

David Miller

Hello.

The first 'mugwump' made an attempt to explain the purpose of that column. Actually, I can make a better claim to being a mugwump than can Miss Murphy. Conventionally, the word mugwump is used to describe an independent, especially in politics. Literally, 'mugwump' is Algonquian for 'great man'. While I have no pretensions to greatness, I certainly am a man and quite strongly independent. In passing, by saying all of this, I realize that I run the risk of opening up my Brunswickan next week and seeing yet another of those phoney synthetic words, i.e. muggerson.

I cannot offer a purpose for this column, written now over one and one half years since the last one appeared. Suffice it to say that it will contain things or ideas which have interested me. Most everything interests me. I like to stop and look, and, sometimes learn. I love God and Canada. This is my eighth year at University.

Kurt Vonnegut fans will know of a particular thesis which he develops in a book called 'Cat's Cradle'. Vonnegut describes a religion of sorts called Bokononism. Bokononists believe that humanity is organised into teams that do God's will without ever discovering what they are doing. In one's life there is said to be a continuum of people; past, present, and future who effect one's existence. Such a team is called a karass. Members of your karass can include people you hardly know or even dislike. A karass has, at any one time, two pivots called wampeters. One wampeter is increasing in importance while the other decreases. Wampeters can come and go and can be anything from a rock to the little red haired girl.

I bring Bokonon cum Vonnegut's ideas up because I have become somewhat of a convert. The past two months of my life have been exceptionally unhappy. That, perhaps is not very remarkable (except to me). However, when I look along the length of my karass (as far as I know it), it seems that there is an unusual amount of unhappiness around. It is reasonable to speculate that we share a negative wampeter, at the moment.

Bokonon tells us that you're a fool to try and understand the will of God. This idea certainly makes some aspects of life easier to take if you adopt it. On the positive side, the last rites of Bokononism include an expression of joy that you'll finally get to find out who in the hell belonged to your karass and who or what were your wampeters. Are you a wampeter?

Continuing on perhaps a depressing note, I thought that I would put in a plug for the value of listening to people.

When you loose someone you really love, I have found it possible to consider running away to Nicaragua to fight against corruption and tyranny or snuffing it. In recent years, I have been continually surprised to find out how many of the people around this place have considered, attempted or even succeeded at suicide. When I looked into this subject, I found that the suicide rate in Canada has doubled within the last ten years. That is pretty shocking. Most of the people involved are females between the ages of 20 and 30. The top reasons are loneliness, a feeling of social isolation, financial pressures and family pressures (in that order). The most common method is chemicals, mostly obtained from the family doctor.

By way of prevention, it seems that the best thing you can do for a friend or person around you whose behaviour has altered or who acts depressed is to listen to them in the positive sense.

In England, the suicide rate has gone down while ours has risen. The English attribute this to a well developed system of Chimo-like hot lines throughout their country. Again, the value of listening is brought home. Here on campus, we have access to many sources of trained listeners. These are Counselling in Annex B, the Health Centre in Tibbits East and the Campus ministry, to name some of the possibilities. If something really bothers you, it is really helpful to find a friend and talk it out. It does not make you less of a person in any way to talk to a counsellor or friend about a problem.

Equally, if someone needs to talk to you, take the time to listen. Life is too short not to.

Finally, I would like to go on record as saying that Marc Pepin's review of the recent Dan Hill concert was refreshing. Instead of trying to find something good in something he didn't like, he said that, in his opinion, a lot was lacking. And gave his reasons. Bully for him.

I think that Dan Hill's earlier work showed a lot of potential which is not noticable in recent albums. The point is, that not everyone has to like an artist, and accusing poor Marc of being a disco freak in an effort to account for his so-called lack of taste, is rather in poor taste itself. In closing, here is part of a letter published in the *Weekend Magazine* on the subject of Dan Hill.

"So Dan Hill's a nice guy, a mortal man in the end? So what? He speaks psychoabable. His lyrics mean about as much as "We do it all for you". Barry Manilow is positively profound compared to Hill. An overnight success is all Hill can be because his corny, sappy sentiments have no substance. Didn't Andy Warhol say something about everybody being famous for 15 minutes."

Was it him or his clone?

Why would a young California man sell his car and furniture to finance a letter-writing campaign to newspapers and radio stations across the country?

Bill Hathcock did just that, sending letters of a "clone invasion" to the media. But he can't explain exactly why.

About 400 campus newspapers, along with several hundred other publications and radio stations, got Hathcock's letter signed by the "Clone Invasion Forces". Hathcock used his real name in the letter, stating that he is a clone and the he plans to retaliate against humanoid discrimination against clones, such as clone jokes. He is writing, he says in the letter, because "Someone on our staff (we can't tell who, as we all look alike) accidentally erased 18 1/2 minutes of our computer tape containing the addresses of our clones, so we can't contact all of you to send you our battle plans." The letter requests clones -- and humanoids who seek "special considerations" -- to send a self-addressed envelope to the "enlistment center" (P.O. Box 2469, Santa Cruz, Calif. 95063).

