

After the gold rush

Most prominent newspapers and magazines have done something during the last month concerning the coming of the Eighties, and forecasts have ranged from optimism to dire pessimism.

One thing all agree on, though, is the fact that in the next decade, the established world order will take a lot of beating. The Iranian revolution is not an isolated event, but only the beginning of turmoil that will emerge as an expression of anger and frustration.

Conflict is arising everywhere; in South America, Indochina, Africa and the Middle East. It's no surprise that the complaints are usually similar, if not identical.

The people of the world that North America chooses to refer to as the "unwashed masses" or the "teeming millions" are not going to put up with the complete and unfair domination of their nations by American and European profiteering interests. They are not going to allow non-democratic governments to be installed by the C.I.A. or General Electric. They are not going to work for subsistence wages in General Motors factories while the cars and the immense profits are taken home.

While we sat back and allowed the United States to take over the lion's share of the world resources and rob smaller nations blind, we were trained to think that our biggest problem was snow removal from the streets in winter.

But we won't have the luxury of ignorance much longer. Those who sneer that Chile or Cambodia or Iran is not our business, that what is happening there doesn't affect us, are being proven wrong already. The families and friends of the Iranian hostages are paying the price of a society's greed and complacency. And what's the most common response to Iran? Let's bomb the hell out of them.

Okay, so what are you going to do with all of the other countries of the world? Bomb them all? The world-wide anti-Americanism is not based on mere biases and emotions; it's based on what Americans have done to the people and land of countless nations. It's based on the attitude that America is good, that they have a right to drain a country for all it's worth and then leave the remnants behind, that our heated garages are more important than feeding the majority of the world's population, which is starving.

The overwhelming feeling I have is that we are all going to be forced to take an active interest in international events, and start demanding that the poor of the world are given assistance, and not merely used for our benefit. Our standard of living in western society has not evolved because of more intelligence, ambition or ability, as many like to think, but because we have systematically stomped upon the rest of the world. Those who dismiss the Iranian people as religious fanatics have a lot to learn.

And the Eighties will provide them with more than ample opportunity to learn it all.

Work is rewarded

With the arrival last week of the Vietnamese people that the Students' Union will be sponsoring, the work of the SU Refugee Committee is almost complete.

Chaired by Ed Bell, the committee has done an excellent job of raising funds and preparing for the refugees' arrival. The committee had a lot of problems to overcome, not the least of which was interference from Edmonton's biggest embarrassment, Jack Pickett.

But with well over \$5000 raised through a variety of activities, the committee has proven its mettle. Congratulations to vp external Tema Frank, chairperson Ed Bell, and all of the others connected with the Refugee Committee.

And, to the Vietnamese family, welcome.

Gordon Turtle

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Second Wind

by Mike Walker

The pre-Christmas abortion controversy in the Gateway's comment pages brought to mind an interesting question: Do pro-abortionists support abortion in the firm belief that the fetus is not a human being, or does the humanness of the fetus not matter to them in the formation of their opinions?

I had always believed the former to be true, leaving it to me as an opponent of abortion merely to build a strong, logical case to prove the humanity of the fetus. I assumed most human beings shared my reverence for human life as the most fundamental human right. If pro-abortionists could be convinced that the fetus was human, I thought it would logically follow that they would no longer support abortion.

However, I have come to realize this would be a completely futile exercise.

Both David Marples (Nov. 27) and Suzanne Bizon (Dec. 6) mention the question of the humanness of the fetus. But both brush it aside without even attempting to deal with it. Marples relegates this question "to the realm of philosophy," obviously not caring whether the philosophers ever return with an answer. Bizon leaves it to the individual mother to answer. Neither advances any kind of solution.

Marples' and Bizon's opinions, and discussions with other supporters of abortion have led me to conclude that for many such people it is of no importance whatever whether the fetus is human or not.

Why? The sole and obvious reason is a complete disregard for human life. Simply stated,

these people place no value on human life. It is worthless in itself.

So, of course, even if the fetus were accepted as human, the value of its life, measured against the hardship imposed on the mother by pregnancy, would mean nothing. This explains how pro-abortionists can ignore the question of the fetus' humanness altogether and concentrate on the woman's rights as the only consideration involved.

Not only do I find this way of thinking repulsive, but its implications could spell the doom of western civilization. For life is the lowest common denominator of the entire human race. If it ceases to have value, the human race ceases to have value.

I can't believe this view of life to be prevalent. However, complacency among the masses can breed frightening results. At the risk of being unoriginal, I point to Nazi Germany. A handful of morally bankrupt men who valued human life at nothing led the entire German people to accept as reasonable and necessary the murder of six million Jews.

