

# MUGWUMP

by Aime Phillips

All right. I've had enough. Whose idea was it to have Karaoke night at the Pub in the Sub on Wednesday nights? I've put up with it for weeks, but now I have no choice but to complain.

Every Wednesday night it's the same thing. Things seem fine, then it begins. 'It' being one enchanting musical arrangement after another...NOT!

Don't get me wrong. I have been to the Pub a few times and by all means, go and enjoy, but this poor excuse for musical entertainment is not, as one staffer pointed out, conducive to an academic (or journalistic) environment.

One of these nights, I plan to actually go down just see what these people look like, instead of listening to the distortions through the office floor under which the Pub is located.

"Oh, that's really bad. I thought that was supposed to be 'Betty Davis Eyes' but it's really 'Old Time Rock and Roll'." Those are actual words spoken seconds ago in the Brunswickan's office (Room 35 SUB).

And after the Karaoke is finished for the evening, the jukebox starts filling in with the six different songs it can play. Maybe it has the ability to play more than that, but two weeks past I swear I heard "Mysterious Ways" at least five times during the course of one night. What's wrong with all the other music? It almost makes it worthwhile to stay here after 1:00 am working because they have to turn the music off then.

In order not to upset our advertisers I should probably say something positive about the music. I guess it makes it easier to drown out CHSR, which is pumped directly into the office through speakers. Not that I have anything against the radio station... maybe I should just stop.

It's very difficult to write this every week. I find that I usually end up rambling on about myself. I like to think this is not because I am a completely self centered person. I just spend most of my time thinking of myself because I am trying my very best to graduate this year. Definitely no small feat. (graduating, not spending a lot of time thinking of myself)

Speaking of graduating, the Grad Class Committee is trying something new this year. I guess the 'Grad Class Meeting' thing wasn't working, so this year graduating students are going to vote through The Brunswickan, on ballots provided on the Student Union Page in this issue (page 28). This is in my opinion, highly irregular, but as the SU VP Finance and Administration pointed out, this way grads who can't make the meeting can still vote on the projects, which are also described in full detail on the Student Union Page in this issue.

Of course, I set aside an hour of my busy life to attend the Grad Class Meeting held on October 18, and I voted on a class project then, as did, according to a previous article, about 200 other grads, but I'll do it again just for democracy's sake.

At the meeting there were only three options for a project to vote for. The daycare playground idea was added literally at the last minute, and it ended up getting the most votes. Now the Grad Class Committee has narrowed it down to three projects again, having eliminated the project that received the least amount of votes. I wonder what they would do if we all voted for the SUB Expansion trust fund, which is the project that got out. How funny would that be! tee-hee!

Well, being the responsible journalist and loyal citizen that I am, I would never recommend such a thing, but I do hope that all the graduating students exercise their right to participate (again) in this decision making process. It would be a terrible thing to have to vote a third time because there wasn't enough participation or something, now wouldn't it? I believe the all important ballots can be dropped off at the Help Center, which is the office located in the old Orientation room, in the SUB, but if you're graduating I suppose you would know that. Be sure to vote properly, so that in a few months you can start dodging the requests for \$25 in good conscious knowing that the project you wanted wasn't chosen unanimously by the executive of the grad class - I mean students of the grad class.

# OPINION

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

## Let's save Russia

*Russia is not and has never been a third world or underdeveloped country*

by Kourosh Mohseni

For a prolonged period of time, Russia was a separated world, not a part of the so called civilized west. It didn't have enough ties to the west. Different history has given Russia a totally different identity. There hasn't been any nation in the world to give this much to the world of art, culture, literature and humanism as Russia has done. What used to be called the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has been the most generous nation of the history in her contribution to humanism. A country that suffered from a loss of 20 million human souls to stop Fascism in Europe as well as the entire world. Today there is hardly one historian in the west to agree that without the tremendous contribution of the USSR in the Second World War we could not have ended the war and stopped Nazi German from swallowing the world.

While respecting the freedom of individuals seemed to be of more concern to the west, now after the collapse of the empire, it seems to be of no significance at all. All they are looking at Russia is for a gigantic market that has or at least is hoped to have a high capacity of consuming the west's products. Have you forgotten those years, not so long ago, in 1980's no one was talking about the standard of life or the political prisoners detained in Siberia or the social injustice and corruption of the communist party, all we heard was Afghanistan crisis and the military competition of Russian arms in the hands of the Soviets and American arms being carried by the Afghan Mojaheds from Pakistan or some other neighbors.

The solution that west is seeking for Russia is basically the process of privatization, creating a system with free access to information. Regardless of how successful they have been so far, something in the planning process has been seriously missing. The fact is that behind all the new structure for the economy of Russia is the creation of a new middle class that never existed before and expecting the collapse of the labor class which is the majority of the society in a process. So on one hand we have this newly created middle class (I don't know how the west would have wanted to do it, perhaps by importing some thousands of Russian families that have been living in the west and by watching the turning down of the huge statute of Lenin in Moscow on T.V., have got so excited that they decided to go back home and save the country, probably by showing off the wealth they have been able to collect in the west, to economically poor Russian residents).

On the other hand, we want to get rid of proletarian so that the danger of another socialism and October Revolution is to the minimum. Haven't we forgotten something here, the labor class plays an important role in the economy and structure of Russia. Ignoring the power of labor unions in Russia is a historical mistake. The same view had brought a lot of difficulties to the process of unification of East and West Germany, if they have ever been unified. For those that are trying to write a new prescription for Russia here is some advice:

Russia is not and has never been a third world or underdeveloped country. Some of the economic patterns suggested for Russia are based on bringing everything from the west; resources, man power, technologies... (one should think we may as well capture the whole country!) If the west is looking at the economic liberalism and free market coming from Harvard School of Economics and created by Hamilton and Witte, one thing they have forgotten is to solve the contradiction of militarism and economic liberalism. Right now there are thousands of the former Red Army troops all over the Balkan Republics as well as the East Asian Republics, still controlling every aspect of a citizen's lives. The new system has promised the simple citizens of Russia, for example, the soldiers returning from Eastern Europe to become owners of land, houses, apartments and enterprises, while their job is still serving the army and watching the citizens of the other republics to build their free market and liberalized economy. What kind of free market for a country that used to be a super power for god sake is that, as if they are looking at a very poor third world country. Let's leave this country alone, they have been living under the Tzar empire for years, under the corrupted Moscow Communist Party for almost eleven decades. All they hate to have now is the presence of the army in their homelands while the west is cooking them a liberalized free market economy. Let's respect their struggle to free the country and homelands without pushing them to more separation and economic isolation. Let's save Russia.

### DO YOU HAVE AN OPINION?

Here's your chance

Opinion articles should be no longer than 1200 words in length and can be dropped off at the Brunswickan in Rm. 35 of the Student Union Building or mailed to: The Brunswickan, P.O. Box 4400, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5A3. **Please include your name and phone number with your opinion.**