

Blood and Thunder

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rm. 35, Student Union Building, UNB Campus
DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Tuesday

Unqualified statement

Dear Editor:

I note with interest and dismay the editorial comment in last week's issue of the *Brunswickan* when many unqualified and superficial statements were made.

Your statement that Mrs. Thatcher's policy on South Africa is not a constructive one is misleading, to say the least. Who is to say it's not constructive - the other Commonwealth countries? At home in the United Kingdom Thatcher has stood by her principles and beaten the unions (as in the case of the bitter miner's strike), was the first Government in the western world to implement privatization, brought down unemployment and inflation in the UK dramatically, and all in the face of much criticism and abuse within Britain.

You stated that Thatcher thinks she knows best. Perhaps she does! Don't Reagan and Gorbachov admire and respect her? After all, she isn't called the "Iron Lady" for nothing. Perhaps even Mulroney could learn something from Margaret Thatcher - strong leadership! In order to get change in South Africa it is not essential to use sanctions. Thatcher, because of her stance, may be more in a position to bargain for change with South Africa.

I'm not advocating that apartheid is good. However, we must all understand the effect that sanctions can have upon those concerned. By not implementing sanctions she is safeguarding the jobs and lives of those blacks now working in South Africa. Is this not constructive?

It was also stated that Thatcher will not bring sanctions to bear upon South Africa out of self-interest. On the contrary the last 2 years has seen much British disinvestment in South Africa. British financial companies such as Barclays and Standard Chartered along with a host of other companies, such as the USA's IBM and General Motors have pulled-out of the country. This demonstrates that companies no longer view South Africa with good investment potential. Thatcher is known in Britain for not supporting loss-making ideas. Why therefore will she not levy sanctions? It's certainly not out of self-interest as was advocated in

last week's editorial.

Your belief that a recent British Army find of explosives in Northern Ireland illustrates that the troubles are far from over is an unqualified statement.

When the troubles began in 1969 in Belfast, the Americans believed that the Irish needed help, albeit American help. Over the years much concern has been voiced this side of the Atlantic and financial aid in the form of donations given to NORAID. Both the Irish Government, Britain and the USA have worked closely together in the past to crack-down on those supporting NORAID and its mission of supporting illegal terrorist organizations within Northern Ireland. This cooperation has paid-off and recent developments have seen the FBI arrest those involved with NORAID in both Boston and New York. This helps to show why the level of terrorist activity has decreased in the past 3 years in Northern Ireland.

As a native Irishman from Dublin, I find it incredible how ignorant people can be in North America when it comes to the Question of Northern Ireland. Life in the North is improving for those who live within the environment of hatred and violence but such a problem which has existed for over 300 years cannot be solved overnight. Perhaps if the Americans stop acting as though they are an international peace-keeper, the Irish themselves could solve their own problem.

Stephen McMillan

No coverage for council

Dear Sir:

New Brunswick is now in a situation where its government has no opposition. Fortunately, the people of New Brunswick can reasonably rely on the press to form a sort of opposition.

Unfortunately, we at UNB cannot say the same. It appears that both CHSR and the *Brunswickan* have given up covering student council meetings.

I will not speculate on the degree of boredom a reporter would have to endure in order to cover one of these meetings. But regardless of how dull the meetings may be, the student governing council

is in control of the \$62 student fees of 7000 people (well, actually the administration - or rather the Foundation - is in control of that money but the student governing council has more influence over it than any other student group on campus). For this reason alone both CHSR and the *Brunswickan* should provide weekly coverage of the student governing council meetings. It would not be a bad idea to consider coverage of executive meetings as well.

Students who in the past have been perceived as a threat by the student governing council (i.e. a voice of opposition) have encountered some obstacles: in 1986 John Bosnitch was not permitted to run in the student governing council elections; in 1986/87 Tony Tracy was repeatedly denied his duly elected seat on the student governing council; in 1987 Tony English and myself were denied scrutineers in the Senate electoral race until Mr. English threatened to contact the University Secretary. Since no one is permitted to act as a voice of opposition within the student government, it is not unreasonable to expect the student press to at least keep a close eye on their actions. Unless they're trying to hide something ...

