

# MUGWUMP

by Aime Phillips

Back already. Isn't that a drag? This is the first time in four years that I was dreading coming back here. With any luck, I'll be graduating this term and I won't have to suffer through the indecision ever again.

Christmas in Green Valley was... quiet. Imagine that. It was almost a green Christmas too, but it snowed lightly on Christmas Eve. The really neat thing about living in a small village is that there are no tall buildings anywhere, so at night when you look out the window, you can see who doesn't turn their Christmas lights off before they go to bed. I started wondering about fire hazards when I heard about the big fire in St. John's over the holidays. (Honestly, I leave the Maritimes for two weeks and half of Newfoundland goes up in smoke) Green Valley is right in the middle of two small towns which I'm sure are equipped to handle house fires, but what a city girl such as myself is wondering, is where the water would come from? There aren't any fire hydrants. Needless to say, I spent the remainder of my holiday making sure all the lights were off before turning in, and then for the rest of the night I would wonder about the other six residents who didn't switch their lights off. It was really traumatic. Nothing, fortunately, happened. Except the house down the way won the county decorating contest.

I managed to make it down to the Canadian University Press conference. CUP, in my opinion, is the Student Union of student publications. But what they claim to be is an organization structured to help member newspapers exchange news, share skills and promote strength in the student press. The Brunswickan was one of the founding members, but we dropped out in the 70's and CUP has been trying to have us rejoin for years. Although the idea is grand, joining CUP is very expensive, and I went to the conference to check out the organization and relay my information back to the staff and editors here so we can decide if it's worth it. By the way, we'll be deciding that at the staff meeting today (JANUARY 8) at 12:30 so if you have any comments about CUP come to SUB 35 for the meeting (afterwards, we'll pick next week's Viewpoint question! Excitement at its best!). In any event, I made some interesting observations at the conference during the 30 hours I participated.

The Valleyfield Delta Hotel room 606 is wheelchair accessible.

The elevator had 1 as the basement level, with 2 as the ground level. That means that technically I was 5 stories up, although my room number was 606.

About 80% of the delegates I saw were wearing Dr. Martens'. What exactly does this say about student journalists, and should I be worried? And what is the significance of red shoe laces?

Neat quote I saw: "News is what somebody wants to suppress; all the rest is advertising" -Lord Northcliffe.

The one person I knew from another university was Nola from UPEI who was representing their paper, although she doesn't actually work there. When I met her a couple of years ago it was at a debating tournament in Halifax.

All in all, I'd say it was money well spent.

Speaking of money, the student union budgets for next year are due. I took time out of my fire prevention holiday to go over The Brunswickan's books. It's a good thing that I did, because on Monday when I opened James(SU VP Finance) van Raalte's letter and it said to be available for a budget meeting on January 16, I put the whole thing out of my mind. On Thursday he reminded me that the budget was due on the eight of January, a week ahead of what I thought. Seeing as how my New Year's resolution is to accomplish everything by deadline, if not in advance, I was quite put off by this sudden revelation, although the work I accomplished over the break made my work much easier. But it does explain why van Raalte was down here looking for me and going on (needlessly, I might add) about deficits. He made up a list of last term's revenue and expenses, and then compared it with last year's and the year before that. This was actually a helpful gesture. Anyway, what really gets me is he's compared my term's budget with the 1990-91 term's budget, which shows an increase in spending. Coincidentally, this was the term right before the GST was implemented, which Allan tells me was the cause of several community newspapers going bankrupt because of the sudden near-doubling of printing costs. van Raalte can't see why my printing costs have gone up 44%. He also didn't notice that my printing costs are down to \$28,000 from \$37,000 in 1991-92, which by my primitive calculation is about a 24.59% decrease. He also didn't mention the fact that the total for 1992-93 to date is \$52,700, which is down from last year's \$79,240. But, there was a 6.9% increase, he noted, from 1990-91's total of \$49,276. Tsk-tsk.

The following is from information I've obtained while completing my Psychology major: I would like a little bit of positive reinforcement, please!

## HOLD THE PRESSES!

Well, you'll never believe you just dropped in with a hot tip! (God I love this job) James van Raalte and Eric Burchill, with the news that Bar Services is dead! Apparently, Ric Cuthbertson has been given the pink slip, and after February Bar Services will be gone. Now anyone looking to hold a licensed event will have to go through the New Brunswick Liquor Licensing Board. How convenient for us.

# OPINION

The opinions found in this column are not necessarily the views of the Brunswickan

## Denying the Holocaust despicable

*The Holocaust and the Bosnian-Herzegovinian conflict are not comparable*

by Simeon M. Olsberg

I was disgusted to read Matin Yaqzan's article entitled "Holocaust Denial" in the December 11th issue of *the Brunswickan*. I am appalled that a newspaper of *the Brunswickan's* standing would publish such blatant anti-Semitic drivel. I would go so far as to say that the article can be classified as Hate Literature under Section 301 of Canada's Criminal Code. Only recently did a Moncton court find Malcolm Ross guilty of the same offence that Yaqzan commits in *the Brunswickan*.

