

# BLOOD & 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, Student Union Building. Deadline: 5 p.m. Tuesdays. Maximum length: 300 words.

## Thanks for opening my eyes

Two weeks ago, in the section of "the Brunswickan", that devotes itself to woman's issues, Ann Gushurst wrote a column where she attempted, rather gently I thought, to dispell the notion that feminists are men-haters on principle, and also to defend the argument that the rules in our society are tilted in favour of men.

This was written, partly in response to a column entitled "the Mins Room", whose authors, Chad and Andrew, are fighting for the rights of the oppressed male, wherever he may be.

In their response to the response, I'm afraid Chad and Andrew did men a disservice by choosing to deride the Gushurst article as a personal assault upon them, and as a "diatribe." Such vindictive responses do little good, other than to act as grist for the feminist mill.

Ms. Gushurst may have been diplomatic in her assessment of Chad and Andrew, but happily, I am not burdened by such journalistic restraints.

The response of the "Min" showed an inability to rise above the dust of the arena and to engage in a meaningful dialogue. Rather, they chose to wallow in the muck and mire of their own juvenile and misguided perceptions, of a movement which fails to cotton to their own personal philosophy, if you can call it that.

Worse yet! These scribes profess to do this in the interest of "Min" everywhere. Thanks fellows, but I think I, and all the other males out there, will be able to suffer through without your help. After all, I can go running anytime of the day or night, secure in the knowledge that I am far less likely to get jeered at, assaulted, or raped, than either my sister, or my girlfriend. After graduation, I can go to work looking forward to a greater income than will be enjoyed by most of my female classmates, including many who did better in school than I did. I can also enter into family life without the pressure of choosing between caring for children, or having a career. But wait! It gets better! Because, should my marriage fall apart, there is a good chance that I will be able to walk away from my wife, my children, and my responsibilities, without being held to account for my full share. Having all of this, why on earth do I need the "Min". I already have the "Max"!

Ironically, while accusing Gushurst of sharing a mentality similar to Hitler, our fearless pundits wrote that "talking about the problem won't lead to a backlash if it is done in a sensible manner." I'd like to believe that, but their own heated attack on a reasonably balanced, reasonably fair article, exposes the fallacy of their argument.

By "sensible", I can only assume Chad and Andy mean non-confrontational, non-opiniated, "non-content". Unfortunately, the truth hurts, and all the "Mini Men" have done is show that the only thing they want to hear is a lie, and that articulate and well-informed women are entitled to their opinion, so long as they keep it to themselves.

Thanks fellows, for opening my eyes. Before your column, I thought sexist attitudes like yours had died out when we learned to walk upright. Now I see that they're still alive, and, embarrass-

ingly well.

John M. Brown

## Have a Seat, Guys

In response to the Opinion column in last week's *Brun*, (which the writers have chosen to refer to as The Min's Room II), and as a woman who understands what it means to be discriminated against, I submit my feelings of disapproval of the lack of comprehension and the condescending tone with which the article was written.

Although it is your opinion that the men who oppose the women's movement are the minority, I am sure that many women who, like myself, have grown tired of the harassing jokes and "lighten up - I'm only joking, dear..." comments will beg to differ. If you, however, assure us that we "have no reason to be uncomfortable", we should feel confident that it's safe to walk alone at night?! Nobody is blaming all men for the problems of women, but rather, the feminist cause is essentially one which strives to alleviate the problems which have been created due to centuries of gender differences being viewed with the male as the ideal and the female as inferior. As Virginia Woolf stated over 1/2 a century ago in *A Room of One's Own*, an illusion has been created out of a need for men to make themselves feel better which can be called "the looking glass theory"; one's projected image appears twice as large if the one beside it is purposely made smaller. So what are you REALLY afraid of?

To accuse the Wimmin's Room of not supplying answers for problems faced by women is astounding and presumptuous considering the complexity of the difficulties we face (not to mention the opposition which dinosaurs who would like to see women still treated as second class citizens often present). It is easy for you to say that women and men should work together; women have wanted the same for years. But the fact of the matter is, gentlemen, your supposedly egalitarian views are not universally held by men, or if they are, they're seldom expressed. Society in general (as you put it) is not being challenged for speaking up on a campus newspaper - women are! And by the way, cooperation has never existed yet between the sexes, so why should we now believe it's a reality?! You think you have solutions for problems which have plagued us for centuries? Think again.

As for the Wimmin's Room "initiating" the feminist cause, unless you're really up on your feminism, I think you're once again assuming something that you know little about. People fear what they do not know, and THAT is the reason why feminism is read as such a dirty word, even in the 1990s. I am a feminist, and by no means do I consider myself radical (unless you would judge expecting the right to express my disapproval of women's oppression a radical view), and for that matter there are few women at UNB who could be considered radical feminists.

