

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Polish progress

Is Poland ripe for revolution?

At times, when we face the atrocities committed in the name of the 'Soviet socialist state', it is all too easy to say 'there is no life, no hope in Poland. The totalitarian state is ingrown and festering - in such a case there is absolutely no chance for reform.'

This all leads to the conclusion that revolution could be no worse than what now exists. This is the pessimistic view: Polish Communism is so awful that violent insurrection against it is justified. It is the view of most right-wing/conservatives, like Willmoore Kendall, who would say that survival is less important than truth, justice, and freedom: it is the philosophical foundation of the blunt cold war phrase 'Better dead than Red.'

But survival is a pretty strong instinct. For some it is the only lasting thing and Truth is, at best, relative. One such 'relativist' view is Pierre Trudeau's: his misunderstood and belittled stand on Poland's troubles - that *anything* is preferable to revolution, civil war, and likely Soviet invasion - is the view many of us hold. That is, if we can appreciate what bloody and unnecessary terror revolution incites, then martial law starts to look positively reassuring: it provides peace a measure of, but with its corollary - order.

Both these views, the rigid conservative and the unprincipled liberal (if you will), are unacceptable. One says nothing can be done; the other says nothing should be done. Somewhere between the two is a unique perspective by an individual who cannot so easily be categorized: Aleksander Solzhenitsyn.

He says 1) do not interfere with Poland (i.e. do not send them aid and do not give them loans - ever, but particularly when they are down); let them solve their own problems, the inevitable result of which will be 2) "(they) will have to reduce (their) military preparations...and feed and clothe (their) own people. And the system will be forced to relax."

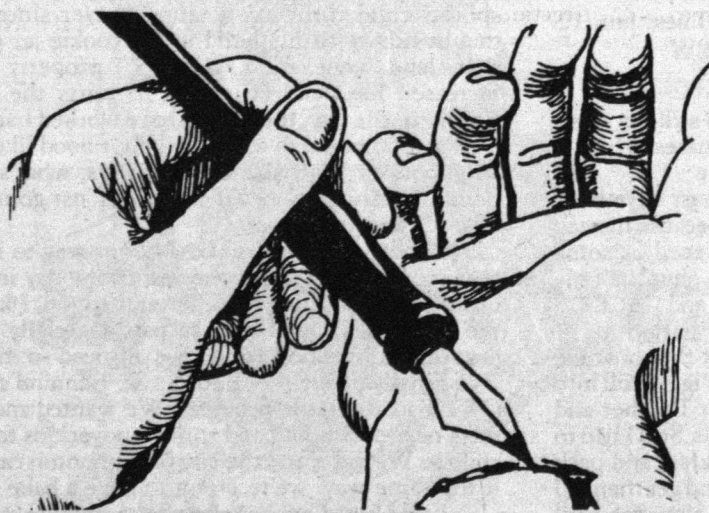
Neither the conservative or liberal camps are quite so optimistic about the effects of sanctions. Both expect that sanctions would only worsen the already severe scarcities inside Poland, spark widespread revolt against the state, and ultimately, force a Soviet invasion. Neither presumes a 'relaxation' would result.

But neither recognizes two things: that the Soviet Union is much weaker than most people think and is unable to strike with bad old Stalinist flourishes; and that the *principle* of free enterprise is making a strong bid in more and more 'socialist' economies.

Look at Hungary. Its own troubles led to revolution in 1958, but since then, with cautious progress Hungary has become the model east-bloc nation. The elixir was free enterprise, a proven formula, but thought by some to be heresy in the Marxist state. Following Hungary's lead is Bulgaria, which is readying to privatize parts of its economy. China is doing it; so too is the Soviet Union itself. All of this is proof that the Soviet socialist state has become powerless to thwart the inexorable forces of capitalism.

