## Night march

Dear Karen-Jean Braun,

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At 10 a.m. Friday I read your Opinion in the Brunswickan about restrictions on male participation in the Take Back The Night march and agreed with you. Despite that, I marched on Friday night. I'm glad I did, because by 10 p.m. Friday l realized you and I were wrong.

Like everyone who marched our streets are getting less safe to walk after dark. But let's face the fact that l, as a male in my late twenties, am not a likely target for violence and am at no risk of being assaulted in a manner as psychologically devastating and as physically violating as rape. That reality makes it vital that women have a forum to impress upon us all the our streets are unsafe.

Another aspect of the march is the catharsis it provides. I saw many women venting their frustration with our legal and political process which permits people found guilty of sexual assault back into society after minimal same risks. sentences and with no refor-

mation. Women are the victims of so high a proportion of the sexual assault in our society that it legitimizes a women's forum to provide that catharsis.

You and I agree that male participation in the march is proper. You say all people should be equally empowered to participate. I accept that as a general principle, but in this I see a legitimate reason for the inequality. The march is intended to focus on women's concerns about and frustrations with the risks they take Friday night, I'm troubled that if they choose to be pedestrians after dark. How can I, a male, raise my voice to express a woman's concern or frustration?

Once you acknowledge the appropriateness of a women's forum to make a statement about the violence and risks women face on our streets and the need to vent their frustrations, the requirement of male silence is both proper special risks they face when and reasonable. I am not saying male participation is inappropriate. I think it is important to show solidarity with women's concerns by marching. But that is the full extent to which any male can share those concerns because we simply do not face the

So, Ms. Braun, at 10 p.m.

Christopher Pike

SUB bans

Friday night I was standing in

front of City Hall and realized

how wrong you and I had

been. We missed the point. It

wasn't that male participation

in the march wasn't wanted, it

was just that full male par-

ticipation didn't make sense.

Sincerely,

I'm glad I found that out.

To the Editor,

l am addressing the issue of my having been banned from the Student Union Building last March. There were two elections for the student government at that time. One was for the Student Governing Council recognized by the Board of Governors, and the other for the Student Union Inc. which was locked out of the Student Union Building in April 1986. 1 was serving as a poll worker in the latter election. I sat at a table, issued ballots when voters requested them, and punched holes in l.D. Cards nothing more, nothing less. The poll was set up and subsequently asked to shut down on

two successive days. Both days I left the booth quietly when asked to do so. The next day two uniformed Security Officers presented me with a "Petty Trespass Act" which stated that if I entered the Student Union Building I would receive a stiff fine, a second offence would yield a stiffer fine in addition to a mandatory JAIL sentence of up to SIX MONTHS! When I wrote a letter asking why I had been given this trespass notice l received an unsatisfactory reply and so appealed the decision. The letter written by Mr. Norris, the SUB Director stated that the request to set up the poll (not written by myself) was not worded quite to the liking of Mr. Norris.

Six months and three letters later I was not only still banned from my student building, but I had not received a reply to a single letter.

Frustration led me to having this matter brought up in the Senate. Dr. Downey replied to the question by citing two reasons for the issuing of the trespass notice - both were completely unfounded and had never before been cited to me. Also, he stated that a deci- hope. sion had been reached regarding the matter, and I should

receive a letter from the SUB Board within the week. Yet the question of why my letters had gone unanswered went unanswered. Perhaps the last 4 1/2 months have been used to find new reasons to keep me from our student building.

The following day (Sept 16) l received a second letter from Mr. Norris stating that, as of Monday Sept. 14, the Chairman of the Student Union Building was, "presently collecting Board members' time schedules so the group may meet and decide on your appeal." An interesting feat considering the fact that the President of the University had already been reached, and stated that very day that the trespass notice had indeed been lifted. Who is making the decisions concerning the Student Union Building? I hereby call for an apology for this unjust and unprofessional behaviour, and for an accounting of who is responsible for said behaviour.

Jackie Dickison

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Canadä<sup>\*</sup>