

# mugwump

By

Sheanagh Murphy

For those who are new to this illustrious institution you may be wondering what or who is a MUGWUMP? Basically, it's a column in which myself (or on alternating weeks my managing editor) gets a chance to air our very own personal opinions and in the process of doing so, hopefully give a few helpful hints and useful information to all you students out there. Neat eh?

Anyways, onward.  
The dictionary definition of MUGWUMP is fencesitter so while according to the definition I shouldn't take a side, there are times when you can't help but have a strong opinion about things. When considering the priorities of this university, one wonders where they place academic quality.

A cursory look at the timetable shows some interesting things. The first set of figures I give below gives the number of courses supposedly offered, the second the number of courses actually offered.

Business Administration 79-39 not offered.  
History 98-51 offered.

Those are extreme, and probably a lot of students won't be affected by them but nonetheless, God help the poor Business Administration students or history majors. Incidentally, every single course in this university has at least a quarter of their courses not offered for this year.

If this is what President Anderson considers good university politics, I hate to see this place in a few years. By that time unless things improve the only people who will be coming to this place are the many and varied bureaucrats. Unfortunately, all professors will be either "cut back" or on sabbatical and students won't have any classes!

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Now, returning students may notice a "barbecue pit" sitting in splendid isolation outside our SUB. On closer inspection one sees that it is, in fact, a memorial to Colin B. McKay. All very nice. But in view of what I just pointed out above and in view of the fact that the university is unable to offer, for example, a good comprehensive writing program and in view of the fact that cutbacks are just about killing students one wonders how they had to nerve to erect it. Now, I realize that a percentage of what it took to build that memorial, came from the UNB Alumni, the source from which the original idea first came. I can appreciate their wanting to honour a fellow alumni, but I object strongly first of all to shoving it in our face and secondly I sincerely wish that they had considered the needs of the university. Having at one time come here themselves, I would have thought they would have noticed how each year the quality of education within it is being eroded by lack of funds and bad management. From the figures I got over \$17,000 was spent on that memorial in both the brick structure itself and the surrounding sod. Where in the name that's holy was \$17,000 spent? — I don't know — but the figure is, I believe accurate. All I can say is the last thing that UNB needs now is a barbecue pit. I can think of a hundred better uses the money could have been put to.

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This is a problem which I believe most UNB students will feel quite close to — it's the new policy in the Social Club ensures that no guest of any member can be signed in without the purchase of a \$2.00 guest pass. Not only that but that pass is good for five times then you have to put out another two bucks. I guess I was mistaken in thinking that this was a university pub. Now that I think again I don't know of ANY private club, university or not which insists on those measures. After all you have to put out \$10.00 in the beginning. I just wonder how many people can buy memberships in the first place. After all there are only 1500 sold out of a possible 5500 students. So that means unless your boy or girl friend gets one too, you'll be drinking alone, I guess.

I cannot refrain from commenting on UNB's latest addition, Beaver Food Services. Imagine my surprise when I went for lunch and actually found good selection, good food and good prices. For those who find it hard to get home for lunch or are sick of "bagging" it try Beaver if their quality continues we got ourselves into a pretty good deal.

However, don't trust their vending machines - if you lose your money then you have to go through so much bureaucratic tape to get it back it's hardly worth it!

Well, it's now 2:00 a.m. in the morning, everyone's gone home except for me and Doug. The paper is actually almost laid out. I want to thank the new staff that came into night, especially Brian, Pam and Kevin. Without them you people might not be reading this right now. It goes without saying that the old staff has worked their little buns off too. Nite.

## In the news....

Coffee growers and some American economists are discovering, to their possible chagrin, that the American consumer will only take so much. The case in point is the price of coffee -- and the weapon, a successful one, it appears -- is the consumer boycott.

During the summer of 1975 -- when frost virtually destroyed Brazil's coffee crop -- coffee averaged \$1.21 a pound retail. By mid 1977, it reached the record high of \$4.42.

Agriculture Department economist Fred Gray predicted the price would go as high as \$5 (dollars) a pound this year. But he now acknowledges that he "underestimated the power of the U.S. consumer."

The U.S. once downed coffee at the rate of 660 cups per capita per year. The boycott has trimmed 100 cups off that total. And roasters say they're processing 28 percent fewer beans than they did last year.

Earlier this month, Brazil capitulated and lowered its minimum coffee export price to \$2.10 per pound. And economist Gray now says he thinks coffee drinkers will maintain the boycott until the price dips to \$2 (dollars) retail. (Newsprint)

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The Washington Star has learned that CIA agents, using highly sophisticated equipment, were able to determine from Israeli soil and air samples that in 1968 Israel had enough highly enriched uranium to make several atomic bombs.

This was believed to be the first hard evidence that sizable quantities of bomb grade material had somehow been diverted to that country.

