

# MUGWUMP

# OPINION

by Lynne Wanyeki

Well, well, it seems that Canada has truly aggravated the Soviet Union... Why, we wonder? It appears that the Soviets feel that Canadians have no business supporting independence in the Baltic republics while trying so desperately to promote federalism at home. A double standard? I've that it before, I'll reiterate it now - politics is full of nasty little ironies. Wheeling and dealing, and giving in to the pressures of lobbying in one case to get support for an entirely different case. Notice that China is finally trying and sentencing all those who participated in the protests in Tiananmen Square? And that nobody's saying anything about it?

I live in a box on the surface of a bigger box. And when I open my eyes, I see that the bigger box contains lots and lots of little boxes. When I squint or don't really concentrate, all the boxes disappear and all I see is a beautiful little town with elm lined avenues, and wonderful old houses and fairly friendly inhabitants.

It's so easy to complain that there's nothing to do in Fredericton. As students we centre our lives around the university and accept Fredericton's surface tranquility (unless we're actually from here). But when we go actively looking to get involved in the community outside the university we realize that there is plenty of interesting stuff going down. The problem is that all the various communities - for theatre, for music, for art, for whatever, - have closed in on themselves. "Insular" is the term that immediately come to mind. It's incredibly frustrating, and eventually, we give up and leave. Or, we give up and form our own insular little circle of friends. Or we give up period.

Yes! Only one more week of classes before Spring Break. (OK, March Break - "Spring" is a bit of a misnomer). For those of you heading to sunnier climes, I hope you roast and peel and get the runs from eating too much tropical fruit. For those of you going skiing, I hope you break your legs from having one of those terribly annoying little ski-brat-type kids whiz by you. For those of you staying in town, I would sympathize, but I'm STUCK HERE TOO!!!

By the way, well done to the *Black Bears* for an incredible successful season, and for grabbing the AUA titles - yet again! And well done to the UNB *Beavers* for a damn good try. Congrats to Andrew Cole, swim coach for doing a great job on his first year here.

For those of you thinking of running for *Student Union* positions, the call for candidates has just gone out. Too bad, I was starting to quite like the group upstairs, despite their glaring blunders of the first term. But I shouldn't be nasty - they haven't ratified our budget for next year yet. Of course, if the unknown engineer-wanna-be-Brun-critic has anything to do with it, we won't have a budget next year.

But I won't complain - most of the questionnaires that have come back to us (yes, some people did actually take the time to fill them in and drop them off) have been quite positive. Quite apart from giving us an idea of what you want to see in the *Brunswickan* (or don't want to see), they provide each of us with healthy ammunition to support our case whenever someone yells "I can't believe you're going to print that!"

Have a good weekend!

## From the archives.

This week's opinion takes us back to 1962. The following article was published in the Editorial section of the *Brunswickan* on January 12, 1962. The issues dealt with in this editorial remind us that many of the current affairs that are foremost in the Canadian mind today have a very long history of development. Many things have not changed while others have. The sensitivity apparent in the following editorial reflects a quality of national unity that is wanting in many quarters today. There is no doubt that these issues will continue to haunt Canadian life for years to come, but it is refreshing to find useful approaches to important issues in older papers.

The second part of the editorial is a curious discussion about religion and morality among university aged youth. Could such a debate take place on this campus today? (Ed.)

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## RIGHT OR RIGHTS?

One of the most hotly contested motions at the CUP conference concerned the expression of "Disappointment" by the editor of Laval's *Le Carabin* over an editorial which appeared in the University of Toronto's *Varsity*. The editorial, entitled "House Divided" dealt with the growing movement for separatism in Quebec. The Laval editor, Denis Belleval, in a speech to the conference strongly inferred that the *Varsity* was evidently not aware of the facts as they existed in Quebec and referred to the description of the French culture in Quebec, described in the editorial as a "hold-over from another century". A motion was made by the University of Ottawa *Fulcrum* and seconded by the *McGill Daily* that this expression of "disappointment" be recorded in the minutes of conference - whereupon all hell broke loose. The motion was labelled by some papers as an infraction of the CUP rule not to express editorial opinion as a collective body and by another paper as a motion of censure "in a weaker sense". What had begun as a motion which concerned one particular editorial was expanded to include all editorials and as a result the uniqueness of this particular motion was completely veiled in the smoke of a "universal principle" disagreement and hence it was defeated.

What was forgotten was that this was a particular editorial on a particular subject and it occurred at a unique and crucial time, not only for Quebec and the rest of Canada but for the members of CUP, at a time when the unity of the English and French papers are striving for or should be striving for greater unity and understanding. The absence of the French language papers *Le Quartier Latin* (University of Montreal) and *Le Campus Estrien* (University of Sherbrooke) was eloquent testimony to the failure of CUP to attain this unity. It is rather obvious that editorials such as the one which appeared in the *Varsity* are not written with the aim of condemning. The *Varsity* maintained that it was within its rights in publishing this editorial under the principles of a free press. No one would deny for a moment that it was overstepping the boundaries of these rights but that does not necessarily mean that printing the editorial was the right thing to do, especially at this time.

However, for such busy people as student editors it is probably ridiculous to expect them to consider not only the question "am I within my rights in printing this?" but also the question "Is this the right thing to print?" and possibly even more ridiculous to expect them to have correct and detailed knowledge of the facts on which they are merely expressing an opinion. And so the only thing which we can expect are more irresponsible, blundering, blustering editorials ... and, Oh yes, we won't forget that it's alright, alright ... Ooops. I mean that they're within their rights!

## Whosit? Whatzis?

Does God exist? Was Christ the mortal son of God or is this a paradox? Did Christ arise from the dead and ascend into heaven? Is there a heaven? Is the Bible the Word of God or the testament of man? Are we to take everything that is written in the Scriptures literally - only some of it - where do we differentiate between literal and figurative translation of the Scriptures?

All these questions and many more will be discussed in the bull sessions at UNB's Christian Mission. Do you believe in God? If so, why? If not, why not? The purpose of this mission is not to save the souls of all the 'lost' university students in Canada, but merely to make them think about their beliefs. In a world of instability and rapid change it is necessary that each of us knows the answers to these questions. If we do not, then our beliefs are shrouded with a blind faith. We simply say that such and such is or is not so without knowing the logical reasons for it being either.

The Christian Mission will give the atheists an opportunity to voice their opinions, the sceptics the opportunity to question to beliefs of others, the believers the opportunity to substantiate or prove invalid the reasons why they believe, the disinterested the opportunity to cast off their veils of lethargy and take a stand with respect to their convictions.