

EDITORIAL

Richard Hutchins
Editor - in - Chief

What is oppression? In our modern world it takes many shapes and forms, it is found at every corner of the globe and it will not soon disappear. I have chosen in this editorial to look at a plausible solution for South Africans from a different perspective, one not built on the principles of economic sanctions but one centering on the pedagogy for both the oppressor and the oppressed.

Paulo Friere, a brilliant Brazilian educator, developed a philosophy of education that is a pedagogy of liberation and ultimate humanization. It is a philosophy which has as its manifest purpose a desire to free man — all men — from the oppressive ambiguities which inhibit the development of what Friere terms, "man's ontological vocation".

In South Africa a situation exists whereby the dominating class seeks to perpetuate its stronghold on the oppressed by keeping them submerged in a "culture of silence" and thereby restricting any attempt for responsible revolution and ultimate freedom from the economic, racial, social and political domination of which the oppressed are victims.

Friere speaks of the role of "Conscientizacao" and its relationship with a liberative education. "Conscientizacao" is a Portuguese word, signifying the learning process wherein one "learns to perceive social, political and economic contradictions, and to take action against the oppressive elements in reality". "Conscientizacao" and the human potential for political deliberation, and action based on that deliberation must be nurtured and respected if we are to treat man as human. It is precisely this facet of the human potential which is denied by the oppressive elite.

In order for the blacks of South Africa to free themselves from the dichotomous structure of their social existence, they must struggle to regain lost humanity. "Dehumanization which marks not only those whose humanity has been stolen, but those who have stolen it.. is a result of an unjust order that engenders violence in the oppressors, which in turn de-humanizes the oppressed".

In South Africa the oppressors are incapable of recognizing basic human rights. Any attempt to soften their stance will manifest itself in the form of a false generosity born of a feeling of superiority. An unjust social order is the permanent fount of this "generosity" which is nourished by death, despair and poverty.

As Bishop Tutu has proclaimed, blacks will not gain their liberation through generosity, but rather through the praxis of their quest for it, through their recognition of the necessity to fight for it. Propaganda, sloganizing, ideologizing, and ultimately brain-washing, deprives man of his consciousness, thus rendering him incapable of making his own decisions. There must be a restructuring of the oppressed man's thought-consciousness.

The major problem confronting a pedagogy of human liberation is how to raise consciousness and thus enhance action. We must aid black South Africans in their pursuit of equality, but we must also place "education" as the ultimate priority in this process.

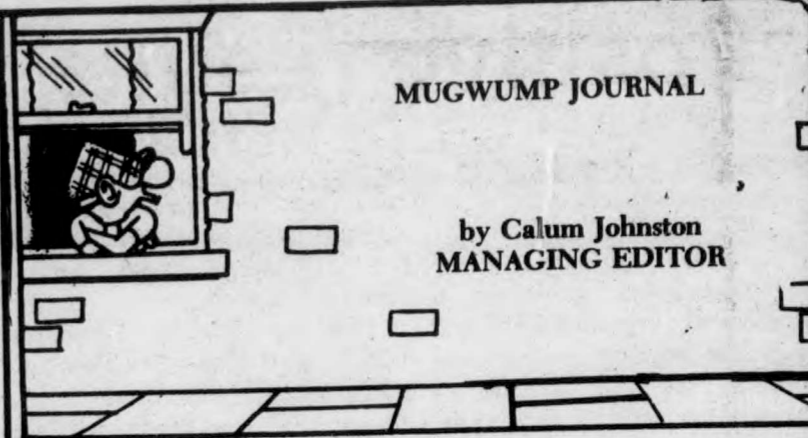
Change will not come immediately, nor is immediate change the necessary desire. If we continue to use economic sanctions as our "only" form of token support we will be fueling revolution, not constructing toward true change. Revolution now would only bring chaos, immeasurable destruction and death to many South Africans. What is needed is a massive effort to help black South Africans to help themselves. At the same time we must look at our own society and view the elements of oppression that exist at home.

Sanctions, although somewhat valuable, will be felt as much by black as by white; they will de-stabilize the whole country and will not aid in finding a just "solution" to present problems.

Apartheid is a horrible injustice— so too is poverty and starvation. We must take responsibility to aid all humanity in the pursuit of social justice but we must help people to be conscious of their plight through education, not strictly through token gestures of economic sanctions or political non-recognition. These are only temporary measures that satisfy those of us far detached from the people we are trying to aid.

