

# Blood and Thunder

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rm. 35, Student Union Building, UNB Campus  
DEADLINE: 5 p.m. Tuesday

### Article on divestment criticized

I read the article by Timothy Lethbridge 'Is divestment best for blacks?' which appeared in the Brunswickan issue of January 10, and I was dismayed by the author's lack of comprehension of the situation. He correctly stated that change can come through 'violent overthrow or negotiated and orderly transition'. He gave the example of Uganda and Stalinist Russia, among others, as products of violent overthrow. But what he failed to report to his readers is that the USA is also a product of 'violent overthrow'. The Americans fought the British for their independence.

The fact of the matter is that few countries, if any, have successfully negotiated the transfer of power. A government in power will not share or transfer that power unless it is threatened. South Africa is no exception. Up until recent events, there has been no incentive for the whites to share or transfer power to the black majority. Indeed the word apartheid would not even exist in our vocabulary if they were accommodating and secondly the African National Congress (ANC) would not have been banned out of existence.

One is therefore left to wonder; who would the Botha regime 'negotiate' with, since most authentic black leaders are either in jail on trumped up charges, exiled or banned. Other leaders such as Bishop Tutu and Rev. Boesak have constantly stated that the violence in South Africa was being perpetuated by the government in its desperate struggle to stay in power.

The blacks have simply run out of patience and are reacting to institutionalized violence unleashed upon them by the government. The black leaders have also gone to a lot of pain to raise the conscience of the international community to the plight of the black majority in South Africa. They have pointed out that without international pressure on South Africa, the country is headed for a blood bath. Thus economic pressure, divestment, would seem to be a small price to pay if all out violence is to be avoided.

Unfortunately, the two nations, USA and Britain, that have the clout to pressure the minority South African government, are most reluctant. Britain seems to be most concerned about its immediate economic survival to put morality first. While the US appears convinced that only the white minority regime

could keep South Africa non-Communist.

Obviously both the U.S. and Britain appear oblivious to historical precedence, in their quest for short term political and economic interests. One need only look back at the role played by the US in Iran and Nicaragua. In both cases the US ignored the interests of the majority and continued supporting unpopular tyrannical minority regimes. In spite of the US support, both were miserably and violently overthrown. Surely a lot would be gained by the US and Britain in the long term if they exercised their sense of morality now. As Bishop Tutu reiterated, on Martin Luther King's birthday, the blacks want the West on their side. He also said that they will remember who their friends were in times of need.

Thus the future peace of the Cape of Africa is in the hands of the international community. Pressure could be applied through economic stranglehold. The Black leaders have long accepted that the suffering this would entail would be smaller than the present form of slavery or future possible bloodbath. What the international community must remember is that the black youth are becoming more desperate, and desperate people will commit desperate acts. You only have to look at the middle East to appreciate the gravity of desperate acts.

by Ahmed Ferej

### Carnival exec speaks out

Dear Editor,

In the spring of 1985, we the executive of UNB's Winter Carnival were ratified by the student council to organize and execute the carnival of 1986.

In the month of September, our chairman went about booking rooms for events. Due to the tight schedule of the SUB we were forced to bring the carnival a week earlier than 1985, but dates were secured for the week of January 11-18 as published in the Brunswickan of October 25, 1985. At this time the executive was planning with the assistant V.P. Finance, who was also acting treasurer. We were following procedure as it had gone the previous year and in accordance with the office at that time. A budget was drawn up and submitted to the council for ratification.

As soon as the new members elected entered office the chairperson contacted the new V.P. Finance enquiring about who would be assuming the assistant comptroller's position so that plans could continue.

Just before exams the chairperson, V.P. Finance and the president met to discuss the situation. In this meeting the chairperson was informed that the structure had changed somewhat and that V.P. Services would now be assuming the assistant comptroller's position. Also that because of the lack of time for the budget proceedings that the Winter Carnival budget would be dealt with directly under V.P. Services. All monies would come from V.P. Finance and the President in consent with V.P. Services.

During the first week of exams the executive received a letter from V.P. Services requesting a meeting. On December 19, the chairperson was informed that all dates would have to be rescheduled because V.P. Services did not believe that the events would cover their costs. Also that all contracts would have to go through V.P. Services office and that no member of the executive could sign any contract for the events. A new tentative schedule was drawn up running from January 31 to February 8, a new logo chosen and many new advertising ideas added. V.P. Services said he thought that he could secure the dates by asking other groups booked to cancel or change their dates. He promised to leave a message for the chairperson stating whether or not he had managed to secure the dates before he left on the 21 of December. No such message was left.

