



mugwump journal

by Mike MacKinnon

Here it is folks, the last issue for this year. Classes will soon be over and then all that is left is exams. Once we get those done then we have at least seventeen days of relaxation. Does anyone remember what it is like to sleep in?

I was really disappointed with the turnout at the plays put on by the UNB Drama Society last Monday. There could not have been any more than twenty-five people who showed up. Has apathy on campus reached the point where students are not even willing to support a student club of their own? Lets get out there and show a little support for our fellow students.

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I was talking to a friend of mine earlier this week and he brought up an interesting idea concerning the president of UNB, or rather the lack of. He pointed out that UNB is presently without a president, is located in the only bilingual province in Canada and of course we are bordering on Quebec.

Who is the man he had in mind? Hold on to your hats because this could shock you all. Why not approach Pierre Trudeau and offer him the position? As soon as you have all stopped laughing I will explain why my friend thought Trudeau qualified for the position.

Trudeau is bilingual: a definite asset to the president of UNB. The man was a law professor and eleven years as the Prime Minister of the country is definitely experience.

Why the emphasis on our province bordering on Quebec? I imagine that many of you are aware that Trudeau is taking a strong interest in the fight to keep Quebec as part of the country. Being in New Brunswick would mean that Trudeau would not be far from Quebec and could easily travel back and forth.

If nothing else it is an interesting idea.

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I would like to thank and congratulate the staff for the excellent job done on the paper last week. Not only did we make the deadline but we were done six hours early. About 80 per cent of the paper was done Wednesday night. Lets keep up the good work for next term.

I would like also to take this time to wish the staff of the paper a Merry Christmas and hope you have a Happy New Year. Start preparing those resolutions and that goes for all of you students too. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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It seems Perry Thorbourne is stepping down as Chairman (oops, chairperson) of the Orientation Committee and will remain as Vice-Chairman of the committee. A commendable decision Perry.

Things are really quieting down on campus right now, must be the fact that exams are creeping up on us that is doing it. This is the time of the year when everyone must play student for a couple of weeks and crack the books. You know, books, those bundles of papers that we all bought at the beginning of the year and are now probably covered in dust and cobwebs. I sure wish they had told me at the beginning of the year that we were here to work and not to drink. I thought I was getting F's because I did not drink enough so when I went and drank even more and continued to get F's then I was really confused. Now I understand the way things work but I guess it is a bit too late.

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I would just like to congratulate Scott Cronshaw on the "EXCELLENT" (heavy sarcasm) job he did as SRC Comptroller. It seems a bit ludicrous to me to have to apply for honoraria after having performed a job for three months and then to have your applications returned because they did not contain enough information. Just reading the paper every week should be evidence enough that we are doing the jobs. After all wouldn't that be better evidence than letters from us saying we did the job. After all we are all members of the media and notorious for not telling the truth. Thanks Scott.

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Have you noticed the front cover on this weeks issue? It serves two purposes: one as a cover and two as a card. Thats right. Just cut it out, fold it in half and sign a nice little note to Mummy and Daddy from their favourite son or daughter. Just cover the ads and for a really unique card, leave them uncovered.



View from the centre field

More on Iran, etc.

EDITORS NOTE: The following was submitted as an editorial column. The opinions expressed in this article are not necessarily those of the Brunswickan, its editorial board, staff or the UNB Student Union.

By ANDY GRIGG

Last week's article certainly elicited a lot of negative responses, which was predictable, as I kicked a lot of sacred cows in the butt.

Perhaps I should state right now that I'm neither a Communist nor a Moslem. I have no religious or political affiliations whatsoever, and opinions I express are more than opinions, they are facts that are ignored. One of the most effective ways of discrediting a person is to label that person as a "nut", a "commie" or a "fanatic". It is a crude and cheap tactic but unfortunately it works.

Several readers were shocked that I even suggested the Ayatollah was human, let alone a man with a conscience. While the Western media is busy presenting the Ayatollah as a vindictive despot, it is interesting to note the Iranian students here at UNB

came out in support of him at a demonstration on campus two weeks ago. I assume they would be in a better position to judge the Ayatollah, then you and I. If he's as bad as the papers say, why do the Iranian students support him?

