

MUGWUMP

by Aime Phillips

Well, I'm busy, so here's Jamie for awhile.

Welcome to the first guest Mugwump of the year. I'm really busy, and I don't really want to write this either. I think I should warn you that I am not really awake, and that my writing ability is at a low ebb right now. If you want to see my writing when I'm awake, turn to page 9 and read "You, the Student Union and the Vision Thing".

Big News —maybe: The Paper Post.

As of this writing, on Thursday at 1pm, we have just heard rumours that the Paper Post, the Student Union's publishing company/graphic design company, is going to be shut down tomorrow. When I tried to verify this by asking the Student Union, they gave me...nothing, nothing at all. Mr. Burchill, your president, replied with glee and pride "No comment." and then added "Hey, that was my first official 'No Comment.'! I liked it, I liked it a lot." Don't like it too much, Eric, or we'll have to get our information some other way... and yes, that is meant to sound ominous. Yesterday, at their Council meeting, the Agenda we received listed a closed session portion of the proceedings. It would not be impossible for the coup de grace to have come during this closed door meeting.

Eric (the prez) wouldn't give any real comment, but from the way he said it and from the fact that he didn't outright deny the rumour or try to say he wasn't familiar with the rumour, he said that he couldn't comment, adding that perhaps after the Foundation for Students meeting there would be official comment... so stay tuned folks, this isn't over yet.

Would the Paper Post's shut down affect the students? I don't really know. I don't have any figures in front of me on how many students use it. I wonder however why the Programs and Services Review Committee didn't try to kill the thing in their report last year if it was going to be killed, but instead Council waited until the term was under way to terminate its existence (if they have), thus increasing the likelihood of disrupting students' lives. Just yesterday, the Paper Post was out in the Lobby of the S.U.B. with a table advertising their services, and today they could be history.

The Bruns is a somewhat torn, because we have a good working relationship with the staff at the Paper Post, and they're friends of ours. However, if they're losing as much money as they appear to be losing, it may be that they need to be shut down to stop them. Also, we are a little torn because many of us have always seen the Paper Post as an unnecessary duplication of services that should never have been started in the first place. The Bruns has Macintosh computers, a darkroom, a process darkroom, layout facilities, typesetters and a trained staff. The Student Union then bought most of these things for the Paper Post—but they bought less, so the Paper Post has to come down here anyway. If that isn't needless duplication of services, I don't know what is. The Student Union policies ban this sort of duplication, but I guess no one noticed, because they did it anyway. All sorts of rumours abound about why they, for example, bought Macintosh computers for the Paper Post and started it up, but since some of them would be libelous without proof, I won't go into it. Basically, it shouldn't surprise anyone if the Paper Post does die within the next few weeks, and I am reasonably convinced that it has/will. But I won't sound the death knell yet. It could be saved. For starters, you could restructure it and make it a part of a publishing company that actually is semi-self-sufficient, and efficient—say, Brunswickan Publishing Inc. But that's another column.

Hi- its Aime again. After Jamie spent all that valuable time what-iffing about the Paper Post situation, it turns out that the business is actually closing, as per posters noticed approximately 11 minutes after completion of this journal. It looks like the Paper Post staff isn't restricted by that same "No comment" rule that the Student Union is, because here's what the posters say:

The UNB Student Union has decided to close the Paper Post. Our last day of operation will be on Friday September 25th. Sharon and her staff would like to thank all those persons who patronized this service for the last 2 1/2 years.

By the way, I heard another rumour yesterday that the Student Union could have had April Wine for the open air concert but they decided to go with Frozen Ghost because they didn't think that anyone would remember April Wine. But it's only a rumour. That's not as financially debilitating as the Paper Post closing, but the news will probably break more hearts.

The Brunswickan's staff meetings are on Fridays at 12:30, so drop by and see what we're all about in person.

Before I go I would just like to use this space for my personal use and send a good friend of mine at home a birthday salute- sorry about the card (or lack of one).

OPINION

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

When will this nonsense end ?

"How long shall they kill our brothers while we stand beside and look."

- The late Bob Marley

by George Ato Eguakun

President de Klerk raised false alarm throughout the world with his famous hypocritical 'ALL WHITE' referendum. Somehow he succeeded in convincing some world leaders of the birth of a "new South Africa". During the referendum, anyone I talked to thought I was a doubting Thomas. Why? I have since long been very suspicious of the real intentions of the de Klerk government. Many of my good non-African friends have had the unfortunate privilege of withstanding boring lectures from me on why I refused to jubilate at the results of the referendum. Many were those who dismissed the unfortunate clashes between the ANC and the Inkatha Movement as a "black against black" issue. No amount of lectures could influence their preconceived ideas about the reality of the events happening in South Africa. Not even the staggering confession of a former "top notch" to the de Klerk's government of the involvement of the South African government in the perpetuation of violence in that part of the world could convince them.

