

# Hanus speaks about the Backlash

by CHRIS MCCANNON

M: So what made you start the Backlash?

ETER HANUS: Basically Joe and I wanted to prove a point, two points. 1. We wanted to give an alternative view. 2. We wanted to prove that some people on campus only want one side presented.

M: That issue is....

ETER: We're talking about political correctness.

M: Is the Backlash attacking feminism?

ETER: Not all of our articles have dealt with feminism. There is a difference between attacking and criticizing. We're not criticizing an identifiable group; feminism is a political ideology.

M: What was your response to the petition?

ETER: They wanted to show offense to the Backlash so we would stop writing. I see this as a form of indirect censorship.

M: Were you going to have a debate with Vaughn Jelliffe?

ETER: Bruce Davidson suggested that we should have a set debate in the X-Press where there would be rebuttal and chances to respond. I procrastinated for a week about approaching Jelliffe and then I heard about the charges Jelliffe made on CBC radio, calling the Backlash "hate literature".

M: Why do some people think that Professor Wolf is secretly writing the Backlash?

ETER: Some people think that the writing style looks as if we couldn't have written it. Some people think there is no way that Joe and I could write it on our own. Another reason why they believe that Professor Wolf writes the Backlash is that one night Professor Wolf and I were talking in his office, his door was open and Vaughn Jelliffe walked by and was talking.

M: Do you have any regrets.

ETER: Not really...(pause) I regret that I didn't get a chance to write about Karl Marx in the Backlash.

ETER Hanus and Joe Murphy have their own petition in response to what is known as the Libby petition.

Peter says his petition exists only as a defense in case the Backlash was censored or forced out of print. The petition had 3 points and the third point was included because as Peter said, "Libby Whelan's petition was passed around in the Panther Lounge while people were drinking". The three points in the Hanus/Murphy petition are: 1. The Backlash does not promote hatred towards any minority groups or women and does not contain "hate literature". 2. "The Backlash" has a right to exist in the student newspaper. 3. We, the undersigned, were not intoxicated when signing this petition.

In related news, I went down to the Student Union in early March looking for the Libby Whelan petition. I had been told by Michelle MacCallum that it would be at the front desk. Yet it was nowhere to be found. In further related news shortly after the March 12th edition of the X-Press; two signs appeared in the main building, saying "Return to Sender. If you dislike the Backlash column then rip it out and send it to the Student Union". No one claimed responsibility for the anti-Backlash signs. It is unfortunate that on the same day a group of people in the pit ripped the women's page out of about 100 copies of the X-Press. It is unfair and wrong for these people to do that because the women's page had nothing to do with the anti-Backlash signs.

