

BLOOD AND 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 in the Student Union Building. Deadline: 1 pm on Tuesday. Usual maximum length: 300 words. Please include name, student number and phone number.

Error in Burnley news article

Dear Editor,

Your article of January 8, 1993 titled "Appeal Court overturns Burnley decision" repeats an error contained in the Daily Gleaner report of December 11, 1992 which The Gleaner corrected on December 15th. The correction unfortunately did not make it into your article. I enclose a copy for your reference.

This error is serious from my point of view as you will appreciate from the following.

Firstly, the Comptroller in November removed all of my professional staff and most of my professional duties including those assigned by statute, the University of New Brunswick act. This led directly to my suspension. Prior to suspension, the Director of Personnel, after he had a lengthy meeting with the Vice-President and the Comptroller, threatened me with dismissal "without cause" if I did not resign in return for one year's pay. I refused his threat and offer. Prior to suspension I had grieved on the removal of my duties only.

The Comptroller, in attempting to justify his suspension of myself advanced several unsupported reasons: a) insubordination b) job performance c) culminating incident d) conduct considered inconsistent with university policy, procedures and organizational effectiveness.

The Vice-President, being unable to substantiate these unsupported charges, was reduced to claiming part only of ground d) which he reduced to "conduct inconsistent with university organizational effectiveness".

As you can appreciate, this is far removed from the Comptroller's allegations and can be anything the University claims it to be. In effect, suspension equals automatic termination with the intervening "hearing" merely confirming the decision already taken.

While I was able to dispose of the rest of the Comptroller's grounds, the "inconsistent" charge does not allow any defence, hence my resort to the courts solely seeking judicial review.

The University's treatment of myself certainly is not that of a reasonable employer and is a great deal different from that accorded to others including those who appeared guilty of very serious infractions indeed. In addition, the administration has spent a large sum of money in destroying my reputation and career. This despite my being responsible for the most significant innovations (and large cost saving) from any member of administration. The administration has made no formal report to the Board though I was appointed by the Board nor has the Board approved such expenditures. Justice McLellan's comment about the Board's "abdication" seems well taken.

I would appreciate your publication of this letter with prominence equal to that of your news report on this matter.

Yours truly
D.G. Burnley

Ed note: Upon being notified by Mr. Burnley of our error, a correction was printed in our January 22 issue on page three of the News section.

Embarrassed by Brunswickan drivel

Dear Editor,

Freedom of speech is to be treasured, especially when what is said is of value. I take exception to what Mr. Clapoir said regarding menstruation, and to the responses to the question "What is your

most favorite/successful pickup line?" in Viewpoint.

Not only did Mr. Clapoir suggest that Liz check the top of her head to see what a point was, but he also called her "numb as a post." I would deem this an attack of a personal nature which the staff of *The Brunswickan* says they "may refuse." Mr. Clapoir refers to menstruation as a "problem" and states "But if this were a man problem we would have found a cure by now." Clearly this is sexist in nature and also something the staff of *The Brunswickan* says they "may refuse". I shall only dignify Mr. Clapoir's letter by responding that if men had "cured" this "problem", he would not have the two daughters he mentioned.

Of the responses by students in Viewpoint, the two most offensive were: "Are you drunk yet?" and "Hey little girl, want some candy." With the overwhelming instances of acquaintance rape and child molestation in Canada, I am disappointed that *The Brunswickan* staff would print these disturbing and offensive comments. I would suggest that you do not exercise discretion, common sense, or a sense of responsibility when you edit. *The Brunswickan* reaches an audience beyond UNB's campus and I am embarrassed that "Canada's oldest official student publication" contains such drivel.

Julie Daigneault

An open letter to the Bruns staff

Dear Editor,

This is an open letter to the staff of the Brunswickan. I don't expect this to be put in BLOOD & THUNDER, not because I don't want it to but because of an unwritten rule recognized by the Bruns staff.

The UNB Engineering faculty presently has 1180 full-time students who all pay the mandatory STUDENT UNION (SU) fees, for this fee we get certain services which are funded by the SU. There is a large list such as the funding of the 8 Engineering societies, campus entertainment (movies, concerts etc.), gym privileges and so on. One of the major services is the 'free' publication of the BRUNSWICKAN, I am writing to make a serious complaint about this service and its usefulness present to the Engineering faculties.