The letter also gave a phone number: (408) 426-7141. When Collegiate, *Hedlines* called the number, we got a recorded message in a Conehead-like monotone promising to return our call collect if we would leave our number. The next day a normal-sounding Hathcock called back. He said he wouldn't classify his letter-writing spree as either a joke or an experiment. "I just wanted to see what kind of response I would get," he says. To date he has received over 100 letters ("A lot of them sound like they're crazier than I seemed to be

in my letter.") and has had numerous telephone interviews with writers and broadcasters.

The "astonishing response" prompted him to send a second letter to the same media list. "I'm just trying to give people

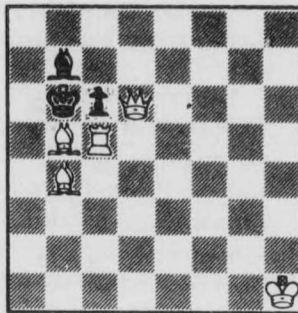
something to think about. Some people think I'm actually serious and others write back humorous responses."

But he does admit his project has some commercial possibilities. "I am thinking about writing a book on the responses I get," he says.

He has evidence that there might be a market for such a novelty item: in response to his letters he received three Clone-your-own-at-home-kits, each by a different manufacturer. (C.H.)

Chess news

By F. MCKIM



Gibson was awarded the title on the basis that his opponents had a higher cumulative score than those of either Hamilton or Mathers. A few other local players participated, Phil Branet had 4 points, Nathan Jewett - 3 1/2 pts and Blair Spinney - 2pts.

Provincial — On the weekend of Oct 27-29 there will be an open chess tournament in Edmundston. For more details see me at the club.

Club — Thomas Wray and Blair Spinney are tied for first in the club tournament with scores of 3 wins and no losses. The chess club meets Tuesday nights at 7:00 p.m., SUB Room 26.

PROBLEM #4
White to play and mate in 3 moves.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM #3

1. PxB/N!! (If white promoted to a Queen or Bishop, Black would be stalemated. If promoted to a Rook Black could play KxN followed by this event and new Atlantic BxP) Champion is Tom Gibson our own 1...KxN; 2. N-N6!! (This move club champion. Tom finished the stops Black from playing BxP) tournament with 5 wins and a loss. White responds to any black move Having an equal score with Tom with P-R8/Q mate or P-R8/B mate. were Robert Hamilton of Fredericton and Jim Mathers of Halifax. 1876.

World News — Karpov's lead has been cut to one game as Korchnoi won two games in a row. After 29 games Karpov has won 5 to Korchnoi's 4. Winner and world champion is the first to win 6 games.

Regional — The Atlantic Championship was held over the weekend in Saint John. Winner of this event and new Atlantic BxP) Champion is Tom Gibson our own 1...KxN; 2. N-N6!! (This move club champion. Tom finished the stops Black from playing BxP) tournament with 5 wins and a loss. White responds to any black move Having an equal score with Tom with P-R8/Q mate or P-R8/B mate. were Robert Hamilton of Fredericton and Jim Mathers of Halifax. 1876.

UFO sightings—fact or fiction

The success of *Close Encounters of a Third Kind* has spawned a great increase in UFO sightings. It has also prompted the re-telling of some of recent history's better sightings.

In a copyrighted story in the *Chicago Tribune*, Dr. Jacques Vallee, astrophysicist and author of five books on UFO's, recounts some of the outstanding UFO sightings, including this one.

On November 1st, 1968, a prominent French physician was awakened by the cries of his baby, whom he found waving excitedly towards the window. Looking outside, the doctor saw two disc-shaped objects with antennae giving off beams of white light. As he watched, the discs flew closer to the house, their antennae came into contact and the two craft merged into one.

The disc came closer, its shaft of light shining directly into the doctor's face. There was an explosion, and the disc vanished.

Perhaps even more amazingly, the doctor noticed immediately after the sighting that his leg, which he had hurt cutting wood, was no longer bruised and painful. In the following days, the remains of an Algerian war wound on his

right side also disappeared. But six days later, the doctor was tired, distressed, and had lost weight. A triangular red marking appeared around his navel. Later, his child's stomach was colored by

precisely the same marking. The man's war wounds never reappeared, but periodically, the triangular markings would appear simultaneously on both his and his child's stomachs. (Newsprint)

UNB Camera Club

The regular meeting of the U.N.B. Camera Club will be held Wednesday October 18, at 7:30 p.m. in Rm. 26, S.U.B. The program will include a multiprojector slide show with synchronized tape. This will be a good opportunity to observe how such a show is put together. Recently, a number of people have expressed an interest in closeup and macrophotography. If this is one of your fields, by all means bring any equipment you have, together with some of your

photographs, and let's have a general demonstration and discussion of techniques and results. A projector and screen will be available. You are welcome to bring any other type of photo as well.

In other areas, hopefully we can organize our darkroom sessions, and arrange some interesting field trips. This may be a good opportunity to try some new close-up techniques, while the weather is still fairly good.

LOCKERS AVAILABLE
The Student Union Building now has a limited number of book size and half size lockers available for rental. These lockers are for off campus students only, and can be rented from the Information Centre in the SUB starting at 1 p.m. Monday October 16th, 1978.

A \$5.00 deposit will be required for all lockers and upon return of the lock \$3.00 will be refunded for book size lockers and \$1.00 for half size lockers. Only SUB locks are to be on the lockers. If any other locks are found on the lockers they will be removed.