

BLOOD & 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, Student Union Building. Deadline: 5 p.m. Tuesdays. Maximum length: 300 words.

Sexist Professors

An article that appeared in the September 20 edition of *The Brunswickan* needs to be responded to. I am referring to the article by Jeffery Czopor entitled "Sexist Professors?" It seems there is a possibility that a list may be published of all sexist professors on campus. The first concern that comes to mind is just what constitutes the title of sexist and a second is just who the arbiter is of who is a sexist. A third concern is over the true intention of making public such a list. Perhaps any people who do not advocate feminism may automatically be suspect and liable to be blacklisted. This would be nothing less than intimidation and coercion.

Another related issue concerns a memorandum that was distributed to all the professors on campus instructing them to use gender-neutral language. Would not complying qualify a person for the title of sexist? I would like to know what the penalties are for professors or students who are unwilling to abide by such guidelines. Will professors lose their jobs as was the case with school teacher Malcolm Ross? Will students lose marks or be subject to some sort of penalty? Please do not misunderstand me. I have not read any book by Malcolm Ross, but if I can believe what the press says is the content of his book, then I personally abhor his point of view. However, I believe a dangerous precedent has been set by having him fired from his job if

it cannot be proven he taught such views in the classroom. In the name of tolerance, the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission practices intolerance, with Frank McKenna's hearty approval. What is to become of academic freedom?

Extremist radicals among those who call themselves feminists and those who adhere to the "politically correct" ways of thinking are attempting to turn our country into a totalitarian state, with themselves at the helm. American women's rights activist Andrea Dworkin stated at a conference in Banff, Alberta this year that if the law cannot jail wife-beaters, then women should kill them. I am not suggesting that we have reached such an extreme condition here on this campus at the present moment, but there is a growing tendency in this direction all across Canada and the US.

Some of the most prestigious universities in the US have been thoroughly intimidated by the politically correct movement, abolishing some of the great books of Western civilization and replacing them with books where consideration of race and gender affects the choice of books to be read. Plato, Shakespeare, and Kant, among others are being viewed as racist, sexist, and elitist. The more radical of the politically correct either want the study of such people's works abolished or used solely as examples of how a white male bias has been used to suppress women and minorities. This is aligned with the deconstruction movement. Here in New Brunswick, the school

board of district 20 has recently removed *Huckleberry Finn* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* from its curriculum because they are considered to be racist. In regard to ethnic minority groups, some radicals of the politically correct persuasion are trying to rewrite history because they feel that certain events in history would show some ethnic groups in a bad light, so they should not be taught.

Some professors on other campuses have been verbally and even physically harassed. If people do not speak out against these new thought police with their Hitler youth tactics they will be encouraged towards greater boldness. We do not need another Spanish Inquisition or Mao's reeducation camps. This movement already bears too much similarity to McCarthyism. George Orwell's *Newspeak* is another danger. A suggestion board at the Harriet Irving Library has a complaint from a student that nothing could be found under the heading of "gay Studies" or "Gay Literature" and stated that the term "homosexual" is a medical term and encourages "the bigoted view that Gay people, their works, and their lives, should be viewed as 'pathology.'" My dictionary defines homosexual as "of, having to do with, or showing sexual desire for one of the same sex." Is this not an accurate definition? I see nothing in this definition that suggests pathology.

There is a growing threat to democracy and freedom of speech. There is enough concern building over this issue that a group called the *National*

Association of Scholars was formed in Princeton, NJ to combat this movement. The association now has 2100 members. In Canada, Judy Wubnig, a philosophy professor at Ontario's University of Waterloo is involved in a campaign to stop the spread of the politically correct movement in Canada.

Canada's Constitution Act, 1982, Schedule B, Part I, section 2.(b) states that everyone has the fundamental freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication. In his book, *On Liberty*, John Stuart Mill says "We can never be sure that the opinion we are endeavoring to stifle is a false opinion; and if we were sure stifling it would be an evil still." Mill also says "But it is not on the impassioned partisan, it is on the calmer and more disinterested bystander, that this collision of opinions works its salutary effect. Not the violent conflict between parts of the truth, but the quiet suppression of half of it, is the formidable evil; there is always hope when people are forced to listen to both sides; it is when they attend only to one that errors harden into prejudices, and truth itself ceases to have the effect of truth by being exaggerated into falsehood."

Dr. Wendy Robbins states that she believes students have the right to know if they are walking into the classroom of a hypocrite or potentially dangerous individual. I believe what is potentially dangerous is that what used to be called a liberal education is fast becoming an illiberal education, where

nobody can say anything the politically correct people disagree with. This is indoctrination, not education.

Gary Craigs

Third World Studies Student Association.

I am writing this letter on behalf of the newly formed Third World Studies Student Association. This Association is open to any student with an interest in developmental issues whether they are taking Third World Studies courses, are from a developing country or not.

The Association intends to organize public lectures and movies concerning Third World issues as well as print articles in the *Brunswickan*.

For those interested in joining the TWSSA there will be a meeting at 4:00 pm, Tuesday October 1, in the Anthropology lounge in Annex C. New members are desperately needed in order for the association to successfully establish itself. For this reason the membership fee is only \$3.00.

If you can not make it to the meeting you can still become a member or contribute articles by contacting us at one of the following numbers: Naz 455-0846, Bart 450-3254 or Shawn at 472-8268.

I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Bart Alexander

