



**mugwump
journal**

by Mike MacKinnon

I was not aware of the popularity of the Byrds but the response received to the ad on the classifieds page in the last issue is a good indication. We received a number of petitions and personal letters requesting the Byrds not be removed from our pages. We would not do so intentionally but have run into a problem with the publishers, Star Syndicate. Because of difficulties they experienced in collecting bills they have decided to discontinue the line of cartoon.

Do not despair. We have photocopied all the signatures we received and sent them along with a letter to Star Syndicate to see if it is possible to get some back copies from five or six years ago. We can always hope.

Take note of the Comics section this week. We have included three possible new strips and would appreciate you people writing in and telling us which one you prefer. Send replies to:

Mike MacKinnon
The Brunswickan
Room 35, SUB

We would appreciate the response.

The general consensus is that our paper is about the same as last year but there were also people who thought we were worse than last year and of course a few thought we were better. Of all the people that filled in the survey only four had not seen the paper before this year. Here are some of the suggestions sent in:

Areas that should have more coverage:

- municipal politics
- intramural hockey reports
- sportsline
- cost of living
- off campus events
- student leaders
- speakers on campus
- poetry
- faculty events
- other universities
- political problems
- and of course The Byrds!

How to improve:

- Columns from other groups (eg. EUS)
- National sports standing
- upcomin for city entertainment
- funny viewpoint questions
- serious viewpoint questions (reminds you of one particular Aesop's fable)

- eliminate ADL and Mugwump (God forbid)
- The Bruns should pursue a particular cause
- invite students to submit their own writings
- do an article on Eccentric Professors of UNB

- stop picking on Bartlett
- less opinion
- more humour
- put in more Byrds
- keep up the good work
- get a proof reader
- keep sportsline
- get Ross to shave

Response was really good and showed that a lot of people out there are reading us, no matter how bad we are (or good for that matter.) We really appreciate the suggestion and all will be considered although some cannot be instituted until next year. (after all we have only three issues left, no two without this one.)

Some interesting things have been happening while we were on break. We have a new presidential candidate and comptroller. The candidate is Dr. James Downey and is the vice-president academic at Carleton.

Our thief appears to be getting braver. This time he just walked into the office with people around and stole a winter parka. Isn't anything sacred? Beware, we will be watching for the next time.

That is it for this week.

soundoff

MARCH 7, 1980 THE BRUNSWICKAN 9

Mr. Gaffney:

The original purpose of my writing those "anti-American" letters was simply to draw attention to the lack of objective journalism in the US media and the reasons for the lack of it.

The reason there is no objective journalism in the US concerning International/National political events is simply because the same multinational corporations who decide the economic destiny of our so called "free world" also happen to own the major TV networks, newspapers and "news" magazines.

Alright, you're probably thinking "Oh no, more commie propaganda", but let's come to an understanding. I'd rather live in Canada or the US than Russia since I believe in democracy not communism. Democracy with all its faults has a better track record as far as individual freedom goes or else I wouldn't be writing this letter. Communism in principle sounds appealing but when applied its goals seem to get perverted over time. For poor "third world" nations though it would be beneficial to have a communist government. Look at Cuba and China now, compared to what they were under "democratic" governments (Democratic dictatorships?)

One thing a democracy insures is freedom of speech. If I feel there are things happening in this country or other countries that I disapprove of, I should be able to voice a protest without having my name fed into an RCMP computer in Ottawa.

One thing I'd like you to answer is, what is the difference between a Russian puppet government and a US puppet government?

Now, the American excuse for control over countries such as Chile, Panama, El Salvador etc is that these countries are being protected against "communism". The Russian excuse for control over countries such as Poland, Latvia, East Germany etc is that these countries are being protected against "capitalism."

