

Reagan sets conditions for Third World

by Karanja-njoroge

Last week in Cancun Mexico a North-South Summit of 22 world leaders ended with no clear commitment to proceed with global negotiations on economic issues.

It was argued, however, that U.S. willingness to participate in such negotiations should be viewed as a major success for North-South relations.

Diplomatic language aside, U.S. President Ronald Reagan presented five conditions for global negotiations:

1. The agenda should include trade liberalization...improving the climate for investment in developing countries.
2. A "practical orientation" for economic solutions should be adopted by all participating countries.
3. The talks should "respect the competence" of existing international agencies.
4. Domestic economic policies must be reviewed by the negotiating body.
5. The talks should be conducted in a "cooperative atmosphere".

In other words, Reagan suggests that poor nations should be willing to deregulate private

investment in their countries in order to bring about economic prosperity. In the past, free market policy has proved to hurt developing nations more than help them.

Further, the poor nations are asked to "respect the competence" of the present international monetary system, a system which has completely failed to alleviate the financial subjection of the world's poor by the world's wealthy minority.

To sum it up, in Mexico Reagan told the world's 4 billion poor to go to hell.

It is worth noting that with the exception of host President Jose Lopez Portillo of Mexico

none of the 14 world leaders from the developing nations reacted publicly to the U.S. proposals.

Impoverished developing nations are left with two alternatives. They can drop their strident posture and go like the traditional beggar, hat in hand, suppliant, persevering, looking for a quarter from the rich nations. That has worked in the past. It might work again in the future.

The other alternative is for the poor nations to wage a protracted war against the rich nations and retrieve what they consider theirs by right.

Of course, militarily they

would be ignominiously defeated. But wars are not only fought with guns, tanks and megatons.

Poor nations could join hands to protect their wealth and common heritage against plunder by rich nations. Collectively they can bargain from a position of strength.

History has shown us that neither Washington nor Moscow hold the magic key to prosperity.

Where trade matters are concerned, the poor nations of the South can ill afford disunity. Regional cooperation among developing countries will in the long run be their salvation.

LETTERS

Influencer of future or shaper of today?

To the Editor:

B. Mancini and D. Allen wrote to you (21 Oct. 1981) to report the runaround that they received when they tried to vote in the provincial election. I agree that they were robbed of their vote by a bad law, and shabbily mistreated by election officials who should have known better.

I want to point out that the NDP did its best to explain the situation and to change it. Both Mike Coyle, NDP candidate in Halifax Cornwallis, and myself, NDP candidate in Halifax Citadel, issued press releases that were printed on the front page of *The Gazette* before the election describing the bind that students were in, and court actions being taken to straighten things out. Lacking the advertising funds of the Liberals and PC's, we could not afford to do more. Lacking the right to appoint enumerators we can't guarantee that it won't happen again in 1985.

I was a student longer than most people. As a result I repeatedly lost the right to vote, not casting my first ballot until I had reached the ripe old age of 32. But that didn't stop me from working as a volunteer for the NDP during elections. I found that the traditional parties could manoeuvre to keep me off the voter's list so long as I was a student, but they couldn't do anything about the fact that

each NDP canvasser usually pulls in thirty votes that would otherwise never have been cast. It's not the same as voting yourself, but you'd be surprised at the satisfaction it brings when the results are in!

I hope that Mancini and Allen will consider this alternative. Why settle for what they call "the influencing power of the future" when they can be the shapers of today?

Yours sincerely
Tom Sinclair-Faulkner

Catholic comments

To the Editor:

The past two issues of the *Gazette* have contained a number of comments on a somewhat unholy event sponsored by a certain student society.

Such an event does reveal a number of less obvious realities, not the least of which is its phobic character. Even with well intentioned organizers and eager participants such an event does reveal an enormous fear of responsibility, in particular the responsibility of treating the other half of the human race with respect and dignity. Some people are known to feel oppressed even by the idea of the responsibility involved in relating to the other half of the human race with dignity and respect. Such people will also

look with fear upon the possibility of mature relationships.

It is true that there is a certain permissiveness in our society which encourages the substitution of consumerism for the effort of mature relationships. But more important, there exists among some groups "exaggerated requirements" of what it means to be male and/or female. These "exaggerated requirements" contribute, not a little, to certain mentalities, which in themselves contribute their share to a decay of the moral sense of those so infected.

Moral decay of this sort is not a solid foundation upon which to build the future. This is particularly so for a future marriage and family; the basic cell of a healthy society.

Professor Luigi Volpicelli speaks of the right foundation for a healthy marriage when he says, "In no other experience of life, so much as in marriage, in order that it may be saved and bear fruit, and that the love which supports it may be refined and deepened, respect of each other's personality is necessary on the part of the couple: respect of her on the part of him, of him on the part of her. But respect means, in the first place, recognition of the fact that the other is a human being, and needs to feel such in his/her deepest autonomy. At the basis of marriage, in addition to love, physical attraction, an affectionate state of mind, there must be, in a word, this

vigilant feeling of the other's dignity." Without this noble sentiment, to love means only "an obtuse and selfish satisfaction with possession."

The unholy event is past. Something positive, however, can be rescued from it, if one learns what not to do in the future. If one will channel the abundant energies of youth into the exciting task of preparing for the future, not the least of which task is to learn to see with clarity the dignity of the other and so to learn to approach the other with true respect.

Sincerely

Fr. Joe Hattie, O.M.I.
R.C. Chaplain
Dalhousie University

Withers' brilliance and greatness slavishly lauded

To the Editor:

Congratulations to Paul Withers are certainly in order following his undeniably brilliant caricature 'Post Expos Shock' that appeared in the October 21st issue of the *Gazette*.

When most of us can merely sit and gaze unseeingly, and contemplate on what might have happened (the last out was **that close** to being a base hit!), Withers has shown that, as with most tragedies, a little comedy can be encountered if you look long enough and search deep

enough. I appreciate his bringing it to light in such a relevant manner since, to be honest, I have found little to laugh about in the aftermath of the catastrophe at Olympic Stadium. Well done, Paul!

John McNair

"Bash" bashed

To the Editor:

In response to the article in the *Gazette* last week concerning the Engineers' "bash," I would like to express my opinion. Although I am not a registered student at Dal, I do attend full time, an affiliate University and often patronize Dal's events.

I feel anger and disrespect for the individuals who took part in and/or supported (either financially by attending, or in planning and organizing) this degrading exhibition of human beings. For permitting such an event to occur without reacting to it so that any future repeat performance is deterred, Students' Council is also to be reprimanded.

As for the comments by present members of the Engineers' Society that the "bash" is used to initiate first year engineering students into its membership, I am sure there are other, more publicly accepted ways of accomplishing this. I would question the value of any society which would use a strip tease act to initiate its members.

Sincerely,

Gina Walzak

NASTY, BRUTISH, AND SHORT... BY TOM OZERE

