

EDITORIAL

The deadly isms

With the Hungarian uprising of 1956 and the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 it had become clear to the Mannerist Marxists such as Sartre that the Soviet Union was now an embarrassment. The fault, however, as *tout le monde* knew, was not with socialism but with Stalinism. Stalin was a madman and had taken socialism on a wrong turn (mistakes happen). Solzhenitsyn began speaking out as a dissident inside the Soviet Union in 1967. His complaints, his revelations, his struggles with Soviet authorities—they merely underscored just how wrong the Stalinist turn had been.

The publication of *The Gulag Archipelago* in 1973, however, was a wholly unexpected blow. No one was ready for the obscene horror and grotesque scale of what Solzhenitsyn called "Our Sewage Disposal System" in which *tens of millions* were shipped in boxcars to concentration camps all over the country, in which tens of millions died, in which entire races and national groups were liquidated, insofar as they had existed in the Soviet Union. Moreover, said Solzhenitsyn, the system had not begun with Stalin but with Lenin, who had immediately exterminated non-Bolshevik opponents of the old regime and especially the student factions. It was impossible any longer to distinguish the Communist liquidation apparatus from the Nazi.

Yet Solzhenitsyn went still further. He said that not only Stalinism, not only Leninism, not only Communism — but socialism itself led to the concentration camps, and not only socialism, but Marxism; and not only Marxism but any ideology that sought to reorganize morality on an *a priori* basis. Sadder still, it was impossible to say that Soviet socialism was not "real socialism." On the contrary — it was socialism done by experts!

Intellectuals in Europe and America were willing to forgive Solzhenitsyn a great deal. After all, he had been born and raised in the Soviet Union as a Marxist, he had fought in combat for his country, he was a great novelist, he had been in the camps for eight years, he had suffered. But for his insistence that the *isms* themselves led to the death camps — for this he was not likely to be forgiven soon. And in fact the campaign of antisepsis began soon after he was expelled from the Soviet Union in 1974. ("He suffered too much — he's crazy." "He's a Christian zealot with a Christ complex." "He's an agrarian reactionary." "He's an egotist and a publicity junkie.")

Solzhenitsyn's tour of the United States in 1975 was like an enormous funeral procession that no one wanted to see. The White House wanted no part of him. The *New York Times* sought to bury his two major speeches, and only the moral pressure of a lone *Times* writer, Hilton Kramer, brought them any appreciable coverage at all. The major television networks declined to run the Solzhenitsyn interview that created such a stir in England this year (it ran on some of the educational channels).

And the literary world in general ignored him completely. In the huge unseen coffin that Solzhenitsyn towed behind him were not only the souls of the zeks who died in the Archipelago. No, the heartless bastard had also chucked in one of the last great visions: the intellectual as the Stainless Steel Socialist, glistening against the bone-heap of capitalism in its final, brutal, fascist phase. There was a bone-heap, all right, and it was grisly beyond belief, but socialism had created it.

Tom Wolfe, 1976
The Intelligent Coed's Guide To America

Pacifism vs. totalitarianism

There is reason to think that Gandhi, who after all was born in 1869, did not understand the nature of totalitarianism and saw everything in terms of his own struggle against the British Government. The important point here is not so much that the British treated him forbearingly as that he was always able to command publicity....he believed in "arousing the world," which is only possible if the world gets a chance to hear what you are doing. It is difficult to see how Gandhi's methods could be applied in a country where opponents of the regime disappear in the middle of the night and are never heard of again.

Without a free press and the right of assembly, it is impossible not merely to appeal to outside opinion, but to bring a mass movement into being. Is there a Gandhi in Russia at this moment? And if there is, what is he accomplishing? The Russian masses could only practise civil disobedience if the same idea happened to occur to all of them simultaneously, and even then, to judge by the history of the Ukraine famine, it would make no difference.

