

Blood and Thunder

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rm. 35, Student Union Building
DEADLINE: 5 PM, Tuesday
MAXIMUM WORDS: 300

Sexual Fantasies

Dear Editor,

A reply to Mr. James Gill's column in which he suggested that there are probably eight to twelve gays living in each male residence at UNB:

James, please keep your sexual fantasies between yourself and your friends. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Ticked at J.G.

Fantastic Job

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate the Grad Class Executive for 1990 on the absolutely fantastic job they have done planning this year's activities.

First of all, at our first of many well-advertised, information-packed meetings we were treated to the decision that we would be allowed to participate in 'dah-tah-dah-dah' "THE GATES PROJECT". I mean, it was so kind of the gang to make that choice for us, so that we wouldn't have to worry our empty little heads with such a big decision. And it was such a good idea, they decided to open the project to anyone who wants to donate. Wasn't that sweet of us?

Next, there was the Fabulous Christmas Formal. It was elegant, sophisticated and an enormous success. For those very few who missed it, it was an entire evening of great music, wonderful finger food and terrific friends.

And who could forget that awesome trip during Spring Break to CALIFORNIA! We saw everything: The Golden Gate in San Francisco, Disneyland in Anaheim, an actual vineyard in the Napa Valley and even experienced an actual EARTHQUAKE the day we were in Los Angeles!! What a blast!

Then there was the highpoint of the year - the election of Valedictorian. Obviously, it just wasn't enough for the townies to have Jamie Petrie as president of the grad class of Fredericton High School, they had to elect him to speak at their graduation again. I think he's a shoe - in for Mayor, Premier or even Prime Minister. Nothing's too good for our Jamie.

This year has been the best of my life. I can't wait for the non-stop action-packed Grad Week Activities! See you there!!!

"Disgruntled Grad"

P.S. - And before anyone can say, "Why didn't you participate?" - I DID! I attended every meeting (that we were given more than ten minutes notice of) and I did vote. So what good does it do?

Functional Compromise

I would like to make a few comments in reply to Jason Tremere's letter of March 23rd. First of all, I think Jason does not give the CHSR programming manager due credit, nor all the on-air programmers who play folk, jazz, blues, classical, motown, dance, reggae etc, by saying that the station always plays industrial metallic grind, "drug influenced acid" house (a popular misconception this, perpetrated by extreme right wingers in the US and UK - Thatcher for one), and synth drum beat. Just how often HAVE you tuned in Mr Tremere?

Secondly, I appreciate the Mr Tremere is only asking for an "adequate dose" of commercial programming as a "functional compromise", but as soon as the station did put commercial music on the air, where would be the alternative? There are already plenty of other stations playing the same "dose" of music ALL DAY. Anyway, can it be once again pointed out that CHSR's agreement with the CRTC is that it does NOT play commercial music in competition with other stations. (Who is to say that students would actually prefer the admittedly less polished and professional output to that of the other stations? Less people might tune in!)

Additionally, Mr Tremere states that since the station is primarily funded by students it should play commercial music. This is a large assumption to make. Where were the statistics that said a majority of students want another commercial radio station? I'm sure the COR party would appreciate someone with such logic. What is wrong with having one station that caters for the many minorities in the community anyway?

The real message that seems to be surfacing in Mr Tremere's letter is that of CHSR funding (again). Students who don't like what is played, or don't want to listen to CHSR begrudge paying fees to fund the station. (I like the way he selectively chooses the statistic of total radio funding, \$105,000, to make his point, rather than the small sum it costs the individual UNB student - the equivalent to one GOOD night out). This is a very selfish attitude.

I wouldn't be surprised if a majority of students don't use the gymnasium or play in a university organized sport. Should the money then be pulled from the athletics programme? Maybe a majority don't use the Social Club. Will the anti-alcohol fanatics want to close that down? Arts students probably cost less to educate

than science students. Should the fees of the former group be reduced? And perhaps a majority of Canadian tax payers have never been to University. Should they continue to subsidize education? Where would it all end?

OK, I know that I'm exaggerating the point here (and I don't know if the 'majorities' I quote are majorities - the PRINCIPLE means more than the STATISTICS, and not vice-versa as Mr Tremere would have it). However, CHSR is a campus-community station, and community is the operative word here. We live in a community and services are provided for the community. You don't have to use the service, it's your choice - it is part of living in a free country. Mr Tremere states that commercial radio is "utilitarian". It here is no choice, it is also "totalitarian".

Dave Keighley, MSc 1 (Geol)
P. S. As a graduate, I know I pay less towards the station in fees, as Mr Carson has often pointed out. I agree this is wrong, and I hope that this is corrected in the future.

