

Blood & Thunder

Letters to the Editor must be signed and contain a phone number where the writer can be reached. Length: 300 words max. The Brunswickan reserves the right to edit for clarity, grammar and length. Deadline: Monday 5:00pm

FOOD BANK-O-WEEN A SUCCESS

Dear Editor,

On Saturday, October 30, a group of eight members of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) on campus donned costumes and canvassed for the Fredericton Food Bank. We named our project "Food-Bank-O-Ween", and our goal was to collect canned goods for donation to the Food Bank, and to raise community awareness of the services the Food Bank Provides.

The response was tremendous! In just two hours, and with only eight people, we collected nine boxes of food, far exceeding our expectations! Praise the Lord! The results were so encouraging that we hope to increase the number of participants and the area we can cover next year.

On behalf of this year's participants, I would like to thank the City Council of their prompt approval of our proposal, the local press for helping us to spread the news of our food drive, and the Fredericton Food Bank for the services it provides. Most of all I would like to thank the generous citizens of the city of Fredericton, many of whom encouraged us with their kind words and willingness to donate. Thank you all!

Steven Page
Food-Bank-O-Ween
1993 Co-ordinator

APPLAUDS NEW BRUNSWICKERS' SPIRIT

Dear Editor,

What is community involvement? It's people getting together to actually DO something that will help their own community. I have had the chance of living in British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Québec, but nowhere have I seen such a strong community spirit as the one I have found in New Brunswick - and it is to the advantage of the people living here.

My family and I moved to New Brunswick more than one and a half years ago and I began coordinating a community tree planting program called Tree Plan Canada. I talk to people across New Brunswick interested in planting trees for the environment and I feel good to help them with their projects because they are so interested in taking part.

It also seems that people don't feel stressed as much, giving people the time to relax and live a healthier life. Maybe the lower average size of municipalities is a factor. Whatever the reason, I have met committed people, proud of having been raised in a particular area and willing to get involved in their communities.

From what I've seen, New Brunswickers (which we now consider ourselves to be) are very inter-

ested in improving their own community, simply because they live here, they feel they belong here, and more importantly it is their home.

I consider myself very lucky to be involved in a program where I meet people and groups from around the province who I can help do tree planting projects, like windbreaks around a school, planting trees that grow long roots to keep soil in place along brooks and creeks and much more.

To the people from more than 60 projects across the province, thank you. Remember, the program has four more years to go so tell your neighbours, clubs and anyone interested to call me at the toll-free line (1-800-56-PLANT) to get financial or technical help with your hand-planted tree projects.

I'm happy when I see people getting involved to do something for our

New Brunswick communities. Everybody can participate in non-commercial tree planting. Not only are we doing it for our homes and for the environment but down the road, for our children. That, to me is Community Involvement. Way to go New Brunswick!!

Denis Gautron

MUGS LACK SCHOOL SPIRIT

Dear Editor,

A tragic and unfortunate accident in the SUB cafeteria on 1 Nov. (Monday) brought to my attention a terrible (but

avoidable) shortcoming at this university. As I underhanded my Green UNB mug to my buddy, it accidentally hit the wall and shattered into 4 pieces. After 3 years faithfully strapped to the back of my camouflage knapsack, my beloved coffee mug (to which I held great sentimental attachment)... died.

After 7 coffees/day for 3 years, this mug would have occupied a large spot on my mantle-piece upon graduation. However, I must now be content to purchase a silly, stupid Roaster's mug in replacement. I know what UNB is... but what the hell's a Roaster?

As a momento(sic) of my university years, this mug would have been a great souvenir. However, because this university is hell-bent on commercializing every damn item for sale in the cafeteria, university mugs are no longer sold. U. of T., U. Vic,

University of Alberta, Dalhousie, Mount A; All of these universities advertise their school spirit by carrying mugs indicating some degree of identification with the school (name, insignia, logo...) What does UNB do at a time when school spirit suffers so much... it goes Roaster's. Well, there were people out there who were pretty damn proud to carry their UNB mugs. Now they've got to go to those shitty double-welled plastic monstrosities.

Perhaps if John Bosnitch came back, the green mug would too. Maybe a boycott of Roaster's is in order. I'm not sure how to get the green mug back but one thing's for sure, those black ones really stink, and are no indication of the school spirit espoused by some.

Pissed off about my mug

OPINION: "RAPE" PAST AND PRESENT

BY MATIN YAQZAN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS, UNB.

Language changes with time: new words come into usage; some words acquire new meanings, and some become obsolete. While the dictionaries try to fix the meaning of words, they are only partially successful. Rape is one of the words, which seems to have changed its meaning, because of the revolution that has taken place during the last 30-40 years in the realm of human sexuality.