The truth of the matter is, the Ayatollah is not the man the media portrays him as being. Ask some of the Iranian students here what life was like under the Shah's rule. You'll find out they have more freedom now than they've ever had before. Why don't the papers mention this?

Amnesty International, a highly reputable human rights organization is dedicated to fighting for the rights of people who live in countries that are known dictatorships. Iran, under the Shah's rule was one of the worst abusers of human rights, second only to Idi Amin's Uganda.

Savak was the name of the Iranian secret police under the Shah's regime. Anyone even suspected of anti-Shah feelings was subject to arrest by Savak. Amnesty International estimates Savak murdered 10,000 Iranian civilians in the year preceding the Shah's downfall. Keep in mind the fact that Savak was in operation for more than 30 years and you have a lot of dead Iranians, who did little or nothing to deserve their fate. Why does the media ignore this?

The US as part of its foreign aid to the countries it controls, trains the police forces of those countries in torture techniques. It has been documented not just by Amnesty International, but by international church groups as well. The CIA trained Savak well,

as they make the Nazis sound tame when it comes to inflicting pain.

When the Savak headquarters were captured after the Shah fled, there were some grisly discoveries. Besides the more conventional torture devices found, there were some implements of suffering that seem almost medieval. Racks for stretching arms, legs and backs. "ey gougers" and a hideous contraption that can only be described as a "human grill" were found.

Iranian students here will tell you more if you care to know, about life in Iran under the Shah. Savak agents also operated right here in Canada, keeping an eye on Iranian students. If they suspected a student of anti-Shah activities or even making a remark against the Shah, they were quickly arrested and sent back to Iran where they faced prison and torture. The fact that the Canadian government allowed Savak agents to carry out their activities on our soil is deplorable. The media has done a great job of ignoring things like Savak.

Our own Minister of External Affairs is busy helping the US get support against Iran. Flora MacDonald is scurrying around the world drumming up support from the so-called "neutral nations" in condemnation of the Ayatollah.

It's not surprising since everything the Conservatives have done since coming into power, benefits the US more than Canada.

I can't help but wonder about the sanity of the men who dictate US Foreign Policy supporting dictatorship may be financially profitable in the short term. But it will be disastrous in the long term. It will be just a matter of time before the US is without friends anywhere. This is evident with Iran and Nicaragua. What is the US doing for its image by supporting men like Somoza and the Shah?

As for those readers who feel it is wrong to label Jimmy Carter a puppet, it is unfortunate that there are still people who think a president, or for that matter a prime minister make decisions on his own. The last president who acted on his own was John F. Kennedy and he paid the price for his independence.

To those of you who think that anyone who has a different opinion than yours is a communist, I'd appreciate it if you would put a return address on your hate mail. In my opinion that is one of the major ills of this society: you have to be either a capitalist or a commie. What about in between? I don't like certain things about this system, but then again I deplore Communism. Is it against the law not to be one or the other?

The name of this article was "View from the Left Field", not "View from the Left Wing". Since some of you drew the wrong conclusions from the title is now "View from the Centerfield", right in the middle!

Nickerson receives scholarship

Harvey J. Nickerson of Saint John is the first recipient of a

\$1,000 UNB scholarship funded by FENCO Consultants Ltd. Mr. Nicke-

rson, a fourth-year student in the UNB electrical engineering program is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David C. Nickerson of 430 Dwyer Road in Saint John.

FENCO is a Toronto-based engineering firm with offices in Fredericton, St. John's and Halifax. The company is funding annual scholarships at UNB, Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Nova Scotia Institute of Technology, to support students with an aptitude for applying engineering principles to practical problems.

In presenting the scholarship cheque last week in Fredericton, FENCO president Joseph N. Galli paid tribute to the academic and ethical standards of UNB engineering graduates with whom he has worked.

Economists to show stuff

The home economics section of the UNB division of vocational education will open its nutrition and textiles laboratories to members of the Fredericton Home Economics Society and the Fredericton Chapter of the New Brunswick Dietetics Association at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27.

The mini-workshop will involve tours, demonstrations and participation in experiments, to give local professionals an idea of the opportunities and programs available at UNB.

Co-ordinator for the event Susan Turnbull said that the gathering will give the UNB faculty members an opportunity to meet with home economists working in an almost endless variety of community settings.

