

MUGWUMP

by one of Aime's favorite roommates

Mugwump? What the hell is a mugwump? For years I've read the column and for the last 7 months my roommate, Aime, has written the thing. Nevertheless, until a few days ago, I lived happy and content - obliviously ignorant to the meaning of the word "mugwump".

Without warning, however, my life changed. I couldn't eat. I couldn't sleep. I wasn't too concerned because I have no food anyway and I drink way too much coffee for anyone seeking more than 5 hours of sleep a night. My roommates didn't notice; they weren't worried. Yet, my condition worsened. I had no idea what was wrong; my roommates didn't care. I couldn't function. I felt like a TV commercial: I had fallen and could not get up. I needed something - anything. Maybe the Clapper or the Twist and Twirl would help I thought. They didn't. At my most feeble point, I think I even longed for the Ray Stevens Video. Yes, it was that bad.

Deteriorating daily (if that was possible), I finally realized what my ailment was. I simply needed to satisfy a quest. A journey to a land unknown unfolded before me. Spread out on the horizon was a vast expanse where my thirst for knowledge could be quenched, a place of magic and wonder that could solve all my problems, a promised land. As the days passed, I craved, longed and yearned for this domain. Once found, I knew my odyssey would be completed. The land awaiting me held the remedy for my increasing anxiety. The definition of "mugwump" lived in this land and until I visited I knew I would not, could not, rest.

My crusade began enthusiastically and... ended 2 minutes later. As it turned out, I didn't have to buy a ticket, gas, or fare. I didn't journey to an exotic land, just down the hall to my roommate's room to grab his Webster's. Party over. No road trip whatsoever. I barely achieved liftoff. Although he has a geeky name, Webster does have a descent "M" section. According to this guy, "mugwump" is 1. A republican who bolted the party in 1884, protesting the candidacy of James G. Blaine for the U.S. Presidency. As CANADA'S Oldest Official Student Publication, I doubt the Bruns modelled its column on this idiot. Web continued: 2. One who acts independently, he said. Success. Whew. Deep sigh. Finally, relief. My quest was over and I felt... deflated, disillusioned and pissed-off for wasting valuable time and mental energy.

I think, after careful contemplation, that "mugwump" is a state of mind. In my numerous years at UNB I think this state is one of bitching, whining and complaining. Don't get me wrong. I like states like this. I'm good at them. I don't even need to practise. It's easy, especially when you go to university. Mugwumps of the past have generally focused on the last week's worth of issues and complaints. I enjoy this approach. Aime usually follows this method as well but she's afraid of being hated and disliked by the campus each week. I'm not. So here it goes - my disgruntlements (and some kudos) based on the last week here at UNB.

- Why do profs assign essays that are only worth 10%? They know that no one puts in more than 10% worth of effort to do them....

- Hey everyone, there was a hockey Play-off Game Wednesday night at the Aitken Centre. How do I know? I was there. You weren't. Newsflash ya'all: The UNB Red Devils are in the play-offs and could win the AUAA's soon. Give them some support. As a Varsity Athlete myself, I know how it feels to look into the stands and see more than your parents in the crowd. I'm not one for "Rah, Rah! Go team!" but having friends and just some of the campus there makes quite a difference. I was shocked by the turnout Wednesday. I think there was 69 people there. This may be due to the fact that the AUC (in their infinite wisdom) decided to charge students \$3.00 to get in. WHY? Don't we pay enough just to go to school? Hey, guys, BAD IDEA. Wake up, take the hint. For the students who did attend, golf clap for you. How about those drummers high in the stands? What's with the AUC Security? They gave the rhythm guys shit for exhibiting enthusiasm. Apparently, some folks came to the hockey game to read or study or something. Getting pumped up and enjoying themselves wasn't part of their evening plans. Relax people. Students go to school to do more than read and write all day. To the AUC Security: do you have to have an ATTITUDE to work there? Just curious....

- Hey UNB, dial and donate to CHSR (your Campus Radio Station 97.9) at 453-4979. If they don't raise money, they die. No more music (of any kind) for me and you. Get it. Seriously, there is a program on CHSR for any taste or any age. They could use any funds (no matter how small) you got. Drop some coins in on your way to the Social Club...

- Speaking of music... UNB has seen some fine live music this year. Thanks to whoever is responsible - keep it up. The Spirit of the West show on Saturday was great. My only question is: why does the Ballroom only seem to be reserved for bands like Hotel California? Need I say more? The cafeteria is not really conducive to live music. I guess beggars can't be choosers...

- Is it true that UNB's tuition is increasing? By HOW much? Are you people crazy? Should a University Education be strictly for those with the most money and not for those seeking knowledge? Speaking of money... did you hear that the Gov't is trying to get rid of bursaries? Hello!? Clearly, no one in the Gov't ever had a student loan, right?...

