

En Garde!

by John Roggeveen



Here's to you, Peter Pocklington, Jesus loves you more than you will know. Woe. Woe. Woe. There's a myth in our society about wealth and intelligence. You've probably heard it: "If you're so smart, how come you ain't rich." Although I'll agree that wealth and intelligence are correlated, it is undoubtedly only a moderate correlation. Wealth is more highly correlated with ruthlessness and unscrupulousness, certainly.

Nonetheless, the myth persists. As a result of this myth, there are people who are far over-rated in their abilities simply because they possess great wealth. Such a person is Peter Pocklington.

Here is a man who has made a fortune. But, what has compiling a vast sum of cash have to do with governing a country? Not much at all. Pocklington made his money in Alberta during the boom. He would be great as Prime Minister if only he could move Canada to a boom area of the world. But, alas, things aren't so simple. How do you move a country? You surely don't just pick it up and carry it. And, where are you going to move it to anyway? There aren't any boom areas as far as I know. No, not even the States, Reagan lovers.

The States, ah the States. I understand — we don't move the country to them, we let them come and take it from us. Of course, I agree they will provide jobs. When times are good and we don't need any jobs. As soon as the times get tough here, they'll take off to big mama USA and leave us. Just when we do need the jobs.

Pocklington has many other neat policies in store for us when he gets elected. They are nice, simple policies. The kind the average Canadian can understand. This is why he is so popular with many average Canadians.

Pocklington has many other neat policies in store for us when he gets elected. They are nice, simple policies. The kind the average Canadian can understand. This is why he is so popular with many average Canadians. Unfortunately, his policies may be simple enough for average Canadians to understand, but average Canadians don't know a whole lot about anything political and they know even less about things economic. How many citizens could tell you anything about monetary or fiscal policy?

Take Pocklington's 20% flat tax policy, under which people would pay 20% of their incomes (above a certain minimum income) as tax. It looks good at face value. But, Pocklington's plan, if you think about it and know a little bit about economics, will provide a *de facto* oligopoly to the rich. This, of

housing, sewage, water, and electrical systems. In 1980 a national literacy campaign was undertaken with support from the churches. Health care was made available to all, immunization programs were taken against polio and measles, emphasis was placed on hygiene and public health education, and more doctors were trained at universities.

Great advances were made in the issue of women's rights. The Sandinistas guaranteed women's rights and equal pay. Prostitution and sexist advertising were banned. Women's custody rights were extended, as were men's family responsibilities. Nicaragua had traditionally been a sexist society and women had been among those most oppressed under the Somoza dictatorship. In the Sandinista movement women took leading roles in both the military and the government.

Nicaragua is not a "typical" Marxist state. A mixed economy is in operation with 75 per cent remaining in the private sector. Multinationals operate in Nicaragua, private property exists and the transition to socialism is envisaged as a slow and peaceful process. All sectors are represented in the government and the wide variety of political interests represented has allowed a flexible practical approach to economic development.

In spite of the fact that Nicaragua retains a large private sector in its economy and that it has consistently attempted to form friendly relations with the U.S., Reagan continues to portray the Sandinist government as a dangerous Communist threat. The U.S.-backed economic, propaganda, and now military war against Nicaragua is a cynical attempt to crush what has become a humane model for socialist development in Central America.

Lobotomies for progress

In response to Anne McGrath's letter of March 29 which was graced with the heading: Just Plain Disgusting, I proffer the following. Instead of banishing the Magazine of Understanding to some refuse receptacle, make *The Plain Truth* required reading for all first year students. If, after a whole winter session of mandatory, monthly, evangelical abuse of the intellect, the eager little undergrads have still not learned to laugh at the reprehensible gibberish of Armstrong et al then they should be treated to SU-funded lobotomies and have one-way tickets to some right-wing meatball strong-hold (like the campus YPC W.C., the Alberta Legislative Buildings or a certain Ellipsoid (sic) Office) pressed into their hands (filled already with nasty little slivers of the True Cross). Worry not, O perspicacious peruser, for this psycho-physical relocation (surgery & bus pass) would not constitute anything approaching torture — for either our grinning Reaganoids — "hot damn, ain't modern med'cin just amazin'" nor their hosts — imagine how the vision of a herd of incontinent, bible-thumping brownshirts (their newly-enfranchised chests heaving, their ballot pencils sharpened) could vitalize the cholesterol-choked ventricles of the likes of Peter Lougheed or Ronnie-baby-deity-in-residence at the Mecca of monopolistic capitalism; that's fascism, for you starry-eyed economists out there.

course, will result from the rich possessing the wherewithal, namely money, to participate in expensive yet lucrative industry. Possession of such oligopolies will lead to the rich getting a larger proportion of profit per dollar invested than the non-rich who haven't the money to compete in expensive but lucrative industries and must, instead, compete in non-oligopolized, less expensive and less lucrative industry. Ergo, the rich get relatively richer while the non-rich get relatively poorer.

