

BLOOD AND THUNDER

Letters to the editor reflect the views of our readers and not necessarily those of the Brunswickan. Letters may be sent to Rm. 35 in the Student Union Building. Deadline: 1 pm on Tuesday. Usual maximum length: 300 words. Please include name, student number and phone number.

Upset with Viewpoint

Dear Editor,

Referring to the "View Point" section on page 15 of your *Brunswickan* volume 127, issue 17 dated February 5, 1993 and the statement by Ted Hamilton and Jen Trites: "Did you know that 33% of Persian women have had sex in a movie theater?", we express our concerns of the anti-cultural message implicitly conveyed by this sentence.

We believe that *the Brunswickan*, as a student voice has the responsibility of upgrading the moral and cultural values in the university of New Brunswick, a multinational and multicultural community. Therefore enough care should be given in selecting articles related to the values of international students. Our culture is strongly against those kinds of immoral acts which are pointed out in this statement. We found it very offensive and disrespectful, insulting our national culture. Although those students have thought of that as "the stupidest thing ever heard", it is stated in the form of a fact that we believe attributes a very false and unbelievable action to Iranian women.

We understand such publications are not fair and are against your policy of "refusing racist, sexist and libellous [sic] submission" in *the Brunswickan* and endanger the cultural harmony in the campus. Hereby we request you address our concerns in your next issue by citing the above mentioned improper treatment.

Iranian Graduate Students and Families

- Ali A. and Gita Alesheikh
Surveying Eng.
- Hooshang and Mahnaz Amoozgar
Surveying Eng.
- Hamid and Zarrin Akbary
Mechanical Eng.
- Majid and Tooran Bazargan
Mechanical Eng.
- Amir H. Behravesh
Mechanical Eng.
- Seyed A. Ebrahimi-Sabet
Mechanical Eng.
- Hamid and Nooshin Ebadi
Surveying Eng.
- Ali A. and Mahin Ghorbani
Computer Science
- Mohsen and Afsaneh Hamed
Mechanical Eng.
- Mehran and Zari Javanmard
Civil Eng.
- Mehdi Jabbari
Electrical Eng.
- Hossein Mokhtari
Electrical Eng.
- Nader Naderi
Forestry Eng.
- Mehdi and Nasrin Najati
Surveying Eng.
- Jafar and Sedigheh Oladi
Forestry Eng.
- Asghar and Zeinab Omidvar
Forestry Eng.
- Javad and Giti Poshtan
Electrical Eng.
- Taghi and Marziyeh Tabarsa
Forestry Eng.

Narrow-minded and Irresponsible

Dear Editor,

I am writing this regarding the comment Ted Hamilton and Jen had made in the previous issue of *the Brunswickan* "Did you know that 33% of Persian women have had sex in a movie theatre?"

I just can't believe that somebody as a university student can be that narrow-minded and irresponsible to make such a nonsense comment about a nation. Obviously, these people, Ted Hamilton and Jen, don't know anything about Persian culture. It would not surprise me if they did not know where Iran is! I recommend them to take a little trouble and read some about Iranian culture.

Not only this is [sic] an insult to all the Persian women, but also it is a very racist comment to make. I would be very happy to take these ladies to a movie and explain to them about my hero, caring and sacrificing people.

At the end, I would like to advise the *Brunswickan* not to print such racist and sexist comments in the future, otherwise I would have no choice but take appropriate action against them!?

Hasan Ghodrati

One more voice to an endless debate

Dear Editor,

I have been following the "Holocaust debate" with interest. Although, lately, this interest has been waning (sic); before I stop reading Mr. Yaqzan's letters completely, I would like to add one more voice to this seemingly endless debate.

At times I have been appalled by Matin Yaqzan's contentions (I suppose that he has achieved his end in this respect). He claims only to be wielding his right to free speech, yet it appears that he has a definite agenda. In fact, last week he claimed: "I have expressed no personal views as to the extent of the atrocities during the Second World War, against the Jews or any other large or small group." The terms "objectivity" and "fairness" often crop up on his side of the argument. Yet, in the same paragraph he asks of Historians who specialize in the Holocaust: "Why are they so afraid of ideas, when they are so sure their version of what happened to the Jews in the Second World War is abundantly documented?" Implicit in this question is his belief that the records of the Holocaust have been exaggerated. It is arguable that the fear he speaks of on the part of these people who "propagate" their version of history is, in fact, his own. His personal views have greatly colored his arguments.

He claims to have sole ownership of objectivity - everyone else is just ranting and raving. It is interesting how he attempts to reverse accusations of racism and narrow-mindedness; this is a typical tech-

nique of those who feel they have been backed into a corner. He fails to grasp the idea that people have read Mr. Irving's arguments and have rejected them. I agree with Mr. Yaqzan on one point only: in order to make a fair judgement, one must be exposed to both sides of the argument. Yet I wonder if he has read and heard the documentaries of the Holocaust with the sincere wish to understand the "other" side. If Mr. Yaqzan would explore his motives, perhaps he would see that the basis for his views is far from objective: fear and hatred.

Mr. Yaqzan: you should ask yourself why it is so important to you that we see from your point of view. Again and again you attempt to undermine the arguments of those who oppose your viewpoint. This is not in the interests of objectivity and fairness; it is much more personal than you would care to admit. Your justifications are petty. You endlessly rationalize your beliefs and you are blind to your own bias. I am tired of your pedantic lectures. I believe that I am speaking for the majority of the University community when I say: Believe what you like, we do not care!

