EDITORIAL

Tru-grit?

Prime Minister Trudeau's trip through Asia is being hailed by some as his farewell to the world. There are those who believe that Trudeau will resign as early as the spring of this year. That would present some interesting possibilities.

Everyone realizes that the Liberals, with Trudeau, probably would not be re-elected. Even Ontario couldn't be fooled this time. Without Trudeau, however, I believe the Liberals stand a chance. It's not so much the effect a new man at the helm would have on the Liberals but rather, what real dummies are behind the Tory federal machine.

Until recently, I was smug in the knowledge that I would vote Tory in the next federal election. When I say 'smug' I mean knowing exactly who I would vote for and knowing that I was one of millions voting the same way. Now, I'm not so smug.

To be honest, the Tories are an alternative to four more years of Liberal rule. But as an alternative, they may not be so wonderful.

Consider this: the Tories have men in their caucas like Gordon Taylor. He made the remark about Judy Erola, Liberal Mines Minister, to the effect, *"She has a nice body but too bad it's attached to her mouth."* I suppose that comment is understandable considering the man's background in Bow River, Alberta and the fact that there are only three women in the entire 101 MP Tory caucas. Understandable perhaps but also unforgiveable.

Also, in a recent *Macleans'* magazine (Dec. 13) Allan Fotheringham published the results of a survey taken at the Federal Tory policy convention last May. The survey was commissioned by the Tories and it's purpose was to discover the makeup of the delegates and what they wanted to see the next federal government, who they all knew would be Tory, do. The results were amazing.

It seems, our typical Tory delegate is male between the ages of 46-55. He is against any increase in spending on medicare, day care, post secondary education, family allowance, hospital care, unemployment insurance, job creation programs, and the poor. And he is also against increased job opportunities for women and minorities.

In short, it appears the typical Tory delegate is against any further advance in the social conscience of this country. According to this survey, the party should be aptly re-named, The Regressive Conservative Party of Canada.

That's understandable. They want to see the government hold the line on taxes. But holding the line on taxes at the expense of our social obligations and responsibilities leaves a bitter taste.

I'm not saying that everyone should now switch their vote to Liberal, NDP or even White Rhino. But don't vote Tory just because they're there. When the next federal election does roll around there should be a lot of close scrutiny given to the platforms of the three major parties.

The federal Tories may be better than the federal Liberals. But I'm beginning to wonder just how much better they really are or if they're really that much better at all.

Andrew Watts

P.S.

He holds his left hand over his son's eyes and raises the long well-used knife in the air, poising it for that final plunge. One plunge, quickly, for the steel in his mighty arm-sword will need but one thrust upon the young lad's frail body.

"Abraham, I am your God."

He slumps, exhausted with joy. It was an orgasm of consciousness, pulsating down rows upon rows of mankind.

Trust your impulses. Trust your impulses. TRUST — TRUST — TRUST — TRUST — TRUST — TRUST — TRUST — TRUST — TRUST — TRUST — TRUST —

Abbie Hoffman c. 1969

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Staff this issue:

Our regular managing editor went to the east. Newly annointed editor John Roggeveen took this opportunity to consolidate the platform of the Utopian Pragmatists for the spring elections. Martin Coutts drafted policies; Heather-Ann Laird set them to type; Martin Beales and Bill Inglee photocopied their little hearts out; and Jonas Ma collated their efforts. Nate LaRoi suggested the motto 'It's UP to you'; Peter Block preferred John Algard's offering -'Get it UP and keep it UP'. Gilbert Bouchard and Shawna Peets were nonplussed and left with a swift UP yours!