Let me start by telling you how easy it is to actually get a Bruns at Head Hall, if you don't get one by 8:30 am Fri. morning forget it, you must go to another building or, God forbid, the SUB where there is always HUNDREDS of 'leftovers'. The Bruns staff has been notified about this several times and the situation has finally changed (after 3 years, to my knowledge). The biggest problem is a constant ignorance of Engineering events and news, on different occasions, which has been submitted well before the Bruns deadline has not been printed or even acknowledged (sic) in the actual paper. The only time Engineering has been in print in our 'campus' news outlet is for the articles and editorials about the unfortunate massacres at Ecole Polytechnique and Concordia University, and the assorted personals. Why? Are the EUS organized events such as Engineering Week, a Penny Drive which raised \$1200 for the F' ton Literacy Council, successful national and regional conference bids, social events, faculty events such as Senior Report Conferences, society elections, society events etc not newsworthy?

The Engineering faculty is one of the most active on campus and has events happening on an almost daily basis, a simple phone call to the EUS office (453-3534) would allow ANYONE to find out almost all of them. How can the Bruns call itself a campus news outlet

when it doesn't even make an attempt to cover the news of the University's second largest faculty.

The Bruns will tell you there are no engineering (sic) on staff so they don't have any direct way to know what's going on at the bottom of the hill. A phone call. The Bruns will tell you that Engineering faculty has the ERTW so the Engineering students use that as there (sic) source for news and Engineering students will write for that instead. The ERTW is not funded in any way by the SU except for the occasional add (sic), they obtain their revenue solely by adds (sic) from the community because of a bylaw which gives the Bruns a SU funds monopoly. Also, how would any Engineering student find out if they are welcome at the paper if there are no obvious attempt (sic) at including them. The Bruns will tell you that there are never any submissions by the Engineering groups. This is not true, there have been several submissions, before the deadline, which do not make it to print, due to editorial decisions. What the Bruns is really saying is that they have no time, energy or space to give an adequate service to at least 18 percent of the students who pay their SU fees each fall at UNB.

Please give ALL the students at UNB a chance to get something out of your publication.

Respectively (sic) submitted,
Andrew Van Wart
SU Engineering Rep.
1993 SSME President

Questions not answered

Dear Editor,

The Brunswickan published on January 29, a letter and almost a full page article in response to my letter of January 22, but neither answers the questions I had asked. Adrian Park talks about the "fraud" involved in the "Holocaust denial", without explaining as to what is meant by "denial", and Sherry Morin, entitles her article "The final solution to some racist questions", in an obvious reference to my questions, but beside shedding tears over the Jewish past, and expressing fear to what might happen in the future, and referring to me as "The Racist", not once or twice but 7 times, she fails to define "anti-semitism" or to give reasons as to why everyone should read her analysis and interpretations of history but not that of Mr. David Irving. She makes a concerted effort to create an impression that somehow I am guilty of denying the Jews their freedom to mourn their dead. She describes me as a "fake Samaritan", and says: "Let us, finally, examine the mind of The Racist. In all fairness (the least we can do under Liberalism) to The Racist, his narrow-minded attitudes are not necessarily his fault." I presume she means that the willingness to listen to an opposing point of view, like that of Mr. David Irving, is a sign of narrow-mindedness.

For the benefit of your readers, I would like to emphasize that I have expressed no personal views as to the extent of the atrocities during the Second World War, against the Jews or any other large or small group. This is the subject of Mr. Irving's research, and my contention is that he should have the right to be heard, especially in a society that claims to be fair, open-minded, and believes in freedom of expression. Why should the members of an academic community be afraid of listening to someone at an academic level? Why can't our "specialists" on the Second World War history tear his arguments apart in an open debate? Why are they

so afraid of ideas, when they are so sure their version of what happened to the Jews in the Second World War is abundantly documented? Also, I have no hesitation in repeating that the media did not emphasize the holocaust in Bosnia, nor did those people who mourn the Jewish dead of the Second World War. The fact that the Canadian Jewish Congress met some people from Bosnia, or made a statement about Bosnia, could not and did not make a difference.

I am an individual, and do not represent any organization. I can only engage in an intellectual debate, befitting an institution of "higher learning", not in mud-slinging, and hatemongering, that four of your correspondents have done so far. Sherry Morin wants to know why have I not condemned other crimes or solved many other problems. The answer is that while no individual is capable of doing that, I do not even have the "freedom of the press" that she has. I had answered some of her questions in an article entitled "Character Assassination (By the Holocaust mourners)", that *The Brunswickan* did not publish.