On January 3 the chairperson contacted the director of the SUB enquiring if the dates had indeed been changed. The director said that no member of the Student Union had been in to discuss the changes and that there was little hope of securing them at that time. Because of the lack of financial support and the inability to sign contracts for the upcoming week the executive felt it necessary to cancel the events scheduled for the week January 11-18 and wait for V.P. Services to return.

When V.P. Services returned, he once again decided that the carnival should be rescheduled to run from January 24 to February 1, 1986. Again the dates conflicted with other groups but some dates were secured. Once again we the executive gathered our committee and began the rescheduling of events. Fireworks, movies, sleigh rides, bands, etc. were all booked in consent with V.P. Services.

On January 14, ten days before the carnival was to start, the President and V.P. Services had once again decided that the events would not cover their costs and were once

again planned to be changed to run from February 1 to 8, this conflicting directly with Saint Thomas' Winter Carnival. No proof was presented to the executive where the money would be lost. The only reason given for this change was that due to scheduling problems it would be impossible to hold a three floor extravaganza and V.P. Services determined that it was absolutely necessary to hold that event for the carnival to be successful.

On January 15 V.P. Services told the executives that he had still not decided whether or not the dates would change. The executives were also told that since they had no money of their own that they had no say in the decision.

We feel that there are certain members of the SRC executive that do not appreciate the amount of time and effort that the executive and their committee members put into organizing these events. We are greatly frustrated by their insensitivity and down right fickleness.

Finding it impossible to do any thing productive under such changing conditions and constant tyranny we regret we are compelled to resign our posts.

If anyone has any further enquiries about UNB's 31st Winter Carnival such as the type of events and when they will be held we suggest that they contact Hugh Brown, V.P. Services or John Bosnitch, President since they have seemed to have assumed the running and execution of this years Winter Carnival.

Sincerely,  
Ana Sainz  
Chairperson  
ViceChairperson  
Carolyn Snow  
Public Relations  
Terry Gallant  
Inter Residence Rep  
Andy Fitzpatrick

### STU SRC out of bounds

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the article in last week's issue regarding the Aquinian.

Will their persecution never end? It seems that the STU SRC are once again exerting their "great power". The idea that the Editor of the paper should be elected by the students at large in a general election is preposterous. This merely turns said election into a popularity contest, totally disregarding qualifications. Perhaps the same can be said of the Student Council elections?

The Editor of any newspaper should always be elected internally, thus enabling staff members to evaluate his/her abilities.

To pick someone "out of the

blue" only serves to decrease the quality and respect of any newspaper. What does the average, uninvolved-but-popular-at-pubs student know about ad design, layout, editing, typesetting, objective reporting, and everyday routine problems?

The STU SRC should be grateful for someone like Neil Toner, who has put up with their political maneuverings and still refuses to give up, not to mention the skeleton staff who continue to put out a paper despite the weak support from their "publisher".

STU SRC: stick to what you do best (whatever that is) and let "freedom of the press" reign!

Kelly Maher

### Thanks from CUPE

Dear Editor,

On behalf of our President, myself with the other Executive Officers, and the entire membership of the General Labour, Trades and Allied Services group of Local 1326, Canadian Union of Public Employees I want to thank the many UNB students and faculty members who stood in solidarity with our Local throughout our contract negotiations.

These negotiations were long and extremely difficult and of course, eventually led to a strong strike mandate from our Membership. Your moral support, your friendly encouragement, your commitment to a principle of fair treatment strengthened our determination. To each one, to everyone who supported us, a very special thanks.

In Solidarity  
Allison Caverhill  
Local Vice-President  
CUPE 1326

### Other side presented

Dear Editor,

I would like to applaud the Student Union for fulfilling their commitment to give a representative of the pro-life side of the abortion issue equal time to address the UNB community. In order for this effort to be maximally effective, I do hope that those who attended Dr. Morgentaler's presentations will also attend Dr. Wilke's address. In this way, each of us can gain clearer understanding of both sides of this very important issue, and make an informed decision about our own position.

A Concerned Student  
Kathy Ford