Now this is where US "ingroup-outgroup mentality" comes into play. Do you want a definition of the term "ingroup outgroup mentality"? It means, a tendency to

exalt one's own society while dismissing other societies not merely as different but also as inferior. The irrational feeling of ingroup superiority inhibits national self-criticism and self-improvement. People in whom this feeling is strong tend to see all criticism of country, however justified as unpatriotic or subversive. America in a nutshell, Mr. Gaffney.

American looks upon communism as despicable and sees Russian control over eastern European countries as criminal. But what about America's own dictatorships in Central and South America? Russia and America are both wrong. Human rights are non-existent on both sides. People are being jailed and tortured for their beliefs on both sides. If the people of Hungary rebel against Russian Control the US labels them "freedom-fighters" while if the people in Nicaragua rebel against US control they're labeled "communist insurgents."

That takes us back to the media question. We feel sorry for the Russians because they have to form their opinions by reading "Pravda." It's North American counterpart "Time" is highly regarded here yet it contains the same type of slanted propaganda. There are literally millions of self-proclaimed political experts running around North America. They've all been brought up on "Time" and newspaper and the evening news. Why is that we can laugh or pity those in communist countries for the one-sided news they are fed, yet we are fed the same crap. The people of communist bloc nations receive pro-communist/anti-capitalist news while we are fed pro-capitalist/anti-communist news. Neither side gets the whole truth.

You can't argue the power of the media in shaping opinions. If the media continuously presents a negative image of someone or a country, the populace adopts and accepts this image. 99 per cent of Americans hate the Ayatollah, yet if you were to contrast his deeds with those of the Shah, the Ayatollah would come out smelling like roses. The media can do anything it wants with the minds of the masses since the masses are basically ignorant. The multi-

nationalists recognized the power of the media and gained control of it. The media is a tool of the multinationals here, like it is a tool of the state in Russia. The only major independent news source left in North America is "Penthouse". Its owner Bob Guccione has refused to sell out to the multinationals. This magazine was printing stories about Iran, the Shah, Savak, the Ayatollah, Multinationals, Afghanistan, the CIA etc years before they became headline news anywhere else.

In February's issue of Penthouse, there is a story by a Mr. Ernest Volkman entitled "The Dangerous Meddling of David Rockefeller." Ernest Volkman is not a long-haired rhetoric spouting left winger, he is a middle aged well respected journalist who has contributed articles to such reputable magazines/newspapers as "Newsday, NewTimes, Politics Today and the Washington Post." I suggest to you Mr. Gaffney that you read this article and you can see how you have been a victim of a hoax along with the rest of the "free world." Not only does David Rockefeller hold all the cards in the Iranian situation he holds them for all of US policy making.

Your foreign aid defense of the US is even more naive than poor old Kevin Tennants. Who are you trying to kid with this "humanitarian crap"?

The US went to war in Vietnam simply to boost its economy, which is what it did until the end of the conflict. War is profit Mr. Gaffney. The recession after the war is only natural. The Petro-Chemical and munitions corporations made record profits during the Vietnam war and will do so again in the event of any future conflict. It is in the best interest of the US to keep the world living in a state of fear of a Third World War. As long as there is the threat of war, countries will continue to buy enormous amounts of weaponry from the US and the American economy stays healthy.

War is also beneficial to the US since it can move it with its "aid" at the end of the war and take over the economies of shattered countries. Japan, Great Britain, and West Germany are all examples of this. They have become economic satellites thanks to the strings attached to US "aid" after the second world war.

As far as you labelling me "left wing" I don't agree in principle since it is used effectively to silence critics of the "American way of life." Label your critics as "nuts," "Commies", "radicals," or "left wing," and the public will accept these labels and stop listening to what the critics are saying. To me "left wing" means non-conformist, individualistic and

open minded, which certainly is preferable to "right wing" which means conformist, indoctrinated, close minded and ignorant.

Andy Grigg

ATTENTION :

Applications are now being accepted for the position of Editor of the Brunswickan for 1980 - 1981. Please apply to the Editor Rm. 35 SUB by 5:00 pm March 7th, 1980.

Dr. James Downey, v.