

Blood & Thunder

Shocked by poor turnout at forum

To the Editor:

The second week of December was not only the beginning of exams, but also a week to remember and mourn for those women killed in the Montreal Massacre. One of the things that went on was a forum for men on how men can stop violence against women. Great! Finally guys want to do something about it. They are standing up and saying they care. I went to the forum excited that we will be on the right track to solving a very serious problem? Even though the forum was generally for men I thought I'd go anyway. Well when I got there I saw just how much the guys at UNB care. I arrived there and there was about thirty people in an auditorium that seats 400. Twenty of those people were women! More than half was women at a forum for men! I was shocked. This was a well publicized forum. This forum would have taken maybe one hour out of your time but could have helped you later on in life. The speaker was very good. He explained a lot of things like men's image, what they think their image should be, and how they can stop themselves, find their mistakes before taking it out on women. It was a very good forum but the fact that those who really needed to hear it weren't there made it maybe even useless. I know some guy dorms had open forums and I commend them for that but this forum was

directed towards men. I heard some complaints from guys about the all women's forum saying they should have let guys in, well there went your chance. I'd like to say thanks to the speaker who was a man and to the men that showed up.

Name withheld by request.

Women's forum misunderstood

Dear Editor:

This letter is in response to a letter that appeared in your Nov. 26 issue by an anonymous individual who decided to express their views about the women only meeting on problems and solutions regarding rape.

I believe this individual misunderstood the purpose of the women's only forum. I will take the time to educate them now, thankful that I did not have to during the brief time we had at the meeting.

A women's only forum is not a negotiation. So relax. No men actually missed any opportunities to enter into any agreement. While many of us firmly agree that real change will only come after both genders can sit down with each other (certainly not all - a few women have given up on men altogether) we still need some place to deal with our issues where we know we will be a) heard the first time we speak; b) taken seriously; c) not interrupted by people who have a different agenda than the one on the floor; d) understood directly because the people we

are talking to have walked the same path as us (ie (sic) as women) and who are not a direct or indirect threat - perceived or real.

The women's only meeting was a lot more successful than the later mixed meeting, I think, because of our format. We have a list of goals. Some of which include working with men on this issue. Since you feel so strongly about it I suggest signing up for a mixed, or men's session (if you are a man). That would require using your name, of course.

In the mean time, you flatter me by claiming I have the power to influence this University in the slightest, and The Wimmings Collective can't even get a room on campus. We do not have the energy to take control of the globe. You are incredibly naive. By lumping all women into one big female blob you will perpetuate the communication failure that separates genders, and you won't be able to appreciate the few good ideas that come out of feminist think tanks. Wake up!

Wait until you are invited, and then by all means participate. If I saw a few more men taking an active social role, if I did not have to take the time to educate irate men who would rather work themselves into a fit than do the research on the development of feminism and it's diversity, if I did not have to keep going back to square one every time I tried to express a concern, I would be more inclined to hold mixed forums.

This time, however, we had only a few hours in one evening to come up with solutions to help women who have

been raped. We did not have the luxury of time to debate whether a certain kind of woman deserved to be raped. We did not have the time to deal with both the current issues.

Tristis Bhaird

A new 'leash' on life

Dear Madam:

Sometimes minorities rule.

Many of you have seen us. I am the tall, bald, deaf lad with the brace of Irish Setters, Penny's Casey O'Clancey, CD (Clancey) and James Kerrimore, CGC (Jake). We have trained on campus almost daily for two years. Both Jake and Clancey were taught the "figure-eight" around the flag poles in front of the Old Arts Building. Clancey was taught to retrieve a dumbbell on the grass in front of the Library. Both dogs were taught other facets of formal Obedience in parking lots and courts all over Campus - but no more.

Yesterday we were approached and informed that a complaint had been received. My options were to keep my dogs on-leash or somewhere else. A dog cannot be trained to "come" or "drop-on-re-all" or "retrieve" or "heel-free" off leash so there is really no option.

My dogs have worked hard. They are both certified therapy dogs and regularly visit Hospitals and Nursing Homes in the area. They have been welcomed into malls and other places in the Fredericton area where dogs are not normally permitted. While it is true that

one of them (Clancey) has failed the Canine Good Citizenship test, this is not due to aggression but timidity.

Some of you have derived pleasure watching and petting my dogs and some of you have helped in the training and some of you have not. It only takes one.

Sincerely,
Arthur D. Clogg

35? 90? What's the diff?

Dear Editor:

In the Daily Gleaner of January 5th., Liz Lautard of the U.N.B. Women's Collective cites a "recent campus survey" as reporting that "more than 90 per cent of women on campus have endured an unwanted sexual experience". According to the October 1992 Counseling Services Research Report on Unwanted Sexual Experiences the actual figure is 35.2%. In her haste to bid farewell to a recently retired Mathematics professor, Ms. Lautard appears to be quite willing to overlook her own apparent need for a course in mathematics or Statistics.

Luke Peterson

FOR MORE B&T,
SEE PAGE 7.

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