

Inaccessible Old Arts Building too old for its own good

To the Editor: I was walking through the Old Arts Building the other day when it occurred to me: There is no elevator and no wheelchair ramp within or attached to the building. I am not suggesting that UNB never thought about attaching a ramp to the stairs, or placing an elevator in, perhaps, the old stairwell because I am certain they would have looked into the feasibility of cost and building structure. There are certain people out there who believe, because this building is the oldest building on campus that to place a ramp alongside the building would be an eyesore; or, better yet, to put a modern, ugly, high-tech, wheelchair-carrying elevator in the building would destroy the building's beauty. What is this world coming to: Is it a world of the greatest opportunity or is it a world of the greatest experience? How can we rest our heads on our pillows at night with the presumptuous conceit that we have preserved that building's facade. I am certain there are a million-and-a-half arguments against a ramp case, but I would just like to make one last point: below is a list - in no particular order - of the services that able bodies have access to, the people able bodies can visit with, and the only original University artifacts able bodies can see at the Old Arts Building:
- The Registrar's Office
- The only Edwin Jacob Anglican Chapel on campus
- The only Post-Office on campus
- The only University Club on campus
- The only collection of the University's Historical Artifacts on campus
- The Art Collection
- The original letter written by Governor Thomas Carleton leading to UNB's foundation
- A larger replica of the above letter in Stain-glass
- Transcript services
- The University President
- The School of Graduate Studies
- The Undergraduate Awards Office
- The VP of Research and International Cooperation
- The Admissions Office
- The International Liaisons Office
- The Switchboard and Fax Office
- Campus Safety
- The University Secretary
- The VP of Academics
- The VP of Finance and Administration
- The Associate VP of Campus Services and Planning
Ashamed of being helpless,
Michael J. Drost and Erika Cameron

BLOOD & THUNDER Letters to the Editor

Brunswickan misrepresenting UNB life

To the Editor, For those of you interested, Neville House was able to donate \$4000 to Transition House while also having a positive impact on the awareness of violence toward women. This reflects positively on the students here at UNB. My congratulations to Neville House and its supporters.
What The Brunswickan did find worthy to print was a picture of naked wrestlers supposedly representing residence life and a twisted picture of a dead squirrel within Viewpoint. Or what about Lamrock's view on football... Kelly Lamrock... who cares? I do not find this and other material currently found within The Brunswickan's pages a valid view of students and their interests. It is a clear misrepresentation of life here at UNB.
Until The Brunswickan becomes accountable and responsible for its publications, we at Neville House request that no more Brunswickans be left to litter our front door step. I am also pursuing the possibility of withdrawing my monies put forth with student fees to The Brunswickan. Possibly it could be used for better purposes such as helping fund arts initiatives, scholarships, or a football team. Things to take pride in!
Sincerely,
Jason Reath
Bed Push Co-Chair Public Relations
Neville House
Editor's Note: The Brunswickan receives \$40,000 from the Student Union this year, in addition to honoraria for Editors and staff, 7100 full-time students presently enrolled at UNB pay under \$8.00 each per year for The Brunswickan.

Mudwump wrong about accessibility of university

To the Editor: It was with great disappointment that I came across the comments of Joe FitzPatrick in last week's Brunswickan (Mudwump, "University Population Control," page 6). Indeed, trying to follow Mr. FitzPatrick's contradictory line of thought was like following a drunk driver down a wet, winding highway at night with no headlights. Even though he alleges that he is familiar with the policy of the New Brunswick Student Alliance regarding student loans, from his opinion piece I can only conclude that he read only the first line of every paragraph and ignored the rest. Regardless, I'll try to respond to Mr. FitzPatrick's disjointed musings as best I can.
Post-secondary education may not be every student's dream, but it is every student's reality. Mr. FitzPatrick says that a university education is the best investment one could make, and then argues to take away the necessary financial tools to achieve it. Using students on student aid as fodder for the contention that university education is "too financially accessible" is just plain wrong. People who are racking up an average \$24,000 debt to complete their degrees would probably disagree with the statement that university is too financially accessible.
In fact, in a country in which jobs for those with post-secondary education has risen by 1.3 million and jobs for those without has tumbled by 800,000 in the last ten years, it is obvious that universally accessible post-secondary education is more vital than ever before. Telling students that they should not try to attend university, as Mr. FitzPatrick suggests, is like telling them they shouldn't buy good shoes to walk to New York. Post-secondary education should not be a country club only for those who can afford it. Rather, the post-secondary education should be as common as high school for no other reason than it is just as essential.
Mr. FitzPatrick rails against the present student loan system in the name of fighting the devaluation of the university degree. In other words, keep more people out and you will increase the jobs for those who can afford to attend without student loans. This simplistic jargon has no place in any serious debate about university education and its links to employment. Taking away student aid from those who need it to get the education to get a job would do as much good as telling them to take the bus and then stealing their bus fare. In fact, many economists see educating more people as the key to making a degree more valuable - if we educate more people, society is better able to create jobs for everyone. Mr. FitzPatrick's recipe would lead to an educated elite with fewer job prospects and a higher tax rate to support more uneducated people.
Besides this, in a democracy, it is the reasoning and analytical skills of everyone that makes society functional. It is strange to see a member of the press, who argues for the right of the average citizen to be informed, calling for a system which would deny most citizens the tools to be informed voters. Brunswickan readers should note the seeming contempt the media has for our potential participation.
Instead of discriminating against the poor and middle class in an incongruent effort to make your degree more valuable, Mr. FitzPatrick, let's talk facts. More people are in university now because the university degree is more important than ever before. It's not the number of people who are attending that makes a degree less valuable than twenty years ago, it's the needs of employers who require this type of education. Limiting the people who get a degree does nothing to diminish the number of new and present jobs that are available only to those with university education - it only limits who will get them. Giving people the chance to get that education is not only essential, it's the only fair way to provide for the future.
Shawn Rouse
President, NBSA

