

Blood and Thunder

ORIGINAL MUSIC

TO THE EDITOR AND CHRIS VAUTOUR

This is a response to the "Opinion" column of October 6.

Record lists are not compiled for radio station programmers to preserve mundanity. They are compiled for homogeneity - in other words, to fit the format of the particular radio station. For example: playing Hank Williams' "I Saw the Light" between Def Leppard and ACDC would not be homogenous on a heavy metal radio station.

Radio stations are formatted for certain markets. There are many different markets, therefore, many different radio stations. The consumer has the choice of listening to a radio station, tuning in to another one, or turning it off altogether.

The consumer also has the choice of going to a concert, nightclub, or gathering or not going at all. If you want to hear original or alternative music you may go where it is being performed.

If you find there is little or no original music being performed, turn to your campus radio station, CHSR. Campus radio is a wonderful medium to introduce original music - be it live or pre-recorded. Promotion of this music is a way to encourage listeners to attend the performers' appearances. I suggest that those interested in promoting this music get involved with CHSR and the musicians themselves. Record them and play their music. The musicians need your support and promotion if you want to hear them live.

In case you're wondering, I have four years of campus radio experience including one year as general manager at CFXU at St FX and almost six years experience in commercial radio. I make my living in commercial radio, but I understand the viewpoint expressed by Chris Vautour and thank the editor for allowing me to express myself.

Shauna MacKinnon

BILINGUAL TERMOIL

Dear Sir,

This letter is written in support of John N Rickard's letter dated September 29, 1989 which was in response to Mr. Cordoso's attack on the C.O.R. Party. Apparently, as Mr. Cordoso so blatantly illustrates, a few persons are still grossly unaware of the true ideas and problems that the C.O.R. Party wishes to address.

Despite radically mistaken views as that put forth by Mr. Cordoso, the C.O.R. Party does believe in a culturally bilingual province of New Brunswick. In fact, the Party believes in equality for all cultures. The

C.O.R. Party does not however, believe in a provincial policy that legislates officially enforced bilingualism. The reasons for this are vast.

Primarily, official bilingualism is costing our province tremendous amounts of money. The costs are so astronomical that they cannot even be tallied. An example of this involves the governmental practice of translating every official document in the province. Daily, at a "meager" cost of \$0.37 per word, hundreds, if not thousands of documents are sent to translation bureaus from government offices all over New Brunswick. This is not an overstatement. From my office, this summer, I alone sent 2 to 3 documents to translation daily. I was told quite matter-of-factly that this is a normal practice in all government offices. A second example includes the new governmental policy legislating many provincial jobs as officially bilingual positions by 1991 to 1993. The province is providing "free" language training for these employees. Free, but at what cost to the tax payer? It is not difficult to see that costs for linguistic training programs offered "free" for provincial employees will come home to further burden New Brunswick taxpayers. Basically, our province cannot afford this unnecessary duplication of services.

Secondly, referring to the above latter example, the government considers these linguistic training programs to be voluntary; however, if a person were told that his/her position was to become bilingual by 1991, what would he/she be expected to do? And what of the "joy" of learning a second language? The idea of being literally forced to learn a second language is no-one's idea of joy. Generally, this type of enforcement creates nothing but animosity and resentment between the two linguistic groups in our province. A second example involves the often denied hiring practices of the government. More often than not, provincial employees are considered for employment, hired, or promoted based on their linguistic status in preference to their educational background, skills, or experience. Clearly, this practice does not constitute fairness. This too contributes to feelings of resentment and division in New Brunswick.

To sum these ideas, the governmental policy of enforced bilingualism is causing turmoil in this province. The C.O.R. Party is simply a response to these problems. The C.O.R. Party disagrees with the queer spending policies of the province. Everyday, the government reports that it has "no money" for truly essential services such as our health care, education, and transportation services. Strangely enough, the coffers seem to be overflowing for the enforcement of official bilingualism. This strangely

unequal treatment is causing animosity, resentment, and division between our 2 great linguistic groups.

The facts are simple. The C.O.R. Party does not compare in the most remote sense to a racist group (or the Nazis, as Mr. Cordoso unfoundedly decided). No-one wishes to take services away from the Francophones of New Brunswick. Where the demand is felt for bilingual services, the need will be surely met, based on the numbers of French-speaking persons in our province. No-one plans to deprive the French of their culture. Equal treatment would ensure that no cultural group receive preference over another. (It is also my feeling that the government should not be financially responsible for cultural protection or support. Culture is maintained in the home, amongst family, friends, and community sub-groups). Equal treatment is only fair. The C.O.R. Party is also based on common sense. The astronomical costs of officially enforced bilingualism are crippling our province, both economically and socially. This is where C.O.R. N.B. come in. C.O.R. does not believe in the superiority of English or of any language. It does believe that this province cannot withstand the vast amount of problems that officially enforced bilingualism creates.

Name Withheld

ARE THE POPPIES WILTING?