Sincerely,
Susan Forestell

Staff/Faculty parking?

To the Editor:

Along with what seems to be a number of people I have been found guilty of committing a terrible crime - parking in a staff/faculty parking lot. I was not double parked or blocking the flow of traffic. I was just parked. What I do not understand is why there has to be separate student and staff/faculty parking? Why not just have parking? I see the need for handicapped parking and I have no problem with reserving space for those who need it. The staff and faculty can walk I have seen them do it. They are perfectly able men and women who do not need any special consideration. So, why not do away with the designated parking lots and save the ten dollar fines for the people who insist on parking on corners.

K. Allan Thurrott

Barrage of beauty?

Dear Editor:

We are writing this letter in reference to Ms. Skinner's letter which appeared in last week's issue of *the Bruns*. In our opinion one segment of Viewpoint and one article about a pageant hardly constitute a "barrage of beauty oriented" pieces."

We enjoy reading *the Bruns* and see Viewpoint as being an entertaining and often humorous section, not as a front for serious political opinions.

As for the opinion expressed regarding the article on the Miss Canada Pageant, we disagree with Ms. Skinner's argument that such coverage is not of enough interest to be published. Does the fact that we belong to a university community necessarily mean that we should continue our interests to topics of a serious, political or educational nature? Try picking up any major Canadian newspaper next week and chances are you will find coverage of the Miss Canada Pageant.

More importantly we find Ms. Skinner's use of sarcasm derogatory and highly insulting to Miss MacKnight and Miss Cheevers. The fact that they are university students illustrates that education is an important aspect of their lives. We don't know about you, but we think that the majority of people at UNB are proud to have these two students represent us in a national pageant.

Yours truly,

Kristi Walsh and
Carole Gignac

Bias journalism

Dear Editor:

In respect to David Quantick's criticism of the Motley Crue album "Girls, Girls, Girls," in the October 23rd issue of the *Brunswickan*, may I say that is was by far the worst piece of journalism I have ever seen!

When a writer such as Mr. Quantick gives a review of an album such as his review of the album in question, it becomes extremely obvious that some of the *Brunswickan* are biases and talk freely of

subjects in which they possess no knowledge. I personally feel that "Girls, Girls, Girls" is a fine piece of work executed by the Crue and that the people who purchased the album and kept it on the top ten charts in America for five weeks running this summer share my view in that respect.

I therefore sincerely hope that this form of criticism will not appear in the *Brunswickan* again! So Mr. Editor, if you please, the next time Mr. Quantick decides to submit a piece of criticism, have the common decency to spare your readers of that kind of unknowledgable journalism. Sincerely yours with reservations,

Joel Corcoran

Misguided recollection

Dear Mr. Higgins:

It has recently come to my attention through "Matt the Barbarian" Harris that you have some sort of a misguided recollection of a meeting which took place between us this past summer. Unfortunately, I find my own memory not quite as sharp as your own, as I am unable to remember verbatim quotes that occurred in passing, on the green, over four or five months ago. I do, however, remember going for a walk with Matt on one or two occasions.

Although I'm not really fond of the leash law myself, Matt claims that it's for the best and if everyone abided by it many confrontations would be avoided. Actually, your letter might prove as an excellent example of this for, as usual, I was stuck on my leash while your friend's dog and many others were running loose and doing little no nos that I only get to do at home (and in the woods nonetheless).

Anyway, it's Monday night and Alf is soon on television so I must go. Alf is one of my favorite shows - not the senseless violence you'd expect me to like but then again I'm not exactly that mean dog that you described. If you would like to enlighten yourself as to what I'm really like you can meet me in front of the Student Union Building this afternoon at 2:30 or, if you prefer, we could "do lunch." Oh ... don't worry ... as usual I'll be stuck on that silly leash. Sincerely,

Gentleman Red