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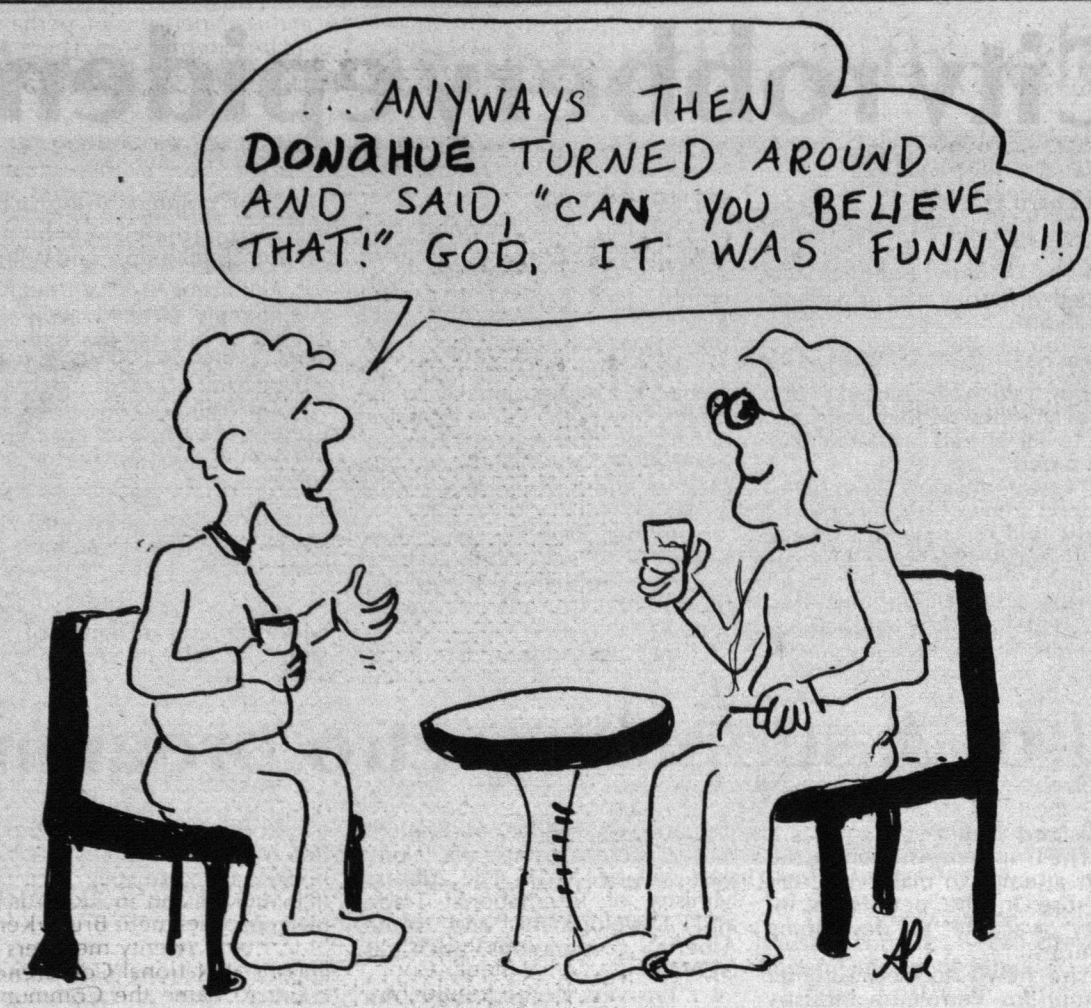

Item: Education students hold symposium.

« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Thoreau revisited, 1983

While not disagreeing for one second that the Soviet Union is an agressive imperialist power, it is absolutely ludicrous to elevate the United States to a position of moral superiority.

The U.S. proposes itself a democratic contry (sic), striving to create an atmosphere of world wide democracy (despite its dealings in Guatemala and Chile). Yet both of these countries share one basic common belief: that the only road to national (and international) security lies in military strength. Each side desires peace; but only on *their* conditions. Each side comes to the negotiation table already knowing that he will find something mortally inadequate about the other side's proposals. This will result in both sides emphatically telling their people that the "other guy" is the agressor, that it's the fault of the "capitalist imperialists," or the "Godless communist horde."

Ronald Reagan seeks not disarmament, but "disalarmament," desperately trying to convince his people that there is nothing to worry about, so long as we remain "strong," and are able to "deter" the enemy. Deterence (sic) is the cruelest confidence trick ever played on humankind. At one time, deterence may have been morally acceptable in an intermediary stage, leading to a more productive, secure solution. However, the risks arising from modern weapons are far too great to even considering the continued use of this theory (sic). Besides, no government has yet to even attempt any type of alternate defense policy.