PS - you do not win over supporters by hammering your beliefs into our heads week after week. In anticipation to your response to this, there is not a "Jewish Conspiracy" to convince the world that there was a Holocaust. There IS documentation; just do a little research! As soon as you admit to your own bias, you are halfway to presenting an objective argument.

Jennifer Kilpatrick

Clear up distorted facts

Dear Editor,

The following is an open letter to all UNB/STU Students:

In the January 29th issue of *the Brunswickan*, there was a letter to the editor from two students who were supposedly concerned with the tactics of the PC Youth Club on Campus. As President of the Club, I felt that I should address their "concerns" and clear up a few details that were either distorted, or left out in their letter.

Their article focused on a wine and cheese social that was held by our Club a few weeks ago. The writers, Tony Tracy and Jon Sears, stated that our Club "is a cliquish organization which tolerates no dissent from within or outside its ranks". They go on to prove their point by describing an incident where "the Young Tory executive attempted to silence one student through intimidation, threats and ultimately expulsion from the 'open' event at the hands of Campus Security."

What Mr. Tracy and Mr. Sears failed to mention was that this individual, who was one of their "several friends who are interested in the political process", was intoxicated when he came to the social. Throughout the time he remained at the event, he shouted explicit language and threatened various people with physical violence. Af-

ter his actions had been tolerated for approximately half an hour, the staff member of Bar Services, who was responsible for the area, politely asked him to leave. He refused to leave, and so the staff member had no alternative but to call Campus Security. When Security arrived, they deemed the individual too intoxicated to be in a public place. For his own safety, they called the Fredericton Police, who detained him under the Intoxicated Persons Detainment Act. After a few hours, he had sobered up, and was released. Although the individual verbally assaulted a number of people at the event, and physically assaulted one of our members, no charges were laid.

If you read the letter written in the Jan. 29th issue, you will definitely see a different account of the events that occurred that evening. If you have any doubts on the validity of my report, please feel free to contact Campus Security or the Fredericton City Police, who will gladly answer any questions you have regarding this incident.

The constant misrepresentation of the facts by one of the writers of this story, Tony Tracy, has concerned me greatly. Mr. Tracy is a reporter at The Aquinian, who has written several factually distorted articles about the PC Youth Club on Campus (one of these articles being an extended version of the letter to the editor that was submitted to *the Brunswickan*). As a reporter, Mr. Tracy is supposed to write news articles that give unbiased information to the public. I am concerned that Mr. Tracy, being a self-proclaimed member of the International Socialist Party, might be writing articles to discredit our Club because of his own political views. Indeed, there is reason to suspect that the incident to which he and Mr. Sears referred to, was staged - that is, their intoxicated friend was deliberately encouraged to attend the event in question, so as to create a "scene" which could be employed to discredit our club.

The PC Youth Club on Campus is not "a cliquish organization". The majority of our over 90 members have joined in the past year, our executive meetings are open to all members and we have had several events that were open to the public. We try to offer an opportunity for all students to get involved in the political process, to voice their ideas, and to actively participate in the development of new policies. Currently, a number of our members sit on various Policy Development Committees whose mandate is to prepare a new platform for the PC Party of New Brunswick.

While we recognize that being involved in a political club means being open to criticism from those of other political views, we believe that their criticism should be based on fact. Mr. Tracy's and Mr. Sears' most recent article has little basis in fact. We hope that in the future, they will attempt to be more objective, and less biased, in their coverage of our Club.

Dennis McCarron
Pres., UNB/STU PC Youth Club

Evaluating student achievement

Dear Editor,

I am replying to the article in *the Brunswickan* last week asking the question, "Can your professor teach?" This is only half of the area that needs looking into. The next question is, can your professor evaluate a student's achievement?

I have a problem which I have tried to rectify at the lowest levels, but without success. Therefore, I will use this form to relay my personal injustice.

What is my injustice? Last term, I took a history course, (HIST 2815) I enjoyed, and received marks on my test that I am not disputing. The problem area lies in the computation of these marks. The final mark for the course was made up of three in-class written assignments, each worth 20%, and the final exam worth 40%. On the in-class assignments I made marks consisting of, two Ds and one B, on the final exam, worth 40%, I made a C. My final grade appeared on my transcript as a D, this is the essence of my problem.

The method that Mr. Brent Wilson used to derive the final grade was based on the same system used in determining Grade Point Averages, wherein a D=1, C=2, B=3.... Accordingly, my marks add up to 9, divided by 5, using the final of 40% as two 20% tests - this comes out to 1.8 Since this is not a 2, it is moved back to a 1, and a D.

I find this method to be severely flawed, since employing this method, I get almost half of my mark thrown away. 60% of my mark was a C or above, 40% was a D. I would have received the same grade if I had made all Ds. How can this be so?

This method of tabulation works very well in determining a G.P.A., where for example, a 1.0 is different from a 1.8. This method does not work, or was intended for use, in tabulation of class grades. In one test I received a mark of 55%, a D. I do not believe that I would have had to make a mark of 110% to receive a C. But this is the case when the final mark was tabulated using G.P.A. values, a C is double a D. Something is wrong.

I am a tradesman, enrolled in the Vocational Education Program. I have had to take courses in evaluating students' achievements, methods of instruction, and curriculum development. I have done student teaching for four months, where I was totally responsible for the instruction and marking of one class, and worked on the computation of marks in two other courses with my co-operating teacher. I am not given any education in my trade area. I am supposed to know that material and I do.

Professors at this university know their areas too. But they are not required to have any instruction in the evaluation of students' achievements. Mr. Wilson believes that this method of evaluation will do, I do not.

Gordon Bonnenfant
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