

## Blood & Thunder ... continued and continued

### Yaqzan 21 cont.

sex".

Fact #2 Bogus. Women have just as many sexual needs and desires. It is a fact that women, past and present, have suppressed their sexual appetites because social norms have not permitted them to flourish, naturally.

Myth #3 "For those entering a university, the co-ed residences may be helpful, but do not provide an opportunity for sexual gratification for all the male students, and therefore the reason and the need for the so-called "date-rape".

Fact #3: Since when are universities residences brothels for male students? Universities are meant to educate (sic) both women and men about various disciplines and civic responsibilities, you know, like making the university environment a more equitable and safer one for all of its students.

Myth #4: At least for those "promiscuous girls", they secretly want to be raped or should expect it because of the "male's drive for sex" and "the strong sexual attraction of the male towards the female".

Fact #4: No Means No Means No! It should never be interpreted in any other way. Rape is a brutal, terrifying crime. No woman (means all women) wants the pain, injury, or violence involved in any sexual aggression (includes date rape and all other sexual assaults).

Your article fails to address a fundamental issue: that of individual responsibility. Men are responsible for their violent actions against women and men, alike. Men must equally speak out against violence against all people. To place the blame of sexual crimes on women is reprehensible and a manifestation of grave ignorance and misogyny.

Carole Sauve, vp (external affairs)

Ira E. Lax, vp (internal operations)

Guy Caron, president  
Michael Aucoin, vp (finances)  
Students federation of the University of Ottawa

### Yaqzan 22

Dear Editor:

I am sure you will receive an ample sum of letters to choose from in response to the Opinion article: "Rape" Past and Present from the November 5, 1993 issue. I however, cannot pass the opportunity to speak out against someone who not only minimizes affects of rape, but also degrades his own gender by declaring that they are incapable of controlling their sexual desires.

It is true that attitudes toward premarital sex are more open today. Attitudes on most topics are more open. Open attitudes don't make unwanted sex more acceptable. Yaqzan has made it clear that he feels unwanted sex is not only the women's fault, but if it happens to women they should take monetary reparations instead of getting emotional. Well. Money does not make emotions disappear. Unlike sexual desire that can be controlled, people women or men can not change how something makes them feel.

Lastly, addressing this "men can't control their urges" BS, if a man can not control himself alone with a woman, then it is up to HIM not to put himself in such a circumstance. As members of this human race we are all responsible firstly for our own actions. Women should not have to guess whether a man will force sex on them or not. Having to do this constantly would put a halt (sic) to many rewarding relationships.

Sincerely Heather J. Hammond

### Yaqzan 23

Dear Editor:

I have been following with great interest the media coverage your paper has received after publishing the article expressing the now controversial views of one professor Mr. Matin Yaqzan.

My letter to you is not to express my agreement or disagreement with Mr. Yaqzan's views, but to express my support to your editorial board for its decision to print the article in the first place.

I can recall from my days in The Brunswickan offices, having to wrestle with "to print or not to print" issues. One of our goals then was to keep UNB's audience informed about issues which have a direct impact on them. Clearly, Mr. Yaqzan, as a tenured professor at UNB has a direct impact on the students in his charge - both inside and outside of the classroom.

If his views, albeit very personal ones, are entered into the public forum and are viewed as controversial by the readership then The Brunswickan has achieved its goal and has stimulated discussion on an issue which impacts directly on its readers.

Finally, I have to say that I am relieved that Mr. Yaqzan's impact is relegated to the instruction of mathematics and not in the area of the humanities!

Karen E. Mair  
Brunswickan Editor 1987-88

### Yaqzan 24

To the Editor:

Letter to the President U.N.B. It was with disbelief that I read today in our local paper the views of UNB assistant professor of mathematics, Matin Yaqzan, on date rape being a "natural outlet for the sexual needs of modern young men". It's hard to believe that an educated person teaching at university level would have such views, let alone offer to have them printed in the Brunswickan.

I applaud the Editor and staff of the Brunswickan who I am sure agonized over publishing such an article. It took courage and a strong conviction I am sure, that their fellow students, both male and female, had a right to know how one of their professors saw them.