Pocklington also points to Hong Kong as the mecca of free enterprise. Yes, I agree, Hong Kong does well. But, that is because the rest of the world's countries do not have true laissez-faire economies. If the rest of the world's countries did, Hong Kong would be a lot worse off than it is now. A lot worse off. And the rest of the world would be close to its level.

Obviously, Pocklington has been reading too much Milton Friedman. Free enterprise is good, in theory. In practice, however, it is not as perfect and as a result it is rarely seen. And, when it is seen, its success is often over-rated like its proponents.

For example, one of Friedman's favorite parables is about the golden age of American capitalism during which the USA was built. However, Friedman conveniently forgets about the USA's history. If he remembered, he would know that America the Great was built on the backs of black slaves, by the sweat of cheap immigrant workers, and with the strong right arms of non-unionized and underpaid laborers. Free enterprise didn't make America great, cheap labor did.

Free enterprise cannot cure all of the world's curable ills, even in its pure form. The greatest good for the greatest number has thus far been the bastion of mixed economies. And it probably always will be.

I'm not entirely against Pocklington, he has a few good policies. But, he isn't qualified to be Prime Minister.

• By the way, the Alberta government subsidized the oil companies in the province quite a bit last year. About as much as the oil companies paid in taxes. I had the exact figure torn out of the *Yellow Journal* but some gremlin stole it. The figure was in excess of \$600 million - \$657 million if my memory's correct. The University of Alberta, the largest post-secondary institution in Alberta, received a cheque for \$191 million this year, on the other hand. Obviously the Alberta government is interested in training people who have the ability to diversify the Alberta economy. Yeah, sure.

I hope only that the neo-nazis won't be deprived of their monthly dose of Understanding and that the rest of us don't lose a source of much amusement. Please: let's keep the Truth — Plain and Simple — OH...so simple.

Shawn Murphy, (omni) Science I

Is Robert Greenhill lukewarm on freeze?

On Tuesday March 29 Students' Council reaffirmed its policy on tuition fee increases. That policy in essence calls for a freeze on increases in tuition fees until such time as an accessibility study is completed.

We are encouraged to see that once again Council has endorsed a national policy.

It is our hope that this endorsement will be duly respected by the President of the Students' Union. In our opinion his actions in the past may have served to undermine the position of Council. We recognize that his personal opinions may have interfered with his duties but we are sure he will respect both the letter and spirit of his present mandate.

Dwayne Chomyn, Don Millar

Help for handicapped

A member of the U of A Computing Society approached me yesterday in response to an article I wrote for Tuesday's edition about problems within the Computing Sciences Department. The story made reference to students who are unable to do their assignments because they don't understand the computer.

U of A CS Secretary Janet LaValley pointed out that students can come to the club for help with computing problems. The club will also set up MTS ID's for students to send their problems to, outside of club office hours.

Allison Annesley

We often exchange sexual partners because it helps our Gateway staff meetings proceed more smoothly.

Rm. 282 SUB, Thursday, 4 p.m.

DINWOODIE
2nd Floor SUB.

CABARETS

Tickets are available from the SUB Box Office (2nd Floor SUB) and various club members.

NOTE: These events are open only to U of A students, staff, and guests.

Absolutely no minors admitted.

U of A Ski Club presents

Secret Society

Thursday, March 31/83
Doors 8 p.m.

Downhill Riders' Ski Club presents

The Easter Bunny Boogie with

TEENAGE HEAD

& guests
Yesterdays Papers

\$8 Advance. \$10 Door.

Saturday, April 2/83
Doors 8 p.m.

U of A Flying Club/P.C. Club presents

The Golden Calgarians & The Dragnetts

Friday April 8
Doors 8 pm.

5 special prizes: "city night flights" Sound by Allstar

U of A NDP Club presents

Rational Youth from Montreal

Cold War/Nightlife Tour '83

with guests:
The Standards (formerly The Mods)

Saturday April 9
Doors 8 pm.