The CIA then turned for help to the FBI, which focused on the company they believed the most likely source of the diversion -- the Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation in Apollo, Pennsylvania.

A wiretap was placed on the phone of the company's president, Zalman Shapiro, but an insurmountable hurdle soon appeared. When Shapiro communicated with Israeli Diplomats. He used an "encoded" telephone, which scrambles ordinary phone signals into a code which the FBI was unable to break.

Shapiro came under suspicion, among other things, because several hundred pounds of enriched uranium disappeared from his plant during the early sixties. And one of his subsidiaries called Isorad, was operated in partnership with the Israeli Atomic Energy Commission. (Newsprint)

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A San Francisco jury has handed down the first guilty verdict in a homosexual murder case, one which made national headlines shortly after Anita Bryant's anti-gay crusade succeeded in Miami, Florida.

The jury found John Cordova, aged 20, guilty of second degree

murder in the stabbing death of homosexual gardener Robert Hillsborough. He faces a possible sentence of five years to life. Three other young men were also charged in the case. One has been cleared of murder charges, a second was granted immunity, and a third still awaits trial.

In a related matter, a lawsuit accusing Anita Bryant and her supporters of indirectly causing the Hillsborough murder has been dropped. The suit accused the singer of fomenting so much hatred against gays, that some people felt they had a right to assault homosexuals. The presiding judge said he had to throw the case out of court because he lacked proper jurisdiction to hear it. (Newsprint)

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"People, people who need PEOPLE -- they're the luckiest people in the world" -- or so says the song.

And the song, it appears, is right. According to a researcher at the Human Population Laboratory in Berkeley, California, Human Contact, whether it be spouse, friends, family or membership in organizations, makes for a healthier, longer life.

After studying 7,000 persons for nine years, Dr. Lisa Berkman reports that persons who are isolated or who have few social ties may be four times more likely to die than persons with many social contacts. Such persons, she found, were more susceptible to all causes of death, falling prey more easily to heart disease, cancer, respiratory diseases, accidents and suicide.

Dr. Berkman says she's not sure of the reasons, but find that her social contact theory is gaining credence among health specialists even without the scientific data to back it up. (Newsprint)

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Leonard Nimoy, better known to "Star Trek" fans as Dr. Spock, was in San Francisco recently to film "Invasion of the Body Snatchers", when he fell victim to a more ordinary kind of snatcher.

After a camera session, Nimoy returned to his dressing room trailer only to discover that his wallet, hotel key and clothing had been snatched. Shortly thereafter, he received a call from a woman who said, "I'm wearing your clothes -- how much will you pay for them?" She also stayed on the phone long enough to tell Nimoy she'd written a movie script and sent it off to producer Richard Brooks.

But Nimoy declined to pay ransom for his snatched clothes, and soon they arrived in the mail. Nimoy then called Brooks and found that the thief had indeed sent him a script, complete with her name and address. The script has been handed over to the police. (Newsprint)

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"We want to wipe out cancer in your lifetime". So goes the slogan for the American Cancer Society,

an organization heartily approved of by most Americans. But statistics presented by Politicks Magazine reveal that the ACS is not spending its energy and funds where they will do the most good.

Government figures reveal that 60 to 90 percent of cancer is caused by "environmental factors". Yet ACS has never asked any of the appropriate federal agencies for a ban on a single carcinogenic product.

According to the American Cancer Society's 1976 annual report, it handed out more than \$13-million (dollars) in new research grants that year. But no dollars were spent for environmental studies, and less than \$400,000 (dollars) was spent for research on carcinogenic substances.

Politicks Magazine suggests that there are three major reasons that ACS gives such a low priority to research on the environment and cancer-causing substances.

First, some critics point out that the Society is primarily a doctor's service organization, and doctors are more comfortable with research, treatment, and early diagnosis than they are with challenges to corporate polluters.

Secondly, the ACS's financial base is a fairly conservative one which creates no pressure on ACS to move into environmental areas.

And finally, since its founding before World War One, the American Cancer Society has been dominated by business executives who would be unlikely to call their own products cancer-causing substances. (Newsprint)

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Linda Lucks, a volunteer for NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, says the marijuana movement is sexist.

That's because Lucks has found some very unliberated assumptions held by marijuana decriminalization advocates. For example, most people assume that women do not sell pot. And it's generally believed that men smoke a lot more than women. According to Lucks, "that just isn't true" among the people she knows.

But Lucks saves her harshest criticism for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which prohibits any marijuana research on women of child-bearing age. Recent tests, Lucks points out, show that marijuana lowers the level of the male hormone, testosterone. But no studies have tested the effects of weed on female hormones. Lucks also believes that women have the right to know if smoking marijuana can adversely affect the health of any children they might bear.

Lucks, by the way, is hoping to do something about sexism in the marijuana movement. She has organized a panel and workshop, which will be presented next month at the annual NORML convention in Washington, D.C. on

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