

# MUGWUMP

# OPINION

The views found in Opinion do not necessarily reflect the views of  
*The Brunswickan*.

by Lynne Wanyeki

Yes, this is going to be another biased Mugwump. But that's OK - Mugwump is meant to be biased. Well, actually, it's meant to be satirical. Which is biased in a funny way. I make no claims to being amusing, but I readily confess to being biased.

I confess to easily because I believe that NO journalism is unbiased. However, some genres of journalism are more subtle than others. Our News Editor, for example, claims his work is unbiased as he always strives to show both sides of an issue. But even the way in which two sides of an argument are presented, the way in which the facts are strung together reflects on a writer's view of the whole picture. Objectivity is a joke. Anyone who believes otherwise need only watch CNN.

The only way news can be objective is by presenting the "hard facts" of events around the world, nationally, and in our immediate communities in point form. No embellishments, no commentaries, no attempts to fit these facts together as a cohesive whole.

But this will never be done. It would offend our journalists in their attempts to present rational, intelligent commentaries on the wonderful world around us. It would offend us as an audience because we are used to being fed explanations. We like circles ie. things already completed. We like to turn off our TVs, or fold up our newspapers with a sense of finality. The explanations already given, our macabre curiosity about the horrors of life satisfied and justified away, and we don't have to think anymore. And finally, it would offend the mass-media conglomerates, whose ratings and readership would fall. Point-form is boring, and news is no longer simply informative, it's entertaining.

Bias is inevitable. We, as the audience, simply must make ourselves aware of this.

This said, I'll continue down my own bias-riddled path. The world has reacted with expressions of sympathy, etc. for the deaths of Iraqi citizens during the bombing of the bunker on Tuesday night/Wednesday morning. Why?!? The expressions are superfluous. Death was only to be expected.

People have been dying in Baghdad since January 16. The veiling of this fact by the use of words such as "surgical precision aerial attacks" on "strategic military targets", etc., does not make this reality any less valid. I personally wonder just how many military installations, targets, whatever can be left in Baghdad. I mean, the air-raids have been going on for four weeks . . .

As for all the apologies and statements of condolence over the deaths in this particular attack, I think the Americans should just simply admit that it was a mistake; but this is war; and death is what happens in war. Sorry pals, pretences at morality cannot be made in a war. If there's guilt (or maybe it's just concern about support for the war), then get out.

If the reality of war is known, yet war is still seen as a viable option, why bother apologizing? War is death - on both sides.

What are your feelings about the way residence administration has handled the recent orientation policies?



**Jamie Mahoney, Aitken House, Civil Eng. III**  
"We are no longer children and we should not have been treated like children."



**Hal Brothers, Aitken House, Mechanical Eng. II**  
"We pay to stay, give us a say."



**Woodcutter, Aitken, Forestry III**  
"Orientation week is one of the best things to happen to most people in University. Ask any Alumni member or any frosh who has partaken in frosh week, they had one of the best times in their lives. They will always remember frosh week as a time that was good and enjoyable for them. Why take away something that gives a good positive attitude toward life."



**Jim McGee, Aitken (VP University Affairs) Business IV**  
"The policy seems to be aimed at the frosh week that was a problem several years ago, and the way it's handled at the house committee has changed so that it's much tamer, more responsible."



**Ryan Jacobson, Harrison, Art I**  
"I feel that they should not have gone behind our backs. We're paying to live here, we should have a say as to what goes on during frosh week. They're going to take a lot of fun out of the week."



**Derek Crowell, Harrison, Business II**  
"I think that they should have asked the students how they felt about it before they tried to pass it. The students are the ones who have been through it and know what's wrong with it and what's good about it."



**Melisa Henry, Tibbits, Arts I**  
"I don't think it's fair. Frosh week is a really big part of residence and it promotes a lot of spirit. It's nothing that the students want, I think that the march showed that there's not a not of agreement on the part of the students."



**Brenda Wilson (House President), Tibbits, Arts III**  
"I object certain parts of the policy, but mainly the way they went about it, because it concerns the students and not just her (Mary Lou Sterling). It has caused a lot of upset around the University which could have been avoided. As a member of the RRB, we play an important role in the residence system and therefore, we should have had a say in it before she had it drawn up."



**Rosie Rocca Tibbits, Education III**  
"The Administration should have consulted everyone here. The policy is a little bit unreasonable (at orientation) they told us that if you don't want to do these things then you don't have to. None of it was being forced on us."