Recent events in South Africa (I am referring to the numerous township violence's), really unveils the true nature of the "monster" the world is dealing with. When the news report flashed across the screens about the Boipatong massacre, I was not the least surprised. I knew all along that such skirmishes were inevitable.

But the worst of the massacres took place by the vandalistic agents of the South African security forces in Ciskei. The manner with which innocent protesters including teenagers and poor children were fired at reminds me of the Sharpville massacre. Looking at the present situation from a historical perspective of "massacres", my learned friend Big Brother Rex will agree with me that nothing has changed so far. The old guard (lets call him The Apartheid Diabolus), is alive and kicking except that this time around, his kicks are less overt.

The Ciskei massacre is the beginning of what is to come in the struggle for the control of the homelands. This is all because of the greater influence of the leaders of these homelands on their electorates. De Klerk knows this too well to allow the ANC to "destabilise" Ciskei, whose leader, Brigadier Oupa Gqozo is reported to have undergone a dramatic transformation from a populist leader to become one of the bitterest foes of the ANC. The fact that all the security forces in Ciskei are whites who trace their intelligence background to the South African Police explains why de Klerk immediately despatched his forces to Ciskei to protect it from the ANC. It was easy to harmonize his operations with the sympathetic Ciskei forces. God Forbid! The ANC must be stopped at all cost because if they succeed in de stabilizing Ciskei, Qwa-Qwa and Boputhatswana (other homelands) could come under ANC control. Hence the preparedness to use violence to stop a non violent peaceful march into Ciskei. Thanks to chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, KwaZulu is safe so far as the De Klerk government is concerned. Here the Chief has vowed to use his Inkatha Youth League to stop the ANC.

By the way, who said that Ciskei is an independent country. Be not be deceived once again by the so called Bantustan policy which enables the South African government to maintain that the Bantustan states are independent. In fact the only difference between Ciskei and South Africa is the former's name. Otherwise why should de Klerk move troops into that 'independent' homeland after the massacre and later call for a report. It is like Mugabe of Zimbabwe calling for a report on an event in Canada. How ridiculous!

As usual, de Klerk has come out with a face saving explanation to deceive the international community once again. Only God knows how many gullible minds he will succeed in defeating. His arguments are:

THE ANC MUST BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS PROVOCATIVE MARCH ON THE CISKEIAN CAPITAL OF BISHO. THE ANC WAS AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF BLOOSHED IN A STREET CONFORNTATION BUT WAS SO IRRESPONSIBLE TO WALK INTO IT. MOREOVER, THE MARCHERS DEFIED A COURT ORDER RESTRAINING THEM FROM ENTERING BISHO.

This accusation is untenable in that the ANC leadership has ensured non-violence in its mass action program so far. De Klerk should be advised to come out with further evidence to support his claim:

THE DEMONSTRATION WAS STAGED WITH THE AIM OF OVERTHROWING THE GQOZO REGIME.

I strongly believe that my grandmother who had no formal education in logic could have come up with such a distorting point granting the fact that Gqozo is an avowed enemy of the ANC.

By now men of little faith are questioning the usefulness of the mass action embarked upon by the ANC which has incidentally resulted in perished lives. I say it was a necessary evil. It must not be misconstrued that those lost lives are expendable in anyway. The mass action merely echoes as a matter of fact the much talked about demands of the ANC as a precondition for the resumption of talks. The action is only a consequence of the delay tactics being played by the South African government. In my opinion IF ANYONE WANTS TO GIVE PEACE A CHANCE THE ULTIMATE IS TO PREPARE FOR WAR. In this regard, the only feasible weapon available to the ANC is the masses.

In their desire to maintain power for the white minority, anti-ANC coalition's move are becoming frightening with each passing day. But the masses will not sit on the fence to engage in any form of inaction. The ANC is poised to resist these principalities with all its available resources, even to the last man. The late Bob Marley asked "how long shall they kill our brothers while we stand beside and look?". If these words are anything to go by, the obvious response to the violence strategy is REVENGE.

While the world looks on hopelessly while innocent black people are being gunned down ruthlessly, I wonder what its reaction would be when the day of vengeance comes. No matter what they do or say majority rule in South Africa will surely come someday to end all the "massacre" nonsense. Those crazy BALDHEADS will surely be chased out of the South African vineyards or better still have their "motorways" ripped off with heavy duty machinery. Believe me, it is bound to happen like a prophecy come true and we shall see who would laugh longest.