

Blood & Thunder

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

MSS Thanx

Dear Editor,
On behalf of the Malaysian Students' Society (MSS) executive committee, I would like to thank all those who have made the "Malaysian Night Market" on Nov. 6, 1993 such a successful event.

I would also like to thank all the performers who gave up their time in order to attend the rehearsals, and Dr. Bray for presenting the slide show. To all those who helped in the sales of the tickets, thank you for being such good salesperson.

A very special thank to the members who helped in the few long nights of preparation, and also to those who stayed back to help after the show. To my committee members, well done and thank-you for the time, commitment and hard work. Once again, the MSS executive committee would like to thank everyone of you who have in any way, contributed to the success of the "Malaysian Night Market" 1993. Thank you.

Moh, Woon-Keat

UCAP Thanx

Dear Editor:
To all it may concern,
We would like to take this time to thank the many people who contributed to and made this Halloween season a success for UNICEF. As of November 16 the newly formed university group, UNICEF Campus Ambassadors Program (UCAP) has raised over \$1800. UCAP is made up of about 25 members from both the Saint Thomas and UNB campuses and this great total could not have been met without the hard work and dedication of its members and numerous others. The following is a list of people and organizations we would like to thank:

Bank's Farm for the donations of gourds; Russ Newton and the Fredericton Canadians Booster Club for a generous cash donation; Harrison House and Cheryl MacLean for taking the initiative and distributing UNICEF boxes in the residence community; Students in residence for their great donations; Boyce Farmers' Market for allowing us to sell gourds and pins; Kay Nandlall for her guidance and support; Dale Morris for her help with letters and photocopies; The Brunswickan staff for a great ad at the last minute; the Student Union for recognizing us as a group; and the various pubs and clubs in the Fredericton area for allowing us to accept donations during our very successful Halloween night Pub Crawl.

Thank You All!!!!!!

Sincerely,
Nadia Nandlall and Katie Hovey
UCAP co-presidents

Super Mug!

Dear Editor:

I would like to say a few words about Roasters and the quality of their merchandise. Tuesday at noon I was biking down the hill by Carelton Hall and ended up on my butt. Due to circumstances beyond my control, I was thrown over the handlebars and landed on my back. My Roasters coffee mug that was strapped to my knapsack took the entire weight of my body as we slid on the pavement.

When I regained my senses and picked up the broken pieces of body strewn on the road, I found that my Roasters coffee mug was in remarkably good shape for the cruel beating it had just taken. The design of the mug has an inner and outer fuselage which has made it very dura-

ble. After the crash, observation showed me that although the outer layer had been broken and pieces chipped away, the inner layer was completely undamaged, and the top was still on securely.

The importance of this event is the fact that the inner fuselage holds the coffee, and no chips or cracks have formed. Under normal circumstances if it had been dropped the top would have stayed on and only a very small amount of coffee would have spilled. To me this seems to be a well designed coffee mug.

I would like to thank Beaver Foods and Roasters for using very durable and practical mugs. The amount of abuse that my mug endured today proves to me that you have at least one quality product for the students.

Thanx,

Stephen W. Seabrook

Yaqzan 29

To the Editor:

It is with great remorse that over the Remembrance Day Holiday (itself very sobering) that the university I attend, had died. It suffered a direct wound to the heart, with all body functions being severely impeded. I was advised of this on countless TV channels: CBS, NBC, ATV, the international CNN and others.

It was determined by our local feminist morality squad and others, that a severe breach of THEIR code had taken place. What to do? Trample a person's reputation and ruin their livelihood for their cause. Forget freedom of expression. So what if Mr. Yaqzan's opinions are not in the majority. Does he have any less freedom to express his opinions than

you or I, even though they may not be popular or in agreement with our own?

One judges a university for its professors, students and employees positions on a wide variety of topics, popular or not. We each have the right to express our opinion of Mr. Yaqzan's ideas, but collectively UNB MUST promote freedom of thought and opinion. If some people do not agree, so be it!

If we do not accept a stand a person takes in writing an article which appears in the journalistic rag we call the Brunswickan, should the author be expelled from his/her job or attendance at UNB? I do not agree with the articles on gays/lesbians, radical feminist views and some of the personals in the ad section. The UNB Policy and Procedure on Sexual Harassment which states in part, "the university is COMMITTED to creating and maintaining an environment for ALL students AND em-

OPINION: THE VALUE OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH

BY MURRAY FLEWELLING

It is not the intention of this article to either defend or advocate any part of Prof. Yaqzan's opinion column, but to discuss it in relation to freedom of speech.