Everyone is aware that Remembrance Day is on November the 11th and I am sure that many have noticed that Remembrance Day is on Saturday this year. I am curious as to how many people know what day we have off for respect of this important and memorial day? Well we do not have a day of tribute at all, just another day of classes.

When I first noticed Remembrance Day in the university's calendar and saw that it fell on a Saturday and no holiday mentioned I assumed that only the day we would get off was in question. I thought, "Perhaps the university was not sure if we would be getting the Friday or Monday off so they left it out of the calendar until they could determine the appropriate day." I thought wrong. It appears that the university does not believe that Remembrance Day deserves the respect of a day of rest, regardless of which day Remembrance Day falls on. I find it hard to be proud of a university that does not show its respect for Remembrance Day.

After the disappointment in my own educational institution regarding Remembrance Day I called a few universities in the maritimes. Out of the universities I called, only UNB and STU are not paying tribute to

this honorable day, Remembrance Day. Is it wrong to be proud of your heritage or to respect those who died for our freedom? I think not.

There may be individuals who have the misconception that I am just looking for another holiday. If that is the case then why do they give us a day off for Remembrance Day when it falls on a weekday? Why not just give us time off from 11:00 am until 11:01 am? Does that sound ridiculous? Well it is, so is not commemorating what our veterans did for us. Is it satisfactory to say that we already have a day to pay tribute when Remembrance Day is on a weekend? Do all those soldiers not deserve more respect than one day on a weekend where 'everyone' already has the weekend "off"? On top of that, the weekend is not always a "day off" for university students. We, university students, do not work nine to five, five days a week; weekends tend to serve as days to get caught up. I cannot fully express my disappointment in the UNB and STU administration for their decision regarding Remembrance Day.

The university's defense was that if Remembrance Day falls during the Monday to Friday period then we will receive a day off. If Remembrance Day falls on the weekend then it is not a "movable holiday". Does that mean that we are not to pay tribute for those lives that were given if November the 11th happens to fall on a weekend and we have assignments to do? Obviously not, but the university seems to believe so. I cannot believe the moral implications of requiring Remembrance Day to fall on a weekday in order to pay the proper and well deserved respect all those soldiers should get.

I find it ironic that during the twelve years of schooling prior to university we are more than just encouraged to respect and remember on Remembrance Day but when we graduate to an "institute of higher learning" we are encouraged to forget, Heaven forbid. Does ignorance follow knowledge? I do not believe so but I do not feel the university provides us the time for required for proper respect and tribute. I will still be wearing my poppy in respect and thankfulness even if the university does not appreciate my respect and gratitude for those who gave their lives for us. I am very proud of the student body to also voice their disapproval regarding the administration's decision regarding a holiday in respect for the soldiers who gave us peace. I hope the student body will remember even if the university will not. Make your opinions known to help bring back the life to the poppy and what it stands for. Most of all, remember and be thankful... Name withheld

Every business has its problems but there is no problem like no business.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

STRUGGLE FOR LIFE

Dear Brunswickan,

Homosexuals are gentle, angry people, fighting for our lives.

We are people who love, deeply and passionately. The love we feel for our lovers and partners is very real, and goes beyond our sexual activities. Sex with the same gender is a bonus, like icing on the cake. What we share as life partners, the trust, respect, support, equality, admiration, warmth, understanding, genuine caring, each other's lives, makes physical sexual bonding very sensual, beautiful, and a natural progression.

Sex without love happens in the heterosexual world as well as in the gay and lesbian community. Stop and think of what takes place in a club like the Cosmo. How many people go there to meet someone they can go home with for the night? How often do pick-ups occur there just for sex? Naturally it happens in gay and lesbian clubs also, because we have the same needs as you.

As a lesbian, I am just as afraid as a gay man, of gay-bashing. I don't understand why we are beaten for who we are. Have you ever heard of straight-bashing? Have you ever heard of a person being beaten with a bat, kicked in the face and body, stabbed dozens of times, and all because he/she was heterosexual? No! We are gentle people. We are anti-violent and anti-abusive people.

We are no threat to society, but you are a life threat to us. Why? What do we do that is so horrible to you? What is the "straight" world and society so afraid of? Is there anyone out there who can answer this for us? We are who we are, and all the gay-bashing isn't going to change that. We share our lives with our partners, we love emotionally and physically. And for this we are hated, jeered at, beaten and murdered? Now tell me, who are the sick ones?

We are gentle but angry people! Angry at society for denying us as human beings. For us it's a continuous struggle fighting for our lives, our rights as people. Society wants to shove us back into the closet, dead bolt lock it, and throw away the key. But we're out, the closet door slammed shut behind us. Nothing will put us back in there, not all the gay-bashing, discrimination, hatred you feel because of your closed minded ignorance. We are not going away, we are getting stronger each day, and growing!

Because of a battle going on for my son, I must pretend I didn't write this. But I'm used to hiding who I am, it is the only way I could keep a job, my home and physical health from gay-bashers. DISCRIMINATION KILLS!!!