Brunswickan: unbelievable lack of knowledge of residences

Dear Sir or Madam: I am writing to you in reference to the October 25th misprint - "Bridges House Bed Push a Success" - above a picture of the Neville Norsemen pushing a bed into the Boyce's Farmers Market. This is a mistake not easily made because Bridges House jumps into freezing cold water (Polar Dip) to raise money for charity, while Neville House pushes a bed from Saint John to Fredericton (Bed Push). The only thing remotely similar about these two events is that they both raise money for charity.
The mistake in itself is not the problem I would like to address. The problem with The Brunswickan is that you are quick to jump all over any negative publicity generated by the UNB residence community, but when that same residence community tries to give back to the City of Fredericton, our friendly neighborhood Brunswickan could care less. Each and every one of the residence charity events is done to raise money for a great cause, and a lot of time and effort is put into these events by the members of the residence community.
I have a hard time believing that the Brunswickan editors know so little about their own residence community that they can't even figure out which charity event belongs to which house. It would be nice if The Brunswickan could recognize correctly that a local residence raised \$4000 to donate to the local Transition House. The Daily Gleaner (Oct. 21, page 20), CBC Radio (Information Morning), CIHI Radio, and CBC-TV all got the story straight. Why couldn't you?
Yours truly,
Jeff Arsenault
Fundraising Chair
Neville House Bed Push

BLOOD & THUNDER Letters to the Editor

The Brunswickan welcomes letters to the Editor. Letters to the Editor should be received before 5 p.m. Tuesday. Letters generally shouldn't exceed 300 words in length and must contain your signature, student number and phone number, or they will not be printed. The Brunswickan reserves the right to edit submissions.
Names may be withheld by request, by prior agreement with the Editor. However, unsigned letters will not be published.

Womynrespond

To the Editor: I am writing in response to Keith Morrison, whose critique of my article "Women in movies" (Womynspeak, Oct. 11) appeared in the Oct. 25th issue. My article was in no way meant to infer that all men are hormonally-challenged. In fact, the primary focus of the article was how the media endlessly brainwashes both sexes. As I reviewed my article, I believe I was much harsher on the female celebrities mentioned than the male gender as a whole. I stated, "women in the movies have allowed themselves to be degraded and cheapened," thereby holding them responsible for their actions.
Personally, if I had half-naked men thrust in my face everywhere I looked, I would understandably have a distorted view of the opposite sex too, which is why I made it a point to say that it is not men's fault initially for being influenced. The blame should be placed squarely on the shoulders of the greedy advertisers who profit by making the sexes insecure about their sexual identity. "A sweetly disguised form of commercial robbery," is how it is described in The Beauty Myth (Naomi Wolf). Popular culture teaches women that they can feel better about themselves with just the right push-up bra, while men, constantly put under the strain of having to be "masculine" and "strong," may resort to buying Playboy and dabbling in pornography, where they are reassured by the passive, ultra-feminine, objectified woman that they are indeed "real" men.
Morrison may have a point when he claims that the latest string of "girly" flicks have fared poorly at the box office. However, he may be slightly off the mark in his insistence that female stars with "talent and character" like Winona Ryder are actually more popular with male movie-goers. Really. According to a local movie rental outlet, there are currently 8 copies of each of Pamela Lee's Barb Wire and Ryder's How to Make an American Quilt. However, in 6 months, Ryder's film has only managed an average of 116 rentals monthly, as compared to Lee's record of 141 (it has only been out since August). I was told by an inside source that "adult" entertainment videos are exclusively sold to groups of young males, who obviously will pay to watch these movies in the privacy of their own homes without the stigma attached to seeing them in the theatres (perhaps they would be caught by people who know their girlfriends). Obviously, there is a market for trash, but its profits are not often seen by the public eye.
I was initially happy to see Morrison's letter, as I hoped he would dispel many common male myths. Instead, he only unnecessarily confirms them by saying that he rates brains "at least as high as high as physical attributes." Why not higher? And I'm the one who is supposedly promoting stereotypes?
A. Davis

Football proposal unfair to rugby and other teams

To the Editor: The resurgence of interest in bringing Canadian football back to UNB has raised certain concerns amongst members of the present UNB rugby football club and should be addressed before the referendum to be held in the spring of 1997. The UNB RFC has recently ended its 28th consecutive season of regular activity, fielding two full sides in two different leagues. The club, in recent years, has had between 50 and 60 active members. The interest in rugby is such that in the last two years a second division was added to the N.B. Universities League with the formation of four new sides. In parallel, women's rugby has also evolved to form two divisions.
The principal concern with the possibility of bringing back Canadian Football is the loss of field privileges. If football were to come back, they would require 2 to 3 hours per day, 4 to 5 days per week for practice. At the present time, the rugby club practices 2 hours per day, 4 days per week. Furthermore, the fields are already shared with other clubs and intramural sports who are also experiencing difficulty in getting suitable field time. Scheduling difficulties are further extended to game days that are generally held on weekends. Canadian Football games require on average 180 minutes because of stoppage while rugby requires around 90 minutes. With a football team, it would become difficult to accommodate both UNB and STU's field requirements for both their men and women's rugby teams. As an example, last Saturday, 4 matches were played for the N.B. Universities Championship on College Field. At best, two Canadian football games would be played in the same time frame. Thus, the re-introduction of football severely jeopardises the future of the UNB RFC.
A second concern is the proposed levy of \$10 per student. In this time of budgetary constraint, it seems ridiculous.
Continued on page 8.

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