sure comes as much as a surprise to you as it did to me when I found out from the planning department of the city.

I live in one of these nice units with another amiable slob. This means we run on the "we'll do the dishes when we haven't got anything clean left to eat off" system, as is traditional in houses lived in by single guys.

The place used to be tidier. One of our old roommates was, pretty much a neat freak, which just tended to make me feel guilty in my laziness, by the time I'd noticed that the place was a little tidier, most of the cleaning had been done.

Anyway, this little column is not about to degenerate into a gossip piece, there's actually some serious stuff coming up. But you'll have to bear with me, cos I'm meandering a little.

The unit we live in is rented out by the room, as many are in this fair city of stately elms, and one of it's selling points is the lack of lease.

Great, wonderful, we can bail when the heck we like, I hear you shout. Alas there's a downside. Rented rooms, are not covered by any Tenancy Act which means that the Rentalsman has no jurisdiction in the arrangement. If you are renting an apartment or house, even without a lease you're covered by this act. If you're renting a room then you're not.

What this means is that when you have a dispute, the person you need to see is a lawyer, whose rates compare rather unfavourably with the Rentalsman, who charges nothing.

I'm not moaning about the apartment, the reason I moved in still exists - it's right close to campus, however I'm weary of the consequences of conflicts, especially with me being a poor foreign student, thousands of miles from home.

Apologies for this being such a poor attempt at an entertaining column. There'll be a better one next week. I pretty much guarantee it. For now I'd like to say that The Sports section is well worth a read, so don't bother with pages in between and head straight to page 19. Do not pass go. Don't collect \$200 (well it's not like it's sitting on a square in real life). For convenience, just pull out the centre section and you'll find it on the other half of this big page.

Neil Duxbury

# Blood n' Thunder

The real reason Roly McIntyre couldn't sign the NBSA's Promise to Students



Er ... I couldn't find my ...um..pen. Yeah that's it. No wait a sec. I...I've got pen-phobia

Help me find my wife's heritage

To: bruns@unb.ca

Many years ago I met a professor in the UNB library. He was researching the name Louis Denys de la Ronde, Sieur de Bonaventure, who played a role in the evacuation of Isle Royale in the 1700's. My wife is a direct descendant of de la Ronde, and we do have a considerable file on the family line. Did the professor ever publish his book, and if so how can we get a copy? None of the bookstores in Toronto have such a book. This is important to us. Can you help?

Brian Boyle  
bboyle@idirect.com

I don't want UNB's Prez to censor anything

Dear Editor

I, for one, do not want UNB's President, nor anyone else, to censor what material may be allowed on campus. I share Louis Cooper's disdain for the greeting card sold in the SUB convenience store, in which ethnic stereotypes are employed for a few cheap laughs. However if the President were empowered by various groups to get rid of any material that some deem offensive, we all may as well just give up the enterprise of scholarship and go home. While the presence of this card on campus does little to foster academic inquiry, nevertheless, the tolerance that we afford to obnoxious viewpoints is a fundamental dignity that should be accorded to all persons. To allow an individual to pass judgment upon what opinions may be uttered is to set a dangerous precedent.

I should not have to go into great detail in outlining the many ways that censorship backfires and falls short of its professed goals. Canada's obscenity laws give us plenty of examples where the blunt instrument of censorship is abused by suppressing everything from Oscar Wilde novels to women's studies textbooks. Instead, I would like to emphasize the importance of addressing offensive views rather than trying to stifle them.

I have often learned the most from materials and opinions with which I vehemently disagree. A course that I took on women in political thought began by examining the works of eminent Western philosophers. My classmates and I were dismayed that Aristotle deemed women to be "inferior" and "deformed" males, and that Aquinas viewed women as "defective" and "misbegotten", however we certainly did not appeal to the UNB authorities to remove these "offensive"

books from the university bookstore. Rather these offending views, were openly discussed and criticized, both in the classroom and in our essays.

Likewise, when I wrote an article on the human rights case against Malcolm Ross, the first step in my research was to actually read Ross's works for myself. Only then, was I capable of interviewing holocaust experts, in an effort to scrutinize some of Ross's more offensive claims. It is an unfortunate, but very necessary, truth that the first step in discrediting any view, is to first acquaint oneself with it.

By using his own right to free speech, to educate ten thousand *Brunswickan* readers about the offensiveness of certain ethnic stereotypes, Mr. Cooper demonstrated the most effective way to discredit obnoxious opinions. In so doing, he confirmed John Stuart Mill's classic statement that, by openly contrasting two opposing views we may obtain, "a livelier impression of truth, produced by its collision with error." Hopefully others have gained an appreciation for the offensiveness of needless stereotyping. Moreover, we should also appreciate how freedom of expression affords each of us the opportunity to draw our own conclusions as to how to deal with viewpoints which we find offensive and wrong-headed. As a student, I want no one to censor on my behalf, nor do I desire to censor on behalf of any other person.

Sincerely,  
Luke Peterson

The Bruns is the only forum for "left wing" ideas

To Blood n' Thunder

This letter is a response to the request for more right-winged articles by Andrew Murchinson (in Blood n' Thunder, Issue 14). By the standards expressed in his letter, all articles written with the intention of building bridges of tolerance, and tearing down the walls of ignorance are categorized as "left-wing." "Pride" is an article published to make people more aware of gay issues, and to raise the self-esteem of all homosexuals on campus. If articles such as this are classified as "left-wing," then I shudder to think what constitutes his "right-wing" alternative. Articles written with the intention of promoting ignorance and hate by dividing people? Scapegoating all poor people, homosexuals, and ethnic and linguistic minorities for all the economic problems brought on by the global corporate agenda? In a diverse campus such as UNB, ignorance and fear promoting right-winged articles have no place in the student newspaper.

The claim that articles such as "Left Jab" upset the political balance is

completely unfounded. *The Brunswickan* is the only forum available for such ideas to be printed. With the Irvings' monopoly on commercial newspapers in New Brunswick, right-wing views have had enough print to be recognized for their divisiveness. If Mr. Murchinson is looking to read articles containing bigoted right-wing trash (as if watching Rush Limbaugh wasn't bad enough), then I suggest that he pick up the next copy of *The Daily Gleaner* and read the editorials. Surely he can find enough garbage to satisfy him there.

Laura G  
International Socialist

Campus Shoppe clarifies position

Dear Editor

This is in response to Louis Cooper's write-up in *The Brunswickan* titled "Open Letter to U.N.B. President" dated January 26, 1996.

Mr. Cooper makes reference to a particular Valentine's Day card found in our store. He found this card to be stereotypical and offensive due to its content. Having read the card I would have to agree with Mr. Cooper's evaluation. Whatever humour the designer of the card is trying to convey is lost to the fact the card is racist.

I apologize to Mr. Cooper for having offended him. We would never intentionally offend a customer. The card in question has been removed from the rack and returned to our supplier. The supplier and I will be contacting the manufacturer. I will be including a copy of both Mr. Cooper's letter and this one.

We regret this incident. Our customers are always welcome to discuss their concerns with us. We are always willing to listen.

G. Belding  
General Manager, Campus Shoppe

Thank you for your sensitivity

Brunswickan News

We all read the article by Gordon Loane in the January 19th issue of *The Brunswickan* which was dedicated to the late G.E. (Bud) Belding, owner and operator of the Smoke Shoppe (now the Campus Shoppe) on the UNB campus. We were greatly touched by the sensitivity. The family has operated the store in the SUB since its opening in 1968. During that time we have been through good times and rough times. We have made friends and acquaintances during that time and

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