

# OPINION...



When I came to UNB I had already come to terms, more or less, with the fact that I was gay. There was, however, still a certain insecurity, and one of the things I had hoped to find was a gay organization on campus. There is a gayline in town (457-2156), and FLAG (Fredericton Lesbians and Gay men) but I did not feel comfortable going out on a limb to find out where things were going on.

At that time I was still unable to come publicly out of the closet. Although I was not naive enough to think that people did not know, there was a certain security in the fact that I had not made any public declaration. Even now, I feel unable to put my name to this article.

It began to dawn on me that I could not depend upon somebody else to establish an organization for gay men and lesbians on campus. Other people probably had the same fears that I did, and until one of us came to terms with that, none of us would make any progress. I decided to bite the bullet and get things moving.

We need an organization for gay and lesbian students at UNB. In working to create such an organization I have had many doubts, whether I was the right person to do it, whether I could devote enough time to it, whether there would be enough activity to keep it going, whether I should publicly come out of the closet or not, but never did I ever doubt that the need was there.

I see the needs as fourfold.

First is the need for a peer counselling network. It is vital that there are people available who can understand the problems of gay men and lesbians on campus because of their personal experience. How much easier to talk to someone who has gone through exactly the same problems. Such a network must be easily accessible and personal, without being threatening. The person who needs help must be able to reach it without being afraid of being "found out."

Second is the need to increase awareness on campus of the gay and lesbian community, and of issues of concern to gay men and lesbian community, and of issues of concern to gay men and lesbians. It is difficult for gay men and lesbians to feel proud of who and what they are when there is no means to express that pride. With community expression, comes community support. It is easier to be open when you know that there are many others just like you to back you up.

Third is the need to advocate for the rights of gay men and lesbians. When someone comes out of the closet, that person is often exposed to public disapproval. This disapproval can, and sometimes has manifested itself in situations which are intolerable, yet, unless someone is there to protest, they are tolerated. Silence can be as culpable as condemnation when it is the silence which gives consent. Yet if the gay community is unable to fight for its rights, then who will?

Fourth is the need for a means for gay and lesbian members of the University community to meet and talk about issues that concern them. Such meetings must be easy to find, yet private enough that people will not be afraid to go.

All members of the University community (and STU, too!) who are interested in being involved in an organization for gay men and lesbians on campus are invited to attend the first meeting Wednesday, March 15, at 7:00 pm in Room 26 of the S.U.B.

*Name withheld by Request*

## WANTED : Editor-in-Chief

Applications for the position of Editor-in-Chief of The Brunswickan for the 1989-90 academic year are currently being accepted. If you are interested please contact Stephane Comeau at 453-4983 or 455-2419 before March 13<sup>th</sup>. Related experience preferred.

By BamBam

Well, Hey! How about them Saint Thomas Tommies....are they awesome or what!?

And how about them Red Rebels?! Second place is nothing to sneeze at.

And finally,...how about them bloody bruns staffers! Taking their roles at UNB all too seriously, applying to be student politicians and leaving me to mug their wumps. I don't mind - it will get me in practise for the last Bruins of the year - yes I will be returning to this column for what will be the final Brunswickan of my school career. Sob...Sob...snif,snif.

Has the smoke died down in the SUB? Sorry about the pun. I don't really go through the SUB much anymore so I don't know how the University's (i.e. SUB's) smoking policy is going. Write your suggestions to the SUB office (postage free if you mail them on campus!)

Three cheers for the physical plant guys - they successfully shuffle the snow from one side walk to another - seriously folks- they probably freeze their willies and should all have standard issue OAKLEY'S.

Did everyone have a good break?! My friends are all stricken with ye-olde common cold. Trans-continental germs you know.

Don't-cha love it when the little high school students come crawling all over UNB? It makes you feel scrutinized eh? I found myself thinking- geez... I have to look like a University student...as I traipsed up the stairs to the Social Club!

Caribbean nite is tomorrow night always a fun time - good food, good drinks and excellent entertainment. Tickets are probably still available at the Student Union Office, or in the SUB lobby.

Three cheers for Beaver foods for putting 'poutine' on their menu. So what if it tastes funny...its the thought that counts.

Well... I had the opportunity to find out about car insurance, deductibles, acts of god, etc.etc. I don't recommend the education. I do recommend you pay attention to the little ads on the old telly telling you if the weather is cruddy... stay home.

I have been at UNB for five years... never had more than 2 midterms a term, and never had any less than 3 days between my exams. Can you guess what my faculty is? My final exam schedule...2 exams, 10 days apart.

Personally you engineers and CS students are asking for it! Speaking of engineers... have you checked out their pillar pub room- quite unique. It would take an engineer to figure out how to have a (next to use less) room with a pillar in it. Next thing you know the administration will suggest that the mechanical engineer coaster derby be held within the confines of Head Hall and Gillen Hall (sorry Marc). Could be interesting.

I guess poker machines are in the news these days...what do you know... the Social Club poker game is decidedly on the blink. Hmmm

In the realm of live entertainment (other than benny baby), Brighton Rock is supposed to play at the Chestnut sometime next week...Wednesday I think. Another in the line of one night musical stands brought to you by the bar on York! (I realize that is a pretty obvious plug...sorry!)

Spring is in the air - the puddles on campus are starting again.

Well, on a final note...the Big Decision is coming right up. Just remember if you don't vote, you can't complain.

Word of the week.....Finless.....see 'poolsharks at the social club.'