

MUGWUMP

Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, especially if its a CHSR-FM bunny of death in the annual media bowl. I hear they've got a streak of one going. Cowabunga dudes!

Speaking of turtles, the two guys who created, this teenage mutant ninja multi-million dollar phenomom, namely Kevin Eastman and Peter Laird, are laughing themselves all the way to the bank. The whole thing started as a farce. They put out a one-shot spoof of a comic book called "Ronin", and people bought it, and then they bought the second issue. As P.T. Barnum said; "There's a sucker born every minute."

The Red Devils are gearing up for another season and from the looks of things though a bit premature, they should be playoff bound, which is more than the Red Raiders can say. While the Raiders should improve on last years win total, it won't be enough to get them into post-season play.

Speaking of hockey, ex UNB coach Don McAdam will be winging his way back to UNB soon, courtesy of the AHL Cape Breton Oilers as they face the Fredericton Canadiens, in several games this season. By now, many of you know that the Montreal Canadiens farm club inhabits the Aitken Center. It's been two years since the Fredericton Express/Halifax Citadels left, and what can I say, except that it's nice to see pro hockey back in Fredericton.

There's some good entertainment on campus this weekend, what with the SU putting on the Northern Pikes on Saturday and Barney Bentall on Monday.

Wait. What? you mean it's not the SU putting on Barney Bentall, but the Social Club. Well it could be. It seems that the SU is trying to take over the Social Club, lock, stock and beer-barrel. They've had this secret committee set up since the summer; well, maybe its not so secret now, since I believe it was briefly mentioned in council. Anyway, its headed up by this guy who runs an alcohol awareness program and we're not talking Doc. Chalmers here. Granted, many Student Unions run their own campus bars, but they start their own, not do a forceful take over on someone elses. Do you really want the SU to run the CHSC?

Parking: did you ever notice, even though the tow truck driver always says, "I'm only doing my job" they are always smiling.

The NBLC, or more commonly, as the liquor cops, yet another stupid regulation comes to light. Now, you can openly advertise alcohol in this province, but if you are holding a wet/dry event, such as the Northern Pikes concert in the cafeteria, you are **NOT ALLOWED** to advertise it as such. But its sold out anyway.

Speaking of Student Unions. Ours, in their infinite wisdom booked "The Pursuit of Happiness" for a Friday night coming soon. Darn, that's the same night as Red & Black. That's called programming. Rumor has it they're trying to change the date.

Varsity-Mania road trip to Mount A is tomorrow, wherein, our boys in red should have an easy win. Hint: why don't you VM guys organize a trip to the Atlantic Bowl in Halifax. Show this university how popular football still is. After all, our new President came from a university where football is very big.

ENBICON the premiere gaming tournament in Eastern New Brunswick is happening this weekend, so if you've never seen a role playing or war game being played, then drop by for a look. Who knows, you might like it.

Pepsi-Cola wins the rampant consumerism award of the week. Seen their new flashy can design? If you look close enough, there's three amusing letters on the can; S,E and X. They don't even try to hide it in the design. Now, we're all wondering what Cokes new can will look like in six months.

In 1986 it was a ground ball between first baseman Bill Buckner that ended the Red Sox's world series dreams. In 1990 it was Umpire Terry Cooney, who by ejecting Rocket man Rodger Clemens ace pitcher, gave the Red Sox an excuse. The case of the Bambino strikes again.

By Andrew Nolan

OPINION

The opinions found in Opinion are not necessarily the views of the Brunswickan

Gulf Crisis A letter to the President

The following letter was sent to President George Bush of the USA by UNB professor Matin Yaqzan.

I am writing to you as a private citizen of Canada, and hope that you will read this letter with care and a critical eye, as you would any serious communication.

It appears that as of today, August 20, 1990, the President of Iraq, Mr. Saddam Hussein, has won the first round in the Persian Gulf war of nerves. You will have to risk killing 2500 Americans, 4000 Britons, and about 600 Canadians, beside some armed personnel, if you were to attack Kuwaiti or Iraqi civilian and military installations.

Suppose that you do take the risk and attack, because according to some, in particular the Israelis, you must get ride of Saddam Hussein. Even if the adjectives used about the ruthlessness of Mr. Hussain are not correct, he could not be ousted without an astronomical loss of life, of Iraqis, other Arabs and possibly Israelis, if he was even partially successful in using all the weapons of destruction supplied by the countries that are now condemning him. Also, as a British reporter, Mr. Robert Fisk says: "If the Americans find themselves at war with Iraq, the Arab world will instinctively - for historical as well as cultural and religious reasons - give support to President Hussein. ... Foreigners have come to Arab lands before - and have departed in shame."