Radical feminists, however, have historically played crucial roles in the feminist movement; if it had not been for them, men would still be able to control their wives as property, be

legally entitled to beat them, and birth control would never have been legalized. So how can you say that radical feminists have no place in the movement?! Men will never be denied rights and freedoms because of their gender, so you might as well hold your breath on that argument. There would never be a complete turn around to the point of men's oppression, clearly because women know the pain involved in being oppressed. It is time for the differences between the genders to be recognized, and after years of condemnation, these differences should now be instead applauded.

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Wimmin's Room writers on a great job done all year. It is confronting to know that I am not alone in my views and that there are women like you to stand up for similar views.

Shelly Myshrall

## Get the facts straight

This letter is in response to Shaun Nagles article of "Discrimination at the Dock". I wish that Mr. Nagle had known what he was talking about before he submitted his view in last week's issue of *The Brunswickan*. Mr. Nagle had thought that the group of Native people that came in that night were turned away because of their nationality. It seems that Mr. Nagle was unaware that one member of the group was barred for causing a fight in the Pub in December. The circumstances were explained to them calmly and politely and soon afterwards they left the Pub. Discrimination is not tolerated at the Dock nor practiced by the staff working there. I believe that Mr. Nagles dissatisfaction came from the fact that we would not allow entry to his underage girlfriend. I hope that in the future, Mr. Nagle will get the facts straight before he views his opinions and humiliates himself any further.

"The boy with the earring"  
Sean Clark  
Head Doorman at the Dock Pub.

## Don't make snap judgments

Please consider this a response to one Shaun Nagle.

I have worked in the hospitality industry (bars in general) for the last seven plus years. I do not work at "The Dock Pub". However, I am male and wear an earring.

Sir, I, much like yourself, do not know the circumstances of what you saw. I can only comment on what I do know and my own experiences.

In my experience, part of my job was to tell people that they were barred. Let me point out that people are barred for uncivilized behaviour. At that point the person usually resorts to calling my co-workers and myself names that should not be used in mixed company (verbal abuse I can deal with). On far too many occasions I have been threatened with simple bodily harm, on one occasion an individual threatened to "cut me up". Not bad for seven years.

Sir, perhaps you should work in a bar before you cast aspersions on the industry.

I found the last paragraph of your letter particularly disturbing. Yes, I am here to serve you and your friends. What am I supposed to do when a member of the "purchasing public" destroys house property. Please remember, a bar is like your house or apartment. You do not want rowdy people who show little or no respect for you and your belongings at your house party. Do you? I don't.

"When one does not know what one is talking about, ones mouth is best used for eating."

Don't make snap judgements about me, for I may judge you. Do you feel you can be judged? Must be nice being perfect, along with omniscient.

Kirk Whittaker  
A bartender

## Response to Shaun Nagle

I was extremely disappointed to see such a scathing article regarding The Dock Pub in the Brunswickan after the hospitality extended to you and Jones House by our bar. Even more disconcerting was the fact that you didn't have the courtesy to address the situation to me, but rather chose to attack us without full possession of the facts, in the student newspaper. We in business deal with the facts, and so should you.

FACT #1 It is illegal to allow someone without proper ID, an NBLCC, into the bar. The female with you the night of this "incident" had no proper ID and consequently wasn't allowed in the bar.

FACT #2 It is our duty to our patrons to keep the premises safe for all to enjoy. The individuals not permitted in the bar that evening had been involved in an incident earlier and had been informed our premises are off limits. They also happened to be "Native Canadians". Any person refused admittance must take responsibility for their actions individually, not as a race, color, religion, social class or age group.

Please be advised our lawyer will be in touch with you regarding our position on your public attack. I hope you find this answer to your letter interest-

ing and informative.

Jennifer Jeffrey  
Manager  
The Dock Pub

## Historic buildings cited for demolition

This year marks the celebration of Canada's 125th anniversary offering Canadians an ideal occasion to reflect upon our pre-confederation past. As citizens of Fredericton we were disturbed to learn that as many as nine of Fredericton's most historic buildings have been cited for demolition. A proposed half-block high-rise development project by developers Greenarm and Bruncor (NBTEL) will replace the valuable heritage buildings of the Regent Promenade, the charming Golden Fleece building on Queen Street, the old NBTEL building and several others with a nine story office tower, hotel, parking garage and modern condominiums. These buildings are considered architectural landmarks, all but the NBTEL building having been built before confederation.

Fredericton is know as one of North America's most historic cities, and during the summer months it has attracted many visitors for exactly this reason. It is sad to think of sacrificing 200 years of architectural styles for the construction of such "trendy" buildings as the new Barke's House. In the celebration of Canada's 125th anniversary of confederation citizens of Fredericton must encourage developers to combine the vitality and function of modern development with the interesting and distinctive architecture of our heritage buildings through their restoration and repair. Any student concerned with this issue can help by - writing a note of disapproval on their next telephone bill - writing a letter of response to the Daily Gleaner. - Signing any petitions on the issue and make any suggestion as to what should be done with these heritage buildings.

Stacey Wilson  
Ruth Bartlett



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**WISH ALL STUDENTS  
THE BEST OF LUCK ON EXAMS.**

*Have A Great Summer !!*