I attended UNB 1976-1980, living in residence 1977-1980. During my three years living on campus I went into men's residence and in their rooms, which yes, had beds in them. Was I nervous? No. Was I raped? No. I was with friends who respected me as I respected them. My best friend at university for those three years was a male who,

13 years after our graduation is still my friend. After graduation we went our own way, married, had children, live in different provinces but still keep in touch with each other. That is the type of young man who I went to university with. It is hard to believe that in a matter of 13 years that the evolution of man and sex had digressed to medieval standards which is what professor Yaqzan's views can only be compared to.

If I were female student of Professor Yaqzan today, I could not and would not attend another of his classes knowing how he feels about women and hope that my fellow male students would also boycott his classes. If I were a parent of a university age child, I would think twice of UNB as a university. If I had money to donate I would think twice before donating to UNB.

Now I know the views of the individual are not the views of the university but the damage is done and now has to be addressed. My request to you, as a member of the Alumni of the University of New Brunswick, is to have professor Matin Yaqzan removed from the faculty immediately.

I know you have a difficult job ahead of you but I believe that you and the Board of Directors will do what is in the best interest of the students, foremost, for whom this institution is for. I wish you the best of luck in this difficult task which lays ahead of you.

Sincerely,  
Debbie (Brine) Jardine

### Yaqzan 25

Dear Editor:

It is opinions such as those expressed by Matin Yaqzan which perpetuate the already existing problems between men and women. Mr. Yaqzan, in his Nov. 5 "Opinion" has tried to give men a justification for rape. Vanier Hall will not tolerate opinions which may endanger the residents.

Taking the time to discuss every opinion in the article would only lead Mr. Yaqzan to falsely believe that his article is worth that much effort. Therefore we have chosen

not to do so.

Any person who is forced to have sex against their will is a victim of rape. Rape is contingent upon consent; not one's past sexual history, or whether or not it was enjoyable. The act of having sex was meant to be experienced by two people who desire such an involvement.

Vanier Hall will continue to support programs such as "I Don't Understand Women" and campus women's groups which support the view of the residents. We challenge VP Administration Kelly Lamrock to continue his work concerning campus safety with a vengeance.

Anita Chapman  
VP External  
Vanier Hall House Committee

### Yaqzan 26

Dear Editor:

We, the undersigned members of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of New Brunswick, are writing to express our vigorous condemnation of the actions of the University administration in the matter of Matin Yaqzan's recent article in The Brunswickan. These actions constitute an iniquitous infringement of academic freedom and the freedom of speech generally. Professor Yaqzan expressed a view point in his article. However silly, perverse, or unacceptable one holds this viewpoint to be, the principle of freedom of speech must imply Yaqzan's right to express his viewpoint, else the principle counts for nothing.

The UNB administration has tried to excuse its behavior by saying that the issue is not one of freedom of speech, but rather that Yaqzan is simply being "investigated" to determine whether his conduct constitutes "sexual harassment". To consider the expression of opinion on a sexual matter to be harassment seems to us to be the height of fatuousness. It is also terrifying. When "sexual harassment" can be construed to encompass the expression of an opinion, none of us is safe.

More recently, the administration has changed its tack slightly, and has said it will carry out a review of Mr. Yaqzan's professional performance. Such a review can only be characterized as a fishing expedition. Last Friday's issue of The Brunswickan carried statements from the administration which warned against assuming Mr. Yaqzan's suspension indicated that his article violated the university's sexual harassment policy. The University President, Robin Armstrong, was quoted as saying "[The review] will look into his professional responsibilities, which is a broader statement." It is clear to us that Mr. Yaqzan's article is irrelevant to his academic performance. However, because of this article, the University intends to conduct an assessment of his performance with the intent of finding some ground on which they can legally take action against him.

We find it deeply ironic that the official persecution of Mr. Yaqzan commenced on Remembrance Day. This is the day on which we are supposed to revere the memories of those courageous people who died on our behalf, fighting against tyranny. They died so that we might

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