

# The BRUNSWICKAN

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### Yaqzan Controversy continues...

Following the suspension of UNB mathematics professor Matin Yaqzan pending a review of his performance, the story continues to attract international attention. Coverage in this issue: AUNBT files grievance in response to Prof. Yaqzan's suspension and American academic Camille Paglia reacts in an exclusive interview. Also see Blood and Thunder and the Editorial.

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Media Frenzy  
Week #2

Morningside	The Bricklayer (Red Deer)
Midday	Excellence (Back U)
Globe & Mail	Loyalist College (Belleville)
CBC Newsworld	SML
Radio Canada	Hamilton Spectator
As It Happens	Donair
FRANK magazine	The Varsity (U. of T.)
Canada A.M.	Kitchener University Record
Telegraph Journal	Toronto Star
The Daily Gleaner	The Sun (U. of Sask)
Royal Canadian Air Force	The Gazette (U. of Calgary)
CNN	Maclean's Magazine
London Daily Mail (England)	The Pillar
Reuters	The Daily News (Halifax)
Canadian Press	The Cord (Wilfred Laurier)
Canadian University Press	Holland College
CCDU-FM (Dalhousie U)	Camille Paglia
CFBC (Saint John)	The Charlottetown (Charlottetown)
CFER-FM (Kingston)	The Gateway (U. of A)
Bridgewater Bulletin (NS)	The Link (Concordia)
ATV	KR10-TV Radio (CBS Seattle)
MTV	The Muse (MUN)
CTV	The Argus (N.S.A.)
ASN	The Manitoban (U. of Man)

## Camille Paglia calls UNB administration's move "fascist" American feminist critic defends Yaqzan

by Karen Burgess

Noted feminist critic and controversial author Camille Paglia has condemned UNB's administration for its suspension of assistant professor Matin Yaqzan.

Paglia, whose most recent book *Sex, Art, and American Culture* includes essays on date rape and other issues of sex and sexuality, calls the university's move "fascist" and accuses the administration of infringing on Yaqzan's civil liberties.

"It seems to me that in a democracy, free speech must be our paramount principle," she said, "it must supersede all questions of ideology."

"I believe the more offensive the speech, the more it's in the best interests of a democracy."

Paglia calls for UNB President Robin Armstrong to be removed from office, saying she feels "he's a totalitarian and has no business running a university which should be about free inquiry."

"But he's consistent," she continued. "His behavior is consistent of this whole master class of administrators that rose up after World War II. It is a problem that afflicts North American education. These administrators in this post-war era are servile to the parents and their cheque books."

"They think of the Faculty as merely their pawns."

If Yaqzan was not on probation with the university, and had not been previously warned not to openly express his views, "then this is a clear case of fascism," she explained.

"It's like the Salem witch trials, where a scapegoat is being made just so the college administration can appear to take a pious position," said Paglia.

"It's absolutely outrageous. All students should be outraged by this, because this is the kind of thing that in another climate would lead to a gay professor getting penalized for expressing opinions about gay rights."

Many of the views expressed in Yaqzan's November 5 Opinion are similar to those espoused by Paglia, and she says she sees nothing wrong with him signing the piece and noting his title within the university.

"Whenever a professor speaks his personal views he is allowed to put his post, his position within the university, at the bottom. Everyone does that," she said.

The university should not be attempting to determine what is responsible or irresponsible speech within a democracy, said Paglia.

"What is responsible (to the administration) is if the speech makes everyone feel good. We don't want

## A BRUNS EXCLUSIVE

For an in-depth interview with Camille Paglia, see centre spread.

to hurt anyone's feelings, we don't want to make anyone actually think about the harsh realities of sex," she commented.

Many of the criticisms made about Yaqzan's opinions are famil-

iar to Paglia, as the same arguments have been used in the past to refute her views.

"I have been called pro-rape because of my positions. Pro-rape! This is how mad everything is. It

just seems to me that we need more articles like Yaqzan's at this point," she explained.

"The brouhaha over this proves the necessity of opening this issue. It proves it."

Paglia said that is a fact of history that people don't want the truth, and will become uncomfortable when they are forced to face it.

"It seems to me that one should have a million articles like this, not just one, because it's only when we get the stuff on to paper that we force these issues, and most of what he says in that article is completely true."

## Demand to reinstate Yaqzan AUNBT files grievance with Admin

by Karen Burgess

The union representing UNB's professors has announced its intention to file a grievance about the university's suspension of Assistant Professor Matin Yaqzan.

The Association of the University of New Brunswick Teachers President, Jack Vanderlinde explained that the union is getting geared up to take action in the case, although they still have several days before the grievance must be filed.

The AUNBT has until November 22, or up to 10 days after the suspension was announced, to file its claim.

Vanderlinde said that the AUNBT will wait until the deadline draws closer to officially file their complaint, in case there are further developments in the case which might need to be formally addressed.

The union argues that because the letter of suspension given to Yaqzan did not state explicitly what actions prompted the disciplinary action, the university has not established sufficient cause for his suspension—a requirement entrenched in the university's collective agreement with its professors.

"Our contention is that since his letter of suspension did not specify any cause, they clearly did not establish a sufficient cause," he said. "That's the immediate reason for the grievance."

"There are a couple of other minor things; he's been barred from campus, and we feel that bars his access to us to some extent, but I think that the employer would probably be very flexible on that."

The AUNBT recognizes Yaqzan's right to express his opinions as he did, said Vanderlinde.

"I think it's very dangerous thing if when I publish something contrary to the popular view the president says 'OK you're suspended, we'll now investigate your entire record.'"

The AUNBT may also file a policy grievance regarding the university's handling of the situation.

"There's a good chance that we will file a grievance on our own behalf at the same time. We feel that the university has misapplied policy with respect to this collective agreement, that they're willfully misinterpreting the agreement essentially," explained Vanderlinde.

"Furthermore, I think that there have been cases of a much more serious nature where no action has been taken until there has been a finding of guilt of some sort, and at this point there's not even an allegation of guilt."

The university has little to say about the proceedings which are being initiated by the AUNBT.

Spokesperson with UNB Public Relations and Information Susan Montague, said the university is hopeful that it can work together with the union to arrive at a workable solution to the problem.

"Discussions are ongoing with the union and we're hopeful that some resolution can be worked out. The filing of a grievance is fairly standard procedure. It's well within the union's range of options to take that action so what we would prefer to do is take the time to work with them and reach some kind of resolution, whatever form it may take," she said.

"We're not going to comment until there's something to say about what action is going to be taken as a result of the grievance."

Montague did not elaborate on

the official reasons of the suspension. She said there was no specific contractual clause under which the suspension was enacted.

"Other than the fact that it is an option under the collective agreement and we took the action with the agreement or support of our legal counsel, who is very knowledgeable on the province's labour laws. It was an option that is open to the employer."

Montague says that the request that Yaqzan stay off campus during his suspension was made with the best interests of both Yaqzan and his students in mind.

"We did feel that for his protection, and the protection of others whose feelings might for whatever reason precipitate some kind of occurrence—we just didn't want anything unfortunate to happen to anyone, and when emotions run as high as they have in this particular instance even things you don't intend can happen."

Yaqzan said in an interview on Tuesday that there had been no incidences or confrontations between he and students, and reiterated his earlier statement that no students had approached him about his Opinion piece since it was published.

When asked if there was any indication that there was a possibility of angry confrontation, Montague said that UNB Security had received a phone call with regards to the whole affair.

Director of Security Rick Peacock confirmed that a call had been received, but that it was a request to have a security officer escort professor Yaqzan from the AUNBT office back to his office after he was followed through the science library by TV camera crews.