

## mugwump

## BY DEBORAH GENEAU

Hi Mom!

I wonder what ever happened to John Bosnitch's Investigative Committee that was supposed to be looking into the possibility of racial screening going on in Off-Campus Housing. Who is on this committee? What have they discovered? Is this issue going to be allowed to die so quickly? I see John has now turned his attention to the reestablishment of on and off-campus housing while leaving old problems behind. This committee (which I presume would be answerable to or headed by John) has had two weeks to come up with something. The results of this committee (if it indeed exists and there's been no evidence that it does) should be revealed regard less of those results. If the committee hasn't come up with anything - say so. I'm curious.

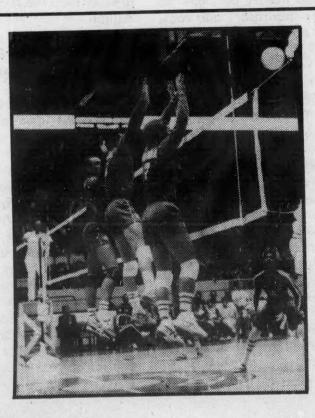
Next week is International Disarmament week and tomorrow is International Day of Protest. A demonstration will be going on at the Federal Building on Queen Street from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. against the Cruise Missile specifically and nuclear arms generally. All you Farmer's Market buffs can stop by on your way home. Be there or be square...

Captain Ka-Ching lives! He made his grand appearance last Friday - on the printed page and in person. A few of you may have been lucky enough to catch a glimpse of him as he made his debut last week. He was spotted in the Blue Lounge, cafeteria and flying through a window of the Bruns. Students at this university may rest easy tonight secure in the knowledge that one masked marvel has an undying dedraction to riddins UNB of crime and corruption. My hero!

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Why is it that whenever you're in a hurry to get to class, the people walking in front of you always walk slowly? And they will not let you get past them! Swinging doors are another key aggravation point. Since elementary school, we have been taught to walk on the right side of the hall dispicable in school but practical in university. Students here love to go through the **wrong** door-slowing down traffic and (if you are as impatient as I am) causing unnecessary irritation. People who don't watch where they are walking are another source of extreme frustration. I love watching these people walk into doors.

Bye, bye sports fans!



## editoria 8-THE BRUNSWICKAN October 21, 1983

Who becomes involved in disarmament groups and why? There are those who would have you believe that disarmament groups consist of naive and idealistic holdovers from the peace movement of the 1960's...hardly an accurate assessment of the movement then or now. One can safely state that all socio-economic strata are represented, as well as diverse ethnic groups and without question, many and varied political persuasions. The one factor that supersedes the differences in backgrounds, ages, philosophies and values is a concern which as individuals and groups they all share: a genuine fear for the future of our planet. They are, to put it simply, striving to make the world a safe place in which to carry on their daily lives and the lives of their children.

Occasionally, in the face of opposition, one fears that disarmament will not come within our lifetime; however, it is this very fear which essentially motivates us to continue to work for world disarmament - perhaps to ensure there are future lifetimes to be had. As F. Scott Fitzgerald said "One should...be able to see that things are hopeless and yet be determined to make them otherwise."

One particular concern we, as individuals or as groups, do NOT have, is which country is "first" or more powerful vis-a-vis the nuclear arms race. To borrow an analogy used by Newman: "If you and I are sitting in a basement and it's filled with explosive gas and you have 8 matches and I have 10 matches, who is first?...The whole concept of first and second gets murky." To carry the analogy further; if the USSR has 10,000 nuclear warheads and the USA has 9,000, the concept of first and second totally loses relevance.

The Hiroshim bomb destroyed an area of three square miles and resulted in the death of 142,000 people. At this point in time the USA and the USSR possess over 50,000 nuclear bombs, though only 300 are needed to completely wipe out both these countries. To put it in some perspective, the total destructive power of these weapons is equal to 1 1/4 million Hiroshimas. Difficult to conceive of death and destruction on such a scale, isn't it?

Deterrence appears to be the most commonly used argument by those who are proarmament. Simply put, deterrence is the ability to destroy an enemy totally and thereby frighten him so that he won't attack. If the superpowers dismantled bombs at a rate of 10 per year each, in 2,850 years each superpower would still have enough weaponry to destroy the world.

Considering these figures, the question "Why do we need more nuclear weapons?" should come to a thinking person's mind. Some would insist the defense program is, from an economic point of view, helpful, as it creates jobs. This argument is refutable, in that most other kinds of spending create more jobs per dollar than does military spending. Figures from the United States Department of Labor show the following numbers of jobs created by one billion dollars:

Military	15		76,000
Transportation			92,000
			100,000
Construction			139,000
Health			187,000
Education			107,000

Therefore, if \$10 was taken from the defense budget and put into an area such as education more than one million more jobs would be created that are not available on the market today; ergo, a cut in defense spending due to a freeze and applying those monies elsewhere would be better from an economic standpoint, not worse.

You may ask "But what can I do...I'm only one person." As Brigadiere Michael Harbottle, British career soldier and secretary of World Disarmament Campaign, said "Governments do not see that controllings the arms race is a matter of extreme urgency. It is the task of ordinary people to step up the the pressure on them until they do see.

As an individual you can educate yourself to the pertinent facts and issues; you can discuss them with family, friends and neighbours; you can write to your MLA's, the heads of governments here in North America, and the USSR and other countries...voice your concerns; your fears. Demand a cessation of the proliferation of nuclear arms; demand a freeze, and demand negotiations. You can join a group - there is a strength to be gained from belonging to a group which shares your convictions and ideals. In working with a group your individual work load is lightened while reaching and informing larger segments of the general public as to your concerns.

As a group you share common purpose; for example WORD's Statement of Purpose is as follows:

- 1. To educate its members and where possible the general public, on the political, scientific/technical, moral and philosophical aspects of disarmament issue.
- 2. To maintain Canada as a nuclear weapons free zone.
- To promote and suport the suffocation strategy.
   To promote the multilateral eradictation of nuclear arms.
- 5. To promote world peace.

Check with several groups; ask them what their purpose for existence is; if you find one that coincides with your concerns, join that group,...if you find that no one group shares your views exactly, form one of your own...there are a great many people who will be more than happy to assist you in this endeavor. And what better time to begin your involvement than now, on the eve of International Disarmament Week (October 24th to the 29th).

Fredericton is fortunate because the various groups are part of a cohesive whole: we are all basically working for the same ideal, the same goal - that of a more humane and hospitable world.

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