For the vast majority of the individuals who have been on the planet earth for less than thirty years, it is difficult to visualize the trauma, the suffering and the pain associated with the word "rape", not only for the victim, but her parents, relatives and even acquaintances and strangers. No doubt, unwanted sexual intercourse did take place in the past, but it was rare enough to arouse very strong emotions and passions. It was far cry from the routine "date rape" of today. One can ask the question why?

The main reasons for the change in attitude towards sexual intercourse have been the introduction of the "pill" in the late fifties and the teaching and preaching of those who believed that pre-marital sex would improve the quality of married life, and the consequent decline of the traditional religious values of sanctity of sex and virginity. There are other reasons that are economic and cultural in nature. For example, the governments in the non-communistic world, were not supposed to be directly responsible for the well being of the children in a family. There was no concept of community responsibility for bringing up the children of a mother without a husband. There were no "single parents", except in the case of a widowed mother or a widower husband. A child born out of wedlock was frowned upon as a "bastard", a word that is still used to express one's disgust and distaste.

The Canadian Federation of Students, in its publication "The Student Advocate", of September 1993, that I read only October 23, published an article entitled "Recognizing Date Rape When It Happens", written by Laura Penny. She describes two specific scenarios in which a boy is attracted to a girl reacts in a fashion that implies she likes him too; they both drink and dance, the boy takes her out of the dance hall, invites her to his apartment or room to which the girl agrees. However, she does not like the sexual intercourse that he subjects her to, and this is called "date rape".

Perhaps it should be mentioned that the human nature, in particular, the male's drive for sex, has not changed during the last few thousand years. There is a distinct difference between the roles that males and females play in the process of procreation. The male's aggressiveness is not a result of some social conditioning of a particular society. A young boy and a young girl were chaperoned in the past for the obvious reason that a boy could not be expected to be a master of his sexual impulses. The custom among the "civilized" peoples to keep most of the female body under cover, was to avoid unwanted male attraction. The use of the veil among Muslim women was initiated for similar considerations; it was not a plot to subjugate women.

The strong sexual attraction of the male towards the female is a fact of nature, and cannot be eliminated or modified without providing adequate

reasons and creating circumstances conducive to postponement of the sexual act. The sanctity of sex, or sexual intercourse, was enshrined in the past, almost universally, in some form of a marriage ceremony, and the male had to make a life-long commitment to the female to satisfy his sexual needs. The concept of a family, and the permanent bondage of the male to the female, helped bring up the children, that she could not do very well on her own.

Times have changed. Today the children are permitted to have sexual intercourse without any stigma attached to it. There is no concept of waiting until marriage. The only concern is to avoid disease, and therefore, the society is willing to provide condoms in schools. For such boys, by the time they reach the age of 17 or 18 years, regular sexual intercourse must become a necessity. For those entering a university, the co-ed residences may be helpful, but they do not provide an opportunity for sexual gratification for all the male students, and therefore the reason and the need for the so called "date-rape".

It is obvious that a girl who has had sexual intercourse with a large number of boys, would not suffer as a result of an unwanted sexual encounter to the same degree as a girl from whom it might be the first sexual experience. True, she might not be in a mood, or might find the act less than satisfying, but it would have to be far less traumatic than for a girl in the past who was a virgin. Today's girl has the added security that an abortionist would be only too glad to relieve her of any undesired pregnancy, without a sense of guilt on the part of either. This is in sharp contrast to what a girl had to face in the past: loss of virginity and therefore a disqualification of marriage, coupled with the fear of pregnancy, and a life-long sense of shame and guilt.

For the girls who believe in the traditional religions, and consider any sexual intercourse outside the marriage a serious sin, to be punished by their God, "rape" must remain a terrifying prospect. Therefore, the girls who use the word "rape" to describe their dislike of a particular encounter in their endless sexual experiences, do a disservice to those who abide by the old traditions.

While no amount of education or legal pronouncements would change the male nature, it would help, if, beside being provided with condoms, the boys were also taught that the sexual needs of girls are very different from their own. Of course, the girls should be taught that while hugging and kissing might be pleasant and adequate experiences for them, they are simply a prelude to sexual intercourse for the boys, and cannot be carried on indefinitely. When a boy invites a girl to his bedroom, especially after meeting her for the first time, she should consider it as an invitation for sexual intercourse. And, if a promiscuous girl becomes a victim of an unwanted sexual experience, it would be more reasonable for her to demand some monetary compensation for her inconvenience or discomfort, rather than express moral outrage, or try to arouse emotional response in others of the kind that the word "rape" evoked in yesteryears.

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