It would seem to me that people could continue to argue that men are more aggressive than women, that our present society is more promiscuous, or that the general message behind Yaqzan's article was one of violence against women; and little would be accomplished.

Regardless of Prof. Yaqzan's intentions, there is a warning that crystallizes from his article, and that is the idea that promiscuity is dangerous. As I listen to statistics that claim 80-90% of those who are raped know their attacker, I have to wonder what this means. For if these statistics include strangers who meet in bars, and then go home with each other, these statistics are sadly misleading. It is true that people who argue that they should be able to go home with others and not expect to be raped are correct, but stating this fact does not make them any safer. The prospect that two people could meet each other and trust each other in a matter of hours, is a naive one indeed.

In the past few weeks many writers have written in to the Brunswickan suggesting that sex is an act of love between two people who care for each other, but let's face the facts, all too often this is not the case. This is not to suggest that promiscuous people deserve to be raped or that it is any less a crime, but undoubtedly they put themselves at a much greater risk.

Articles such as Yaqzan 2, written by Lorraine Whalley, which suggest that "rape happens not because a man can't control himself," but "because he chooses not to control himself," are particularly offensive. To suggest that people rape because they "choose" not to control themselves, groups rapists together with honest, caring people who detest such crimes. The truth is, rape happens because violent people of all ages, sexes and colours move among us everyday. They seldom appear to be any different and are trained in the art of gaining people's trust.

I wonder if those people who suggest that Prof. Yaqzan be disciplined, understand the consequences of such a move. For let us suppose that Prof. Yaqzan was suggesting "that women who engage in premarital sex deserve to be raped." (As Tammy Yates accused him of on CBC, Nov. 14) Would society really want these kinds of ideas harboured in seclusion? It seems to me that views which may be racist or sexist in nature are potentially more dangerous when hidden within a society. For it is easier to combat a problem which can be seen than one which is obscure.

To further emphasize this idea, we need only to look at the widespread public response over Prof. Yaqzan's controversial article. Regardless of Prof.

Yaqzan's intention, the fact is, his article brought the issue of date rape to life on this campus in a magnitude that has never been achieved before. It is understandable that groups which work against violence grimace at the thought that Prof. Yaqzan has aided their cause, but this is none the less the case!

To take another example from Whalley's article, she states "Women who have been raped, especially by someone they know, experience fear, humiliation, shame and self-blame (because society blames them)." Judging from the outpouring of writing which has denounced violence against women, in response to Yaqzan's opinion column; I think Whalley does a disservice to society when suggesting that we blame the victims of rape. Thus, it seems to me that much is learned about what a society thinks by the expression of unpopular views.

The very notion of freedom of speech suggests that our society is willing to tolerate unpopular views. If a person's views do border on hatred, it is our responsibility to speak up in an attempt to show those who we disagree with, why we feel they are wrong. Our society should be dedicated to changing views which it does not accept, and this quest becomes much more challenging when the views in question are not expressed.

Even those who argue that Prof. Yaqzan has crossed some line of freedom of speech, must realize the obvious problem of establishing where that line is. This may be illustrated by exploring President Armstrong's suggestion that there is a difference between freedom of speech and irresponsible speech. For in Mr. Armstrong's own opinion column, he states "We would be doing a disservice not only to the women attending UNB, but also the men, if we were to accept date rape as an inevitable and necessary outcome of contemporary life." These are powerful words, but sadly they are void of meaning, for despite our best attempts to rid our society of crime, it is inevitable that some good people will fall victim. Furthermore, the chances of crimes occurring are greatly increased when innocent people are given a false sense of security.

If Prof. Yaqzan is disciplined for his article, it will only ensure that in the future those who feel their writings may be looked on negatively by society, will refrain from putting them on paper. The unfortunate outcome of this scenario, is that a society does not always realize its mistakes and will continue to make them, until enough people push for change. After all, we should keep in mind that it was not all that long ago that slavery was accepted by a large portion of the world. Although we may argue that Yaqzan's views are wrong, what about next time? Do we want to take the chance that views which would have greatly enriched our society might be lost, because people were afraid to speak out?

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED ABOVE ARE NOT NECESSARY THOSE OF THE BRUNSWICKAN, ITS EDITORIAL STAFF, OR ITS PUBLISHERS. THIS COLUMN IS A FORUM FOR THE OPINIONS OF MEMBER OF THE BRUNSWICKAN'S READERSHIP. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO EDIT FOR LENGTH OR CLARITY, AND TO REFUSE ANY SUBMISSIONS DEEMED UNFIT FOR PUBLICATION BY THE BRUNSWICKAN EDITORIAL STAFF.