Poll Problems

Dear Editor,

I am writing in order to bring up several problems which I feel were present in the Student Union elections of Wednesday, March 21. Being a third year Science student, I voted at Poll #11, The Science Library. At this time (around 12:30 pm) some completed ballots were being kept in an open plastic grocery bag, as the ballot box was full. A new ballot box was not used to hold the votes until well after 1 pm.

More distressing to me was the fact that after my I.D. card was punched and my name crossed off the voting list, I discovered that no ballots remained for the position of Grad Class President for 1991. I was told that I could vote for this position later, "when more ballots were in". Since my votes had already been registered, however, there was no way in which this could be done, save for relying on the poll worker's memory, at best a very questionable voting tactic.

I later spoke to another pollster and found out that no new ballots were available until approximately 1:20 pm. This left almost an hour's worth of student voters unable to determine who should lead their graduating class. This is particularly depressing considering the fact that the only "choice" involved was a yes/no vote for Carl Burgess, the only candidate. Carl managed (unofficially) less than 55% of the total votes cast a margin of only 31 ballots. Who knows what effect the extra votes would have made? I do not know if the situation was

similar at any of the other twelve polling stations. I certainly hope not. Perhaps the matter should be looked into, if not to correct this year's indiscretions, then to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Sincerely,
Gary Leroux BSc III

City Bombarded

When one becomes curious enough to peruse through the Blood and Thunder section of the Brunswickan, the feeling that often follows is that of disappointment and disgust. . .

Some may recognize our opening lines as very similar to a letter that graced the pages of this newspaper last week, titled "Disappointment". This letter by one young Mr. Jason Tremere, suggested that CHSR's programming should "reflect the tastes of the majority of this (student) body".

Well, Mr. Tremere, if you have ever tuned your radio to any of the numerous stations available to the Fredericton listener, you surely would have heard what you yourself described as "utilitarian" music. In fact, we would say that this city is bombarded with this type of music. Also, if you had bothered to check with the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), you would know that it granted CHSR a license which stipulates that it must play a certain type of music, most of it very different than what you would hear on regular Fredericton radio, and it must allow air-time for certain community access activities. If CHSR attempted to play the same type of music as say CIHI, it would be in violation of Federal Communications Law and would surely be forced to shut down, probably with a hefty fine as well. By law, CHSR is limited in what music it can play.

But let us not trifle with law, let us get to the heart of your problem. The "(so-called) music" which you refer to as "depressed guys singing in odd meter. . . grinding, industrial metallic noise that doesn't even remotely resemble MUSIC" only constitutes a small percentage of CHSR's programming. (not to mention this happens to be your personal, albeit enlightened, opinion; though we trust you must be a professional music critic.) What of the blues, jazz, folk, classical, reggae and multicultural shows that can be heard throughout any given week, or is your radio conveniently off then as well?

It is forever being written in this newspaper that universities are supposed to be the last bastion of free thought and free speech. By exposing people to new ideas and, in this case, new and alternative music, we can

hopefully enlighten their minds, their lives and their album collection. Though some may think that the music on CHSR is "different", it is certainly artistic and creative and this can rarely be said about most music heard on any of Fredericton's other stations.

We feel most students don't even give CHSR a chance. People may not like all the programs, but if they listen enough, we're sure they'll find something they like. With a group of people as diverse as those on this campus, any station would have a hard time pleasing everybody. Of course, if you don't like CHSR, then you can always get all the "New Kids" and Milli Vanilli anybody would ever want in CIHI, but then again, that isn't music, is it?

"Are you ready to rock 'n reggae?" Signed Brent Staben, Bruce MacCaulay, Chris Hunt, Tim Jackson, Derek Fairley, Colin MacKenzie.

Uncluttered

I'm not going to clutter this letter with a lot of words. They shouldn't be necessary to make my point.

The International Nite (a social even which promotes cultural awareness and education in a positive, entertaining atmosphere) with a proposed budget of \$1,500, had to be cancelled. Lack of funds was one of the reasons given.

A banquet for the Student's Council and invited guests (apparently a party for self-congratulation and back-patting) with a budget of \$5,000 was unanimously approved by the Student Council.

I was annoyed when I heard, but it wasn't until I turned on the 10:00 news that it really hit. I saw hundreds of young black South Africans (they looked remarkably like you and me) walking along, laughing and talking at a rally. White government soldiers, already clustered and concentrated, suddenly began firing into the mass as the people desperately scrambled to get out of range. Nine were killed, hundreds were injured (but those are just statistics). Many of the soldiers smiled as they killed and brutalized. It made me feel sick. And then angry, so I'm writing this.

I'm not opposed to banquets and I even think an Annual Student Council Banquet to commemorate the hard work of its members is an excellent idea. But let's try to keep things in perspective. Perhaps we could begin with budgeting.

Barbara Brown