However, let us suppose that you are able to install new governments in Iraq and in Kuwait. Will that solve the problems in the Middle East and insure a continued cheap source of oil for the Americans, the Europeans and the Japanese? For how long? How long will the Americans protect the Saudi, Kuwaiti and other kingdoms from the winds of change? Unless you are willing to annihilate all of 100-200 million natives (the Arabs), and provide an opportunity for Israel to expand and establish new frontiers in the name of democracy, the problems in the Middle East will persist to haunt you and your successors.

The Arabs are proud of their past, their language and religion which governs much of their life and makes them relatively fearless. But they are not angels anymore than the Europeans are. They quarrel and fight among themselves just as the Europeans have done through the ages, and only recently killed 50 million people during the Second World War, in spite of their claim to "civilization". As an American, you are supposed to believe that all human beings are created equal. I presume that includes the Arabs. The vast majority of Arabs also want to live the material good life that the Americans are accustomed to, which they can now see on TV and in the movies. But they cannot, for no fault of their own. They have lived a frugal life through the centuries. They lack fertile lands. The riches that oil has brought is not getting to them. Only a small number of people are enjoying and squandering. How do you justify that the Saudi royal family should have 100 billion dollars and the Kuwaiti royal family 60 billion dollars while you get a salary of around \$200,000 per year? Why must an Arab forever feel and remain inferior to an Israeli or an American, a British or a Frenchman?

Oil is non-renewable resource. In a few decades the oil fields will dry out. How will Americans maintain their present wasteful way of living? Will the United States continue feeding a few million Israelis in a vast desert of starving Arabs? Israelis have been short sighted and have been able to force the American government to follow in their footsteps. They cannot see beyond the immediate and have not learned from their own history. *It is a sad commentary on the American government that, as Senator Fulbright said a few years ago, there is nothing that the U.S. Congress can do against the wishes of the government of Israel. You must try to get out of this bondage,* although I realize that it is not easy. The intellectual competence of President Carter was questioned for saying that the Palestinians deserved a homeland, and he was forced to retract. What President of the United States would send forces to force Israel get out of the Arab occupied lands?

Some Arabs are certainly conscious of their potential strength as a united people, but every attempt at unity is thwarted. Nasser of Egypt tried but failed. The Israelis along with the British and the French attacked Egypt in 1956 when he tried to nationalize Suez Canal. But for the foresight and humanity of President Eisenhower, they would have wrought havoc with their armed might. Mr. Moammar Gadhafi's dream of uniting the Arabs is still a dream. He is portrayed as a mad man and a terrorist, while your predecessor Mr. Reagan was the one who tried to assassinate him. Mr. Saddam Hussein may wish some personal glory, not unrealistic in his position, but he too appears to have the Arab unity as his goal. However, he is now faced with an armada with the fervor of the past Crusaders. The present boundaries are artificial; Iraqis are closer to Kuwaities than Floridians are to Minnesotans. As for the injunctions of the United Nations, they are routinely ignored by Israel and the United States. Why must Iraq be expected to respect them. *As an institution, the United Nations is outdated and needs to be reconsidered and reorganized.*

No matter how President Hussein is portrayed now, he has been an ally of the United States. He was aided and abetted by the United States when he attacked Iran and used the poison gas. He could not change into a devil overnight. The United States government should have no difficulty in bargaining with him across a table. *His suggestion to discuss all the Middle East problems is not unreasonable.* You must be willing to show some Christian compassion even though you may not turn your cheek. *You must not starve the Iraqis to submission, because it is cruel, and does not prove anything.* You must not ignore the Palestinians; their persecution is much more real than that of Kuwaities or their rulers, for whom your heart is bleeding. You don't have to fight a war with Israel to convince them that they are wrong in colonizing the West Bank and Gaza. They must free the Palestinians. In short, may I suggest that:

1. While you may maintain your vigil against any attack on Saudi Arabia, you must not blockade Iraq, without or with the approval of the United Nations Security Council, unless you are willing to blockade Israel on the same ground of occupying foreign land by force.
2. Let all the problems in the Middle East be discussed in the United Nations General Assembly, and follow its dictates. Let there be democracy in the United Nations.
3. You might wish to be the first President to persuade Americans not to waste non-renewable resources, theirs and others, and learn to live within their means.

While it may be painful to back off now, it might be much worse in the future, after thousands of Americans have lost their lives as in the case of Vietnam war. Try to be consistent and humane. Follow in the footsteps of Abraham Lincoln rather than Margaret Thatcher. It wasn't very long ago that you invaded Panama in the "national interest". Saddam Hussein is your comrade in arms. At least no worse.