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ON INHERENT CONTRADICTIONS

What logicians term "an inherent contradiction" seems to be rapidly embedding itself in the policies of our "good neighbours" to the south.

On the one hand pious speeches condemning "thought control" and on the other hand not-so-pious actions simulating the condemned actions are beginning to make those Americans who think disgusted and beginning to make those who do not think—and they are always in the majority — so confused that they are quite unable to decide what is worthy of praise and what of blame.

While it must be admitted that "thought control" is impossible, control of the exchange of thoughts is both possible and practiced.

It seems, however, that when students get together to discuss Marx they are immediately suspected of stashing bren guns and small bombs under their beds to await the time of the revolution. In fact, the theory of dialectical materialism maintains that the order of the universe is such that change is brought about by a series of small actions which lead to a sudden violent change. A case in point is the boiling of water where the water becomes hotter and hotter and then, suddenly becomes steam. Society, Marx maintained, changes in exactly the same way. It is difficult to see where guns and bombs enter into the theory.

Marx, however, has become inseparably associated in the minds of people today with the applications of his theory by Lenin and Stalin. It does not follow that the same pattern must occur whenever the theory is applied.

While there is probably some justification for the condemnation of conditions behind the so-called "iron curtain," the fact that control of thought exchange is practiced somewhere else is surely no justification for its practice at home.

Latest contribution to the inherent contradiction is action of two eastern U. S. colleges in suspending "Karl Marx Societies." In most universities Karl Marx, as a philosopher and an economist, has a very distinct place in the curriculum. At UBC the problems raised in the theory of dialectical materialism are discussed in several philosophy courses. In fact the philosophy student who had not given some thought to the question would be extremely hard to find.

Even if the students in those two eastern colleges had resolved to repeat, in their entirety, the actions of Lenin and Stalin, it is difficult to reconcile their suspensions with the commonly accepted conceptions of democracy—unless, that is, one regards democracy as essentially capitalistic in nature.

But suppose that one did conceive democracy as being linked with capitalism. Would it be of any avail to make martyrs of Communists? Has history shown the making of martyrs to be profitable to the makers—or to the martyred? Most often the Martyred have profited.

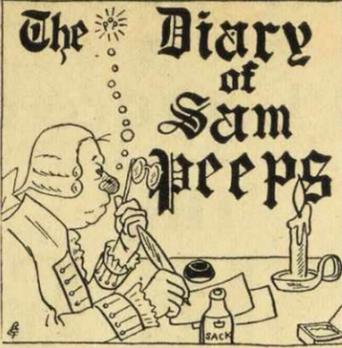
If then, the suppression of Communists is going to benefit the Communists more than the suppressors, some other course of action would seem to be indicated. The only course of action possible is to attempt to show that capitalism is essentially better than Communism.

BASKETBALL AND BLEACHERS

Yesterday new basketball stands were installed in the Gymnasium. For the first time adequate provision has been made for spectators at Dalhousie's basketball games.

These new stands were obtained at a cost of approximately six thousand dollars. To assist the Council in paying off this debt, which must be done within three years, it was agreed to charge a token fee of ten cents per student. Such a sum is negligible when compared with charges made to witness other forms of sport, and yet basketball is one of the two major sports at Dalhousie.

With Canadian football, basketball should enjoy the full support of the students, especially since this year's team shows such definite promise of league supremacy, with a majority of players from the team which went into the Maritime junior championships, last year.



Sunday, October 23 (Lord's Day)
Up early, and to the Wets and Swimmers Church, where I did hear a most enlightening sermon. Most glad to see there Argo Drawee, whose soul is in need of such cleansing thoughts, were ever a soul in need. This same Drawee, in company with one Herkishimer Z. Wickeder, did compose a naughty song to be sung by the scholars of Studlee, and both are now in great need of repentance.

Leaving the church, I did walk in company with Drawee to Studlee, where I was much pleased to see the construction of a new building in progress. But beside it was a new walk, on which I stumbled, the steps being narrower than man was ever intended to walk upon. Here I wrenched my back, and am resolved to write a letter to the Editor of *The Spectator* (early edition) in order that all others may escape my fate.

Feeling much in need of refreshment, to the establishment of the Sour brothers, who are still vending the beverage called tencentcoffee. They have added an innovation to their sale of this beverage . . . I did find a charge of five cents on my bill for the use of a spoon in the tencentcoffee. They are most sly in their quest for an honest dollar, I think!

Then home to my wife, who has told me that I must spend every Lord's Day with her, and later to bed with a headache.

Monday, October 24. Praise God, I am a free man, again, and can come and go as I please. First to the college on the hill, where I did find great preparations under way. The scholars are soon to joust with a group of rascals who go by the name of "Appleknockers", and are much excited. Under the able guidance of one Lightert, who is always excited, they do intend first to travel to the homes of these "Appleknockers", where they will apply a concoction called "War-paint" and go into action. Feeling my duty to my wife, as I do intend to travel with the scholars to witness the event, I returned home to ask that she come with me, but she declined, much to my relief. I am told the "Appleknockers" can provide fine feminine company, and I am tired of my wife, anyway.

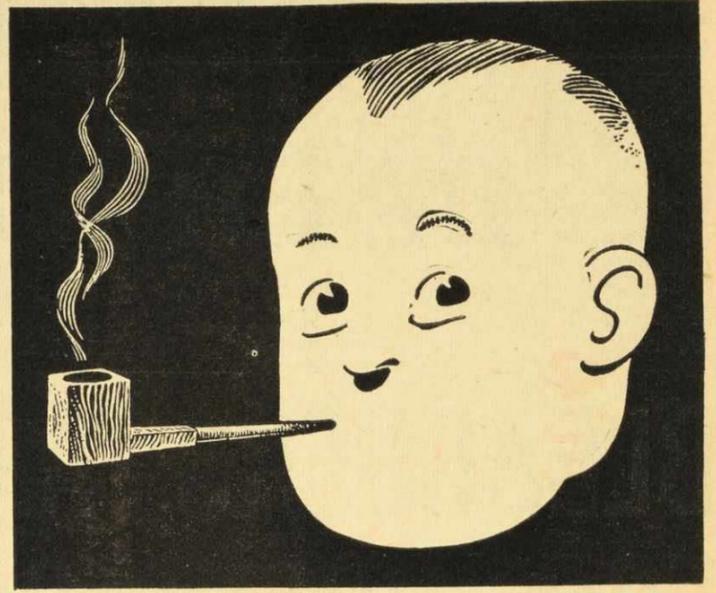
Setting out from home again, with a much lighter heart, to the place where the legal scholars gather, where I did find a meeting in progress, under the guidance of Shoulders Cherhome, a man of great invention and ingenuity. I am told he is about to invent the railroad. At the meet, he did attempt to put into office a great companion, Hander, by name. He did accomplish his trickery by erasing the name of Hander's opponent, but some assembled there were even more ingenious than Cherhome.

The meeting over, I did fall into the company of a certain Ol Bacchusacks, who is a leader among the legal scholars. He did conduct me to gambling den near Studlee, wherein he is earning money for the support of his dear old grandmother in a card game, which affects to imitate the sport of Kings. Having lost my allowance for the week to that knave Bacchusacks, to home with an empty purse and stomach.

Tuesday, October 25. Arose hurriedly, having overslept, and wishing to be in time for a tea at Marmalade Hovel, which is an institution on Studlee. There I did meet one Confessor Graypork, and fell into discussion with him con-

(Continued on Page Three)

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