

# MUGWUMP JOURNAL

# OPINION...

By Melanie R Hawkes,  
with inspiration from Trevor.

You know what I hate? I hate it when I can't think of anything to write for Mugwump. I hate it so much I'm going to devote an entire column towards the word hate.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, hate is defined as 1) intense hostility and aversion; 2) to express or feel extreme enmity.

In Roget's College Thesaurus, we find various synonyms for the word hate. Here are just a few (six to be precise). Detest, abominate, abhor, execrate, loathe and get this . . . DISLIKE!

We may also note that the antonym of hate is love. Love also has several meanings: 1) strong affection; 2) to feel a passion, devotion or tenderness for; (and don't forget this one) 3) a score of zero in tennis. Speaking of the word love, did you know that in Finnish (the language spoken in Finland), there are 14 different words for love. Don't ask me to name them, I just know that as a useless bit of information.

Back to our topic here. You know what I hate? I hate it when you decide to go see Rainman at the Wednesday night movie (sponsored by Campus Entertainment) and someone in the row ahead orders a Grecco pizza and doesn't ask you if you want a picce. I really hate that. Oh well, I hate green peppers.

You know what I hate? I hate it when you go grocery shopping and it takes 2 people 15 minutes to find one item that costs about 86c. We went round and round and up and down looking for Shake'n Bake. I could have caught and plucked a whole chicken in that amount of time. Boy, I hate that.

And for all you guys out there, I'm informed that you really hate it when you go to a public washroom, and when you leave, the handle is wet. You think to yourself, "Now did the guy before wash his hands and not dry them, or did he just not wash his hands?" I really hate that for you. Oh, and enjoy your lunch!

You know what I hate? I hate it when you play pictionary and you're on an "all-play", and the other team guesses correct using your drawing-cheat!

You know what I hate? I hate it when you sit in class all day, watching the clouds roll by, and then 5 minutes before it's time to leave, it starts to pour with rain. You run all the way from Tilley to Head Hall and as soon as you get there, the rain stops. It never fails.

You know what I hate? I hate it when you go to a club and a guy you were two grades ahead off in high-school asks you for I.D.

You know what I hate? I hate writing about hate.

Next week's Mugwump: "You know what I Love?"

Word of the week: HATE - a feeling we should all try and feel less of.

P.S. I really don't hate that much, but I'd hate for there to be no Mugwump this week.

## JUST DO IT

I saw someone on campus sporting a T-Shirt with the words "Just Do It!" emblazoned in bold letters across the front. As I read this rather brazen statement a number of thoughts began suddenly to cross my mind. To whom was this undefined "it" directed, to what did "it" actually refer, and why was "doing it" being so unabashedly advocated, even suggested? I wondered whether the T-Shirt bearer was aware that a certain philosophy of life or "worldview" might lay not so innocently behind such a grand statement.

Bumper stickers abound with similar declarations. Truckers claim they do "it" best, though sailors, pilots, mountain climbers, even nurses, boast of unique abilities. Doubtful was that new competition had surfaced. Boasting neither unique skill, experience or adeptness, the T-Shirt slogan merely advocated indulgence. Be not encumbered by thought, caution, even hesitation: "Just do it!"

Is such a stance telling of our society? Perhaps, and maybe that is why I was little amused. In my earlier and somewhat more carefree youth, such a bold declaration might have struck a cord. Youthful exuberance is known to override moderation, even prudence, as caution is frequently thrown to the wind.

The slogan seems to advocate, if I have it right, less cerebral grappling and more blind leading by the emotions or passions. One simply ought to do "it", especially if "it" feels good. But what sort of "good Beat the Feeling" is suggestive, though rather vague. Its portrayal of lavish lifestyles and ear-piercing music contributes little less than elusive dreams and deteriorating hearing. Yet, many unsuspectingly succumb to its enticement, devoid of any critical assessment. And that "just do it" mentality triumphed again when I saw a mother give her one year old daughter a can of Coke to drink. I'm sure the one year old adapted to the taste, but I'm also sure her bodily "feeling" or soundness would have been better served with something less saturated with sugar and caffeine.

The "just do it" slogan came again to mind when I read about a 19 year old who died from the effects of a "drinking binge" with his friends at the University of Guelph. Not only was the amount of alcohol ingested by he and his friends staggering, but so was the response to one question at the inquest into his death. Asked if this amount was consumed on a regular basis, one friend without the slightest hesitation replied, "sure we drink this much, if not more". The "just do it" philosophy claimed yet another victim, one more vulnerable than even he was aware.

We would be naive to think, however, that the slogan was not also making some reference to certain free expression of our libidinal drives. Advocating more foreplay than forethought, it contributes to the impression that increasing one's tally of "conquests" bolsters the male image, that an evening devoted to intimate dining and dancing is incomplete without its appropriate "reward", and that date rape might be an acceptable ending to a pleasant encounter.

My thoughts suddenly came to a jarring halt. I wondered how many lives had not been permanently altered or scared because someone had succumbed to the easy and unconstrained "Just do it!" mentality. Little forethought; life-long consequences.

I have not yet seen a T-Shirt with the slogan "Think Before You Act!" That is common sense, albeit sometimes in short supply. Nonetheless, if a university is the place for thinking people, a T-Shirt with the slogan "Just Do It" would appear to be painfully out of place.

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