Solzhenitsyn, optimistically, calls this 'relaxation', with a firm end, though it was not caused directly by western sanctions. Yet, sanctions will help speed up a difficult resolution; if the Poles are patient and if Solidarity does not try to overthrow the government (again), then it will likely be a peaceful resolution. And then we will all be able to relax.

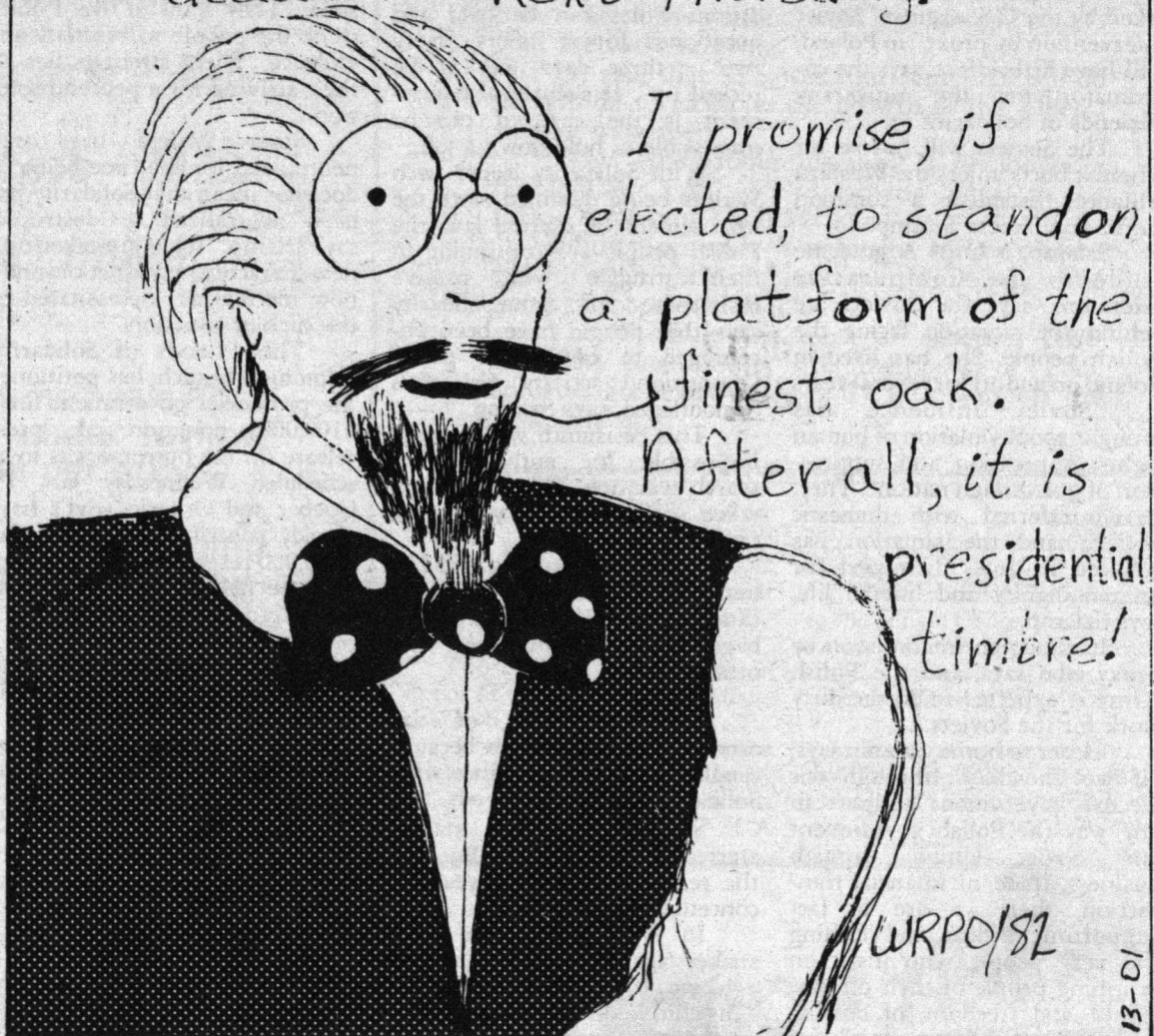
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Item: SU general election nomination deadline next Thursday.