We all profess to be horrified by the extermination of the Jews. Yet millions of unborn children are put to death each year without even addressing the question of whether they are human.

This callous attitude toward life would be outrageous if it weren't so completely discouraging. Civilization is sinking into a mire of selfish, disgusting emptiness. Is it possible to arrest this trend?

Cambodia - feed and fight

I must confess to being disgusted by the feature on Cambodia in the December 6th Gateway.

"Starving people will not think of politics; they will support whichever government can feed them." If so, it is urgent that we do not allow tyrants to take unfair advantage of a famine situation to take away the rights of its victims.

"Only with the installation of a regime not hostile towards Hanoi will the North Vietnamese leave Cambodia." There is one, and only one, essential characteristic that the government of Cambodia must possess. That is that the government in Cambodia should be the government that the Cambodian people would themselves choose if they were free from all external pressure and coercion.

The Pol Pot regime was unusually cruel and barbaric even for a Communist regime, thus the West indeed should not recognize it. There are, however, small forces of anti-communist guerillas in Cambodia: there is a faction to support.

Nevertheless, while we are engaged in a world conflict with the Soviet Union, the people in Cambodia are starving, the Heng Samrin government is in effective control of the country, the U.S. is not about to involve itself in another Indochinese war, and food aid to Cambodia will not help the Soviet Union to divert resources to military purposes because starving children would not have much effect on the blood-soaked tyrants of the Kremlin anyways.

Thus there is indeed a case for food aid to the Heng Samrin government. With one hand . . . while we try to overthrow it with the other.

However, there are hungry people in many, many countries around the world. We do not have the means to completely solve this problem: thus, until we do, it is not wrong to allow minor matters, such as politics, to determine who gets the first chance at our aid.

However, it is quite correct that we will not get people to like us by interfering with aid because of honest disagreements in foreign policy. Where the people

of a Third World country feel that the U.S. is making a mistake somewhere, say Vietnam, and have told their elected representatives to say so in the U.N., although we know they're mistaken, making threats in such a situation betrays a poor understanding of democracy.

Direct acts against our interests, on the other hand, should provoke a reaction. Such as the refusal of the government of Bangladesh to fully cooperate with Japanese authorities in bringing airplane hijackers to justice (with the result that Japan eventually capitulated, and the hijackers plus murderers released from Japanese jails found refuge in Algeria), or the interference by India with the political activities of Tibetan refugees in seeking liberation for their homeland.

Coffee conspiracy

I was dropping a load in a fourth floor Cameron cubicle on Friday morning when I heard whispering going on next to me. My suspicions were immediately aroused when I noticed five feet and a peg in the adjacent stall. I'm liberal but this was too much for me. Being naturally inquisitive I paid close attention to the goings on. Now I don't usually write in to this pinko faggot rag but I felt this information is of grave concern to my fellow coffee-loving students. Some subversive organization intends to blow up the coffee-machine in CAB sometime Thursday morning.

Can you imagine the bloody havoc reeked upon the usual morning gathering of Commerce students and the potential disastrous effects upon the staff in the cafeteria below?

What if this is not their only target? What if the destruction spreads? Is there a safe coffee-machine on campus? If all the coffee machines disappear, where will we turn for our between-class fix? Our fine campus will run the risk of the emergence of a black market dealing in coffee. Bearded men in trench coats will approach desperate students with a hushed, "Wanna buy a cup of Colum-

Our relations with France are not dominated by its oppression of the Breagnes . . . that country actually has a law that parents must give Christian (!) (read French) first names to their children, nor are our relations with Turkey dominated by the fact that the few Armenians left there cannot emigrate without leaving their property behind, monuments to Armenian culture there are relabeled, and in general the country is not plagued by the same sort of national breast-beating that exists in the German Federal Republic. But if the West cannot even act rationally in its own self-interest, that it fails to act on its principles is not overly surprising.

John Savard
Grad Studies

bian...Mocha...Mellow Roast?"

I hope that the university administration will heed the demands of these despicable individuals and protect the students' supply of this irreplaceable commodity so that it is still available at prices below the world level.

Andy Cuthbertson
Commerce 4
P.S. Please treat this with the gravity it deserves.

Abortion for irresponsible young women

Suzanne Bizon (Gateway, Dec. 6) gave me a valuable insight about a woman who wants to roll in the hay with her boyfriend and then kills the evidence.

And here I thought that the concept of growth toward maturity and therefore a desire to take responsibility for self and society was inherent in the concept of university student.

John C. Van Damme SCJ