Mugwump is depressing, no wonder Aime didn't want to do it this week. Pay attention out there, a lot happens every week.

No ideas but in things...

- a.j.m.

(p.s. I was the drummer in the middle, see ya at the next game.)

OPINION

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

Who gives a fu\$\$?

Violations of UN resolutions are, in many cases, not met with any action, let alone force.

by Bobby Majid

Anger, frustration, helplessness, pity.

I am a muslim and a student. I am from nowhere; born in Pakistan and raised in Canada where prejudice and ignorance *do* exist. I still love Canada though. It's scary being from nowhere. No sense of belonging and no sense of permanency. However, one's judgment is less clouded and less easily swayed when one has no ties to a nation.

Iraq.
A paper tiger.

Iraq's army was portrayed as a giant. Iraq became a worthy opponent for the American 'supermilitary' in the guise of the United Nations.

If one could look past the TV programs of the Gulf War showing the magic of hi-tech weaponry, one would see a picture of coverups, censorship and propaganda. The trashing of incubators from Kuwaiti hospitals was a hoax. The buildup of Iraqi troops along the Saudi border was a hoax. The biggest hoax was the strength of the Iraqi Army.

When America chose to act, it acted swiftly. The Americans sent more than 350,000 of their own troops in response to Iraqi aggression.

The 'incubator' story was used as a battle cry. The American military was sent to stop "Saddam" from killing innocent Kuwaiti babies. In the process, the Americans killed Iraqi babies, women and children. TV programs about this aspect of the war are few.

The Americans recently launched 2 more missile strikes on Iraq. The reason was that "Saddam" had to be forced to comply with United Nations resolutions. One of the violations was that Saddam would let U.N. observers into Iraq only if they honored the "No-fly" zone as well. The Americans fired 40 cruise missiles in one hour during the first strike at a cost of 40 million dollars per hour.

Bosnia and Palestine.

Atrocities!!!

Isn't it ironic that with all the report of ethnic cleansing, systematic rapes and killings, nothing is being done to stop the Serbian aggression? In fact, the Bosnian muslims have had their hands tied by an arms embargo imposed by the United Nations while Serb snipers 'pick' them off from neighboring hills.

The United Nations' mandate is only to get relief supplies to isolated villages. Bosnian muslims don't want food! They will only die with full stomachs. They want to defend themselves!!

The presence of the United Nations in Bosnia has become a handicap to the Bosnian muslims. An airstrike against Serb positions has been ruled out for fear of killing United Nations peacekeepers in the area.

What peace is there to keep?

The monstrosity and brutality of Serbian aggression has been seen first-hand by American doctors. The brothels, the gang-rapes and the prevention of impregnated rape victims from getting abortions are not a hoax.

Isn't it ironic that with all the reports of torture and human rights violations, nothing is being done to stop Israel's brutality towards Palestinians? In fact, Israel continues to receive financial aid in the order of 10's of billions of dollars.

The spirit of a people is being systematically crushed. The financial aid frees other monies to be used in the construction of settlements in the Occupied Lands. This is a violation of a United Nations' resolution. Israel is creating ghettos out of Palestinian villages and strangling the economy of the Palestinians. Before Israel, no occupier of the land ever *took over* the land.

Can the United Nations 'do the right thing'?

The Americans have the right to veto any resolution. Before a resolution is agreed to by the United Nations, it must first be acceptable to the Americans. Judging by current events, a country in violation of United Nations resolutions is *forced* to comply with those resolutions only if it is in the interest of the United States.

There are resolutions against Serbian actions and Israeli actions. However, violations of these resolutions are not met with *any action*, let alone force. Why not?? I ask myself, why not?

Does anyone else ask themselves, why not?

These series of events *must* affect Jews in particular.

Surely these actions disregard their plea of "never again". Surely these actions would heighten the resolve of Jews everywhere to end the cruelty?

Canadian, as well as American Jews have a strong voice in politics. When David Irving visited Canada, he was deported because of Jewish concern about his lectures theme. It is common knowledge that the Jewish Lobby is the most powerful lobby in the United States. Even more powerful than the National Rifle Association. Can they not use their influence to send forces for a 'just' cause or to at least lift the arms embargo?

A large ground force would, at least, stop the killing while serious negotiations could get underway. Or let the Bosnian muslims prevent the slaughter themselves by supplying them with arms.

Where are the Americans and where are the Jews?

I know that they can't be expected to solve *all* the world's problems but these problems are within their control. If there were an interest by these two large groups, some problems would be stopped, if not solved.

Maybe 6 million muslims have to die before it is labeled a "holocaust"? Or maybe "holocaust" is reserved for the explicit use of western Jewry.

Things are beyond my control. I can only watch. I can only write my opinion and feel anger, frustration, helplessness and have pity for some Bosnians, Palestinians and Iraqis.

But who gives a f--.