I have expressed an opinion which is philosophical in content and long-ranging in its possibilities. I believe that sustained pressure on the white minority government is of value, it will inevitably force concessions of one sort or another, but these are short term concessions. Any real change will require a raised consciousness amongst all South Africans, black and white. Apartheid is a legislated form of racism. Racism will still exist until men can educate themselves and learn to co-exist in equality as well as legislation.

I support any efforts now being made to pressure Botha's regime but I must also remind us that native Canadians are legislated as equal— in reality where do they stand in our society? We must fight injustice but any real and true change will come through increased consciousness, not only a change in policy.



MUGWUMP JOURNAL

by Calum Johnston
MANAGING EDITOR

Greetings and welcome to the second Mugwump Column of the year. The only column in Canada where the writer gets to wump mugs. This week:I don't know, I just don't know....

Right now, it's Wednesday evening. 10:30pm, CHSR-FM is playing mega-weirdness and the Brunswickan is almost all laid out. Honest. We could finish it in about an hour and send it off to Covered Bridge Printing to be printed. This may mean diddly to you, but we're usually scrambling around all day Thursday. Hey, why am I boring you with this when I could be boring you with something more relevant. Onward, Simba!

Something of importance. Last Friday, we (being the Brunswickan editorial board and staff) received two letters. One from Shelly Nelson, the other from Heather Scott. Both resigned their respective positions as News Editor and Entertainment Editor. They sighted personal reasons that they preferred not to disclose as being the cause of their resignations.

Luckily, we were able to force, rather find, two staff members who were foolish enough to accept the positions. Both are difficult positions and require an enormous effort on the part of the individual. The two people who are going to attempt to fill those positions are Brenda Paul, taking over news on an interim basis, and Kaye MacPhee, also on an interim basis. To both of them, thank you for helping when we really needed it, and I hope they both stay on for a while.

Incredible is the only word I can think of to describe the turnout of staff to assist in laying out the paper. As the staff list will attest, a lot of people showed up to proofread copy, lay out the copy, find appropriate photos and graphics and give their opinions on various designs and techniques. Thank you all, and I hope everyone will continue to come by on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings to "put the paper to bed".

The feature this week is an old favourite. The glossary of UNB terms. Colin Cadogan and our Features Editor, Dave Mazerolle, wrote the new ones with some old ones thrown in for good measure. Any additions? Send them to the Brunswickan's Glossary, Rm.35, SUB, Campus Mail.

What did you think of last weeks Bruns? Excellent? A definite improvement? A crock of crapola? Why is it that when we do (what I consider) an above average issue we hear *nada* in comments. We make any errors, boom, we're deluged with "Hey, you perverts, you spelled antidisestablishmentarianism wrong. Gezz, don't you idiots know anything?" Needless to say, most of us here are kind of sick of this form of criticism. If anyone out there has any comment on this issue, positive or negative, I urge you to send it in. Possibly not as a letter you want published, but as a note to the editor explaining what you perceive the Bruns to be and how you feel it should be. Should the sports be in the front of the paper? Is the entertainment section too short? Do you miss Fucko the Clown? Does the Managing Editor ramble too much in the Mugwump Column? As I've said before and am likely to say again, it's your paper, it needs your input. How can the Bruns be what you expect it to be when we don't know what you want?

One final note, maybe two. First, congratulations to CHSR-FM for getting a renewal on their broadcast license from the CRTC. Gord Loane told me that there were no problems and they received a five year license which is the maximum that the CRTC will give. Good job, guys. I guess you really pulled one over on the government boys, eh? What did you tell them that you play. 24 hours of classical, jazz, retro-funk, and news? Hope you CHSR fascists fare as well in the upcoming Media Bowl. Remember last year when 7 little Bruns Barbarians wiped out the CHSR Czars "Bunnies of Death". It'll be a repeat performance on Sept. 28 when the Bruns and CHSR take each other on in football in the 14th(?) annual Media Bowl. The MB is sponsored by Moosehead Breweries, makers of brown bottles and cardboard boxes.

Last one. Thanks to both Beaver Foods and Moosehead for helping out with our first staff party of the year. Hopefully there'll be a celebration party after the Media Bowl.