Hence a different defense policy is needed, one not based on the deterence myth. And an alternate defense policy *does* exist, one which very few people are aware of, and which even fewer understand. This defence strategy is known as non-violent civilian-based defence. Briefly speaking, it involves training the *entire* population in the theory and practical aspects of non-violent resistance. Non-violent resistance is comprised of many strategical methods, with the two major methods being total non-co-operation and non-violent psychological subversion.

Total non-co-operation involves the absolute refusal of any type of co-operation with the potential agressor. The police, judicial system, schools, industry, etc., refuse to incorporate any changes demanded by the agressor, and continue to use all pre-invasion decrees. If this becomes impossible, all of the above institutions will close themselves down, thereby denying the agressor the one thing that he must have: submission. Even Hitler realized that pure brute force alone could never defeat a nation and its people. Only when the population capitulates psychologically, accepting that they have been defeated, will victory come for the agressor.

Non-violent psychological subversion involves all efforts being placed toward convincing military personnel (especially non-officers) that we (i.e. the non-violent state) pose no threat to them whatsoever, with the true threat being posed from within their own state. It will become incresingly (sic) difficult for the agressor's military to convince its soldiers that they stand for a just cause. In a short period of time, dissention will start to break out in the rank and file. The military (as it knows nothing else) will have no choice but to brutally repress this internal dissension. This will sow the seeds of the agressor's demise. Now all soldiers will begin to seriously question the identity of the *true* enemy, as the only violence they have witnessed has come from *their* side.

As in all "warfare," beatings, arrests, detentions, and quite probably, public executions would be used by the agressor on the occupied populace. However, the cost would be *far* less than that of even conventional warfare, while the possibility of a true lasting peace would be far greater. The true beauty of this system is that it is inherently democratic, relying totally on the voluntary participation of the public. This would involve everyone having a part to play in preserving their freedom, instead of some secretive military elite which demands absolute blind obedience from the public.

Critics of this policy may claim that it is unrealistic, that there is little or no historical evidence of it ever having worked. I would direct these people to Jean Sharps' *The Politics of Non-Violent Action* Volumes 1-3. In these three volumes Mr. Sharp has collected literaly hundreds of examples where non-violent resistance has enjoyed success, even under the most oppresive (sic) of circumstances.

One excellent case is that of the Norwegian resistance towards the Nazis during WW II, during which courts were closed and schools refused to allow Nazi propaganda into their classrooms, resulting in many schools closing themselves down and holding classes in the students' homes. This resulted in the Nazis leaving Norway alone in many areas which they had planned on controlling. No such similar success would have been possible by the use of violent means.

There are still many questions and answers to come in the study of non-violent civilian-based defence. Much research is needed and, like the policy of military defence, it can't suddenly be put into use when security is felt to be threatened. True peace *is* possible, there is another way. However the impetus must come from the West. If we really are so dedicated to democracy, freedom and human rights, then let us show that we have the courage to break away from the never-ending spiral of militarism and violence.

Bruce Grant, Arts IV

Racism and indoctrination

Israel is an aggressive, military-dominated state; it should return the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza to the Palestinians to live in as they like; and its invasion of Lebanon was an act of open aggression which laid bare the Israeli government's policy of Genocide against the Palestinians.

However, those things said, it is truly unfortunate that there was a confrontation involving the city police when Colonel Y. Levy of the Israeli "Defense" Reserves spoke on campus recently.

Zionist propaganda (which I don't take to represent Judaism) paints the Palestinians as murderers, terrorists, barbarians; anti-Zionist demonstrators should strive not to give such lies any apparent substance.

If Arabs and Palestinians on campus are to make any headway against the recent onslaught by Hillel and other groups (which shamelessly try to muzzle the campus Palestinians), they have a lot of work to do. Most of the students here have been subjected to years of indoctrination against the P.L.O. and the Arab countries.

This work is both tiresome and frustrating. But incidents like the Levy one only set back even further the effort to inform students and others about what is really going on in the Middle East.

Groups like the "People's Front Against Racist and Fascist Violence" and individuals like those who joined them in breaking up the meeting discredit the Palestinian cause. Since the "People's Front" also claims to be a left-wing group, its actions discredit the left as well.

In fact, in other cities the "People's Front" has used violence against others involved in the same