I promise, if elected, to stand on a platform of the finest oak. After all, it is presidential timbre!

WRPO/82

13-01

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Demand to annihilate sexism

The major aspect that sets Engineering students apart from other students on this campus, is that they refuse to accept the "societal change" described by Mike Ekelund in Tuesday's Gateway.

Yes, Ekelund, Queen Week was, at one time, an event supported by the University during campus week. But have you, or any engineering students ever stopped to think why this "tradition" was allowed to die a long overdue death?

This society is advancing towards a better way of life. Yet certain groups seem incapable of dealing with the necessary changes being demanded by so many people. I am at a loss to understand why engineering students still belong to this ever dwindling group.

The way in which women are viewed and treated in society is the issue of concern. No one cares if you choose to have treasure hunts or any other little game. We want to know, first of all, when you boys are going to grow up and accept women as people?

The outdated, stereotyped view presented in a supposedly "comical" piece in the *Godiva* says that "girls", as you call us, are stupid, greedy, emotionally unstable and unable to control their spending habits.

The only qualities apparent are our undulating curves and our commodity value, which makes us useful for exchange.

Do the women engineering

students care that their classmates view them this way?

It sounds like those boys in engineering are just a little bit frightened of women who think of themselves as mature, equal human beings.

On the subject of kicklines, I think Ekelund has said it all in one word: "ogling". If anyone ever thought that those women were up there for their dancing talents, they now have it from an authority. Tits and ass; that's what you are up there for, women. I don't know why you even bother wearing clothes.

It occurs to me that if it were called Find a Frog Week (or something equally catchy) and there were contest to find the most "French" looking person along with skits depicting the French as the butt of many jokes, there would be an uproar.

If you described the French as stupid, greedy, vain and emotionally unstable, you surely would be silenced. You would be silenced by those who are French (including me) and by those who will not tolerate such discrimination.

It may be that a moral majority group would protest the slander of both French people and of women, but it is naive to think that this is the group behind the objections to your sexism. Many people dismiss your behavior as the usual childishness, but others, in increasing numbers, are getting the pick of seeing your choice cuts plastered on every inch of CAB.

We women at this university are not here to see other women being judged as acceptable or unacceptable by the quality of their facial structure and their breast and hip measurements. We are not here to applaud a group of boys who refuse to grow up, ogling at a group of women who refuse to see how their own actions affect other people.

Finally, who is this Lord Godiva anyway? I don't recall ever seeing a nude man parading around on a white horse on our campuses.

Suzanne Bizon
Commerce IV

A Women's Centre Member

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject, regardless of how much you normally run off at the mouth. The fact that you are hot under the collar doesn't impress us in the slightest. Also, spastic, disjointed and semi-intelligible writing is pure migraine to read, and should be saved for your professors, who deserve it. Thirdly, the statement "I think" is just a theory, and considering the evidence - 3,877 predictable letters on every subject - a rather dubious theory. Finally, we reserve the right to hack, chop or shred any windy, illiterate or defamatory correspondence. Furthermore, if you persist in sending us such diatribes Gateway special assistants Vito and Ernie will take whatever extralegal measures are necessary to ensure that you bother us no more.

Staff this issue: Will Moran, Don Millarn Michael Skeet, Kent Blinston, Geoffrey Jackson, Peter Jarvis, Matt Moralis, Garnet DuGray, Uli Speiss, Martin Beales, Peter Hammond, Jordan Peterson. And whoever said that the Gateway does absolutely everything possible to make working on the paper more accessible to the woman student interested in the field of journalism. The "Gee gosh golly there is no sexism on our paper. As long as women don't get too uppity they're welcome on our staff."