I understand that the opinion expressed by Yaqzan is **not necessarily** that of *the Brunswickan*, however, the fact remains that what you published is nothing more than anti-Semitism in one of its most despicable forms. Denying the Holocaust, a **unique** and terrible event in the history of one people and of humanity itself, is despicable. That you should repeat it, even in the form of an opinions section, is insensitivity at best or editorial irresponsibility at worst.

The Holocaust, an organized, systematic genocide of the Jewish people, is not at all comparable to the terrible occurrences of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian conflict. What is occurring in the former Yugoslavia is a very bloody civil war with atrocities being committed by **all** sides in the conflict, **not** an organized effort to rid the world of one specific kind of human being.

I think that it behoves *the Brunswickan* to issue an apology for printing Yaqzan's article. I am sure that you, as the editor, did not realize how hurtful this article would be to the survivors of Auschwitz, Treblinka, Sobibor and Babi-Yar, and the memory of the 3.5 million adults and 1.5 million children who were so brutally murdered by the Nazis and their henchmen.

I understand the need for free speech in a healthy democracy, as well as the right of an individual to his opinion, however twisted it may be. However, what was published by *the Brunswickan* in the Opinion section goes beyond the bounds of what we in Canada now consider free-speech. What you published is not simply an opinion, what you published is hate literature.

*Simeon M. Olsberg is National Executive Director of the North American Jewish Students' Network-Canada.*

## The Holocaust is a matter of fact

*I have seen with my own eyes where these atrocities took place*

by Amir Nevo

After reading the article "Holocaust Denial", I was shocked that *The Brunswickan* would publish this type of hateful opinion. Mr. Yaqzan's problem seems to be twofold: The situation in Bosnia and the denial of the Holocaust. I will address both these issues in order to clarify Mr. Yaqzan's misunderstandings.

Much as the Jews have been scapegoats throughout History, once again people like Mr. Yaqzan find it easy to blame the Jews for the problems of others, in this case the situation in Bosnia. Mr. Yaqzan says, "Where are the holocaust mourners and chanters of 'Never Again!' or do they deny that the holocaust is taking place in Bosnia?" Since Mr. Yaqzan is so ignorant on the firm stance that the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) has taken on this issue, I shall enlighten him. Montreal, August 31, 1992: Irfan Ayanovic, Vice President of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Parliament, met with a Canadian Jewish Congress delegation. Accompanied by representatives of the Montreal and Toronto Bosnian and Muslim communities, Mr. Ayanovic spoke about the good relations between the Muslim and Jewish communities in Bosnia, and expressed appreciation for the assistance given by Israel, while criticizing United Nations inaction. Not only is Mr. Yaqzan ignorant of the CJC stand on these issues, but he is obviously ignorant of the general media coverage. He says, "Where is Mr. Mulroney? Why the silence?" Mr. Yaqzan obviously does not read the newspapers or watch the news on T.V. In September 1991, Prime Minister Mulroney led the call for the UN Security Council to deal with promoting a peaceful settlement to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Some 1200 Canadian troops are already deployed with the UN Protection Force, one of the largest contributions to the international force, and Canada has contributed over \$25 million in humanitarian assistance, through UN agencies and the Red Cross. Is this the type of action that Mr. Yaqzan refers to as 'silence'?

Under Hitler's Final Solution during the Second World War, it was decided that an end would be put to the 'Jewish Problem'. Jews were transported in cattle cars to camps, where they were put to their death - these Jews, perhaps, were the luckier ones. The others were branded like cattle with numbers on their arms, and then tortured, or used as human guinea pigs for Nazi experiments. 6,000,000 died a horrible and useless death. This has been documented in History. How anyone could ever question it leaves me sick to my stomach. The Holocaust is a matter of fact. I have visited several concentration camps, and have seen with my own eyes where these atrocities took place. There is an overwhelming amount of photos and film footage documenting these atrocities, taken by both the Nazis and the American liberators. Mr. Yaqzan says, "Why must everyone be forced to believe that exactly so many Jews were killed and gassed?" Well, you could also ask why everyone is forced to believe that the Earth is round -- I'm sure there are people who still believe that it is flat!

I have heard, first hand, stories from survivors speaking of their experience in these Concentration Camps. I have seen the tattooed numbers on my grandmother's arm; my grandmother who told me how she watched her husband and her two children as they were taken to the gas chamber. I have spoken to countless other survivors, and I have seen the tears in their eyes, still, after 40 years...

*Amir Nevo is former president of the Dalhousie Jewish Student Federation.*