Sherry Morin is concerned about hurting the feelings of the Jewish people in the context of their observances of the Jewish holocaust, but feels free to mock the Christian faith in the following words: "The Holocaust has a religious feeling, except its observers hold true the memory of real human beings, not cloud-frolicking deities to whom they cannot prove tangible ties.... The cross where Christ was hung has long since decayed; but the execution facilities where so many Jews met their deaths are still in existence.... Jewish people remembering their loved ones who were killed fifty years ago are not like Christians remembering Christ, a martyr of the distant past. Christ died willingly; the Jews who died under the Reich during World War II did not." Would it not be hurtful to a Christian, to compare the crucifixion of Christ, whom he or she worships as the Son of God, with ordinary mortal Jews? On the other hand, if unwillingness to die were to be used as a criterion, did all the non-Jewish civilians in Europe offer themselves to be blown apart by the German or Allied bombings? Why is their death not considered The Holocaust?

I hope that, in the interest of objectivity and fairness, *The Brunswickan* will publish the enclosed article, entitled "Holocaust, Holocaust, Holocaust...", either as an opinion column or under "Spectrum".

Matin Yaqzan

PS - In view of the concern on the part of Mr. Adrian Park, having been misidentified as a UNB student, may I suggest that *The Brunswickan* indicate the year and the field of specialization of a student, or the position of a faculty member or any other individual, writing for *The Brunswickan*, as it used to do in the past.

Defamatory theme in Brunswickan

Dear Editor,

I have been a reader of *The Brunswickan* for the past four years, and I have noticed a defamatory theme which has arisen several times each year. This libel cannot be considered homophobic, racist, or sexist, but it can be seen as an attack upon a community.

The community I speak of is that of the role-playing gamers who frequent the Blue Lounge in the SUB. This group of individuals has been portrayed as a herd of geeks who have nothing better to do with their time than wear plastic Vulcan ears, watch Star Trek and Deep

It is true that some of these gamers may be considered by many to be "geeks" or "nerds". A nerd may be defined as a poorly dressed intellectual. Well, some gamers do dress less than fashionable, and some are gifted with an above-average IQ.

Space Nine, play Dungeons and Dragons, and leave litter strewn about. This is a gross misrepresentation of the campus gaming community as a whole.

It is true that some of these gamers may be considered by many to be "geeks" or "nerds". A nerd may be defined as a poorly dressed intellectual. Well, some gamers do dress less than fashionable, and some are gifted with an above-average IQ. Academic achievements, however, strongly outweigh whatever image might be presented by mismatched socks. As a result of high marks produced by high intellects, a good proportion of gamers are attending university on academically awarded bursaries and scholarships. As an example, both of my roommates are gamers, and both have received academic prizes. This would not seem to be something to be disparaged.

Another common misconception is that all gamers are Star Trek fanatics. True, most gamers do watch Star Trek and Deep Space Nine. Nonetheless, it would seem that a high percentage of the population who are not gamers also watch these television programmes. In regards to the alleged fanatical devotion of gamers to these shows, I have asked twenty-three members of the UNB/STU Gaming Club if any of them have ever worn plastic Spock ears, Ferengi ears, or any other type of Trek-related facial enhancers. They all answered no.

That all gamers play Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) is yet another misinterpretation. It is true that many gamers have played D&D at least once in their lives. However, most "non-gaming" university students I have worked with on summer jobs have played the game at least once as well. Gamers, by definition, play games, and D&D is but one of many sources of entertainment available to them. There are many role-playing games, card games, war games, and board games which are played in lieu of D&D. For instance, Risk, a game which many "non-gamers" enjoy, is one of the more popular diversions.

Finally, that gamers leave litter strewn about is a slanderous accusation. On the average, I have found that gamers are very conscientious about throwing their garbage in the trash cans provided. However, I have witnessed how the misnomer of gamers as litterbugs has arisen. On one occasion I was sitting in the Blue Lounge when I noticed several people tearing up paper and throwing it on the floor. These people left without cleaning up their mess, and a group of gamers took over their seating area. A member of the SUB staff later came by and hastily assumed that it was the gamers who had littered up the area. This is just one case of judgment based on circumstantial evidence!

There are, of course, exceptions to these statements. I am almost certain that there does exist at least one stereotypical gamer who does wear Spock ears, does live by the prime directive, does throw garbage about, and does play only D&D.

Nevertheless, this must be a rare and maladjusted individual indeed. I have yet to meet this person in the Blue Lounge. Please stop the misrepresentation. It is not warranted.

Shantell Powell