

the brunswickan

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Opinion

Don't you think that *sneak* is a good word.

It is a rare occasion when I allow the petty politics on this campus to irritate me. But... it happened! Last week Lana Grimes, a full-time student at UNB, submitted a letter to the editor that was libelous and rude. However, the specific subject matter, whether it is true or not, is neither here nor there.

The letter was submitted under false pretenses.

The photocopy we at *the Bruns* received was signed by one Mary Dawson. There is no Mary Dawson currently registered at UNB. The letter included a student number which was false as well. The number corresponded with a female student at UNB (I forget her name exactly) who registered last year at UNB. Again, whether the name and number were chosen arbitrarily by Grimes is neither here nor there.

When it was confirmed by the Registrar's office that the name and number did not apply to each other, the Editor-in-Chief approached Mr. Ed Veltch at the law school to formally check the letter for libelous or defamatory content. Yes, it was libelous.

Under these circumstances, under the auspices of my editorial board last year, the letter would not have been printed. Ours is not to wonder why... so instead I get mad.

You see, initially the letter was accompanied by the false name and number but after some inquiring (and it didn't take much), we came to the conclusion that Lana Grimes might have something to do with the letter. We could have been wrong... but we weren't.

Susan Forestell, in the same issue, submitted a letter to the editor (on a totally different, *legitimate* subject) and had included her phone number. So we called Susan and asked her how we could get hold of Lana. She admitted she delivered the letter for Lana who is currently banned from the Student Union Building under a petty trespass notice.

Eventually, it was agreed upon (not by me) that the letter would be re-submitted by Lana, via Susan, the next morning.

The letter was libelous and it was submitted in a very sneaky fashion. For those two reasons alone I would *not* have printed the original letter or even considered allowing the letter to be resubmitted.

At any rate, the specifically libelous phrase(s) were removed from the letter and it was printed. The clincher? ... the editorial board allowed the letter to be printed without Grime's name, knowing full well the circumstances under which the letter was submitted.

As Ernie says hindsight is 20-20, but I can't believe that the editorial board let the letter run and let it run without a signature.

Normally, at the discretion of the editorial board, letters are printed. If it is libelous, however, unless the letter is accompanied by a valid signature and student number (if applicable), it is not printed. For the most part that is a decision made because if a libelous letter is printed without the signature of the author, the publishing paper is liable.

I guess what I am trying to say is that Ms. Grimes doesn't play fair, in fact the stunt was damn dirty and, in this instance, *the Bruns* (knowingly) allowed a blatant abuse of process to go on. Sure, *the Bruns* put in a disclaimer, albeit loosely worded. That was effective to some degree in discrediting the letter. I still don't think too much of what went on. Both parties involved were not responsible to say the least.

In closing, if you consider submitting anything to *the Bruns* under false pretenses, such as I have described here, *think again*. It is a civil and/or criminal offence depending on the circumstance.

KAREN MAIR

Blood and Thunder

Beaver power

Dear Editor,

We as members of the UNB Beavers, (our august institution's varsity swim team for those of you who didn't know already) would like to express our dismay (kind of) at an answer given in last week's viewpoint - "the Vibrating Beavers" - 'tis a little ignominious, is it not? HEY LOOK, when one considers that the beaver is contained in the school emblem, that it spends a lot of time in the water (like we do) and with it you can make up great slogans like "Beaver Fever," "Beaver Power" and "Beavers Slap Tail," we're quite content to live with it.

Don't forget that the beaver is also Canada's national animal. (Canada being the great country which has produced such superior, world dominating athletes as Ben Johnson, ALEX BAUMANN, Mario Lemieux and VICTOR DAVIS). So it's actually a name we can all really be proud of.

Also, it has always been our feeling that UNB Beavers is

somewhat better than the UNB Red Herrings (another water-dweller) which was the originally suggested name for the team.

So, yeh, we realize that some people may think our team name can be easily ridiculed. But we like to think that when you do this you are in essence poking fun at all that is truly Canadian. Thanx for your time. Hear us now and believe us later.

Morgan, Tad, Stinky, Bogus and Garden hose.

P.S. We think you guys should check up on your anatomy cause 'proctology' refers to something entirely different. (One of us is Pre-med!)

Administration red tape

Dear Sir,

There is a nifty little trick on this campus (and in all fairness, I'm sure it exists on other campuses too - like the ones in Korea and South Africa) that the administration uses when students bring forth an issue with which

administration does not wish to deal. It's called referral to committee. It means weeks, sometimes months of red tape. The trick is that students are transient - in and out in four short years. Tie things up for long enough and eventually the troublemaking students will leave.

Though it is unfortunate, it does not come as a great surprise that administrators use this tactic. What is somewhat surprising and extremely disappointing is that students are now doing it to students.

Karen Braun filed a complaint of sexual harassment with the student governing council two months ago. At least the administration has the decency to refer to committee right away. The student council waited two months to strike an ad hoc committee to investigate Ms. Braun's complaint and even now the committee is lacking in membership.

It is a sad thing when the first woman student council president in the history of UNB allows an issue like this one to be treated in such an arrogant and insulting way.

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