George Orwell, 1949
Reflections on Gandhi

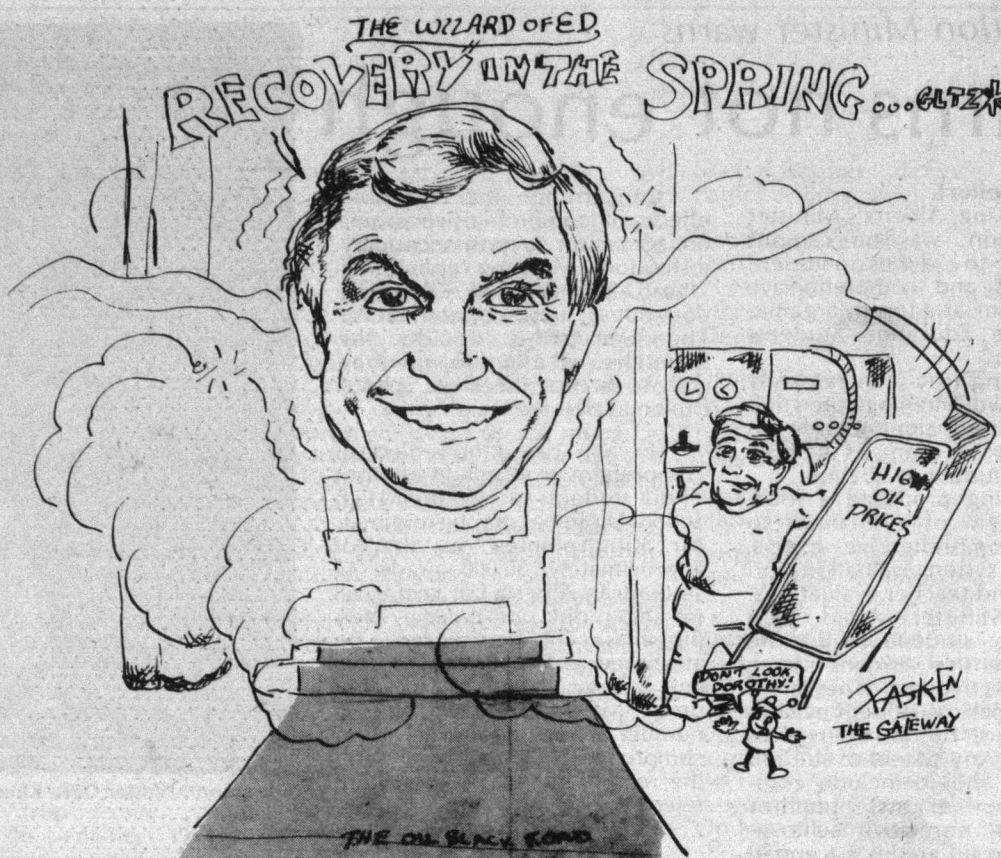
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Staff this issue:

While Margo Schmitt sits in the California sun, thousands of dedicated Gateway staffers scamper about the office, searching for their clothing... Gilbert Bouchard and John Algard, budding longfellowes, quail ale; Ken Lenz and Mark Roppel agree to disagree; Tanya Morrison and Janine McDade read proofs; Kent Blinston consults his diary; Lois Dayes is still herself; Martin Beales discusses half-tones with Bill Inglee and Zane Harker (their tastes are strictly dodecaphonic); Heather-Ann Laird and Stephen Phillips visit Joyce; Gerard Kennedy and Martin Coutts discuss on hockey in Canada, and Bruce Pollock arrives with his new book, *Trolls in Canada*...

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« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Carrels, squatting rights

In reply to S. Smith, *The Gateway*, March 1, 1983. *Library Carrels and "Absentee Carrel Hogs"*

The Library would like to point out some recent developments in response to student problems with study carrels. Firstly, revisions to carrel assignment policy have reduced the number of assigned carrels, leaving a larger proportion open to all students. Secondly, 244 new carrels are on order and expected before the end of the month for Rutherford North. They should be in place before final exams. Thirdly, Library policy holds that books, coats or other belongings do not constitute occupancy of any carrel and should be moved aside by students wishing to use it. The owners of such coats, etc. who do not appear within about 15 minutes have no claim on the carrel unless their library card bears an assignment sticker and a graduate student I.D.

E.W. Schwob, Head
Circulation Services and
Undergraduate Library Division

Be it ever so humble...

It was roughly one month ago that Housing and Food Services, in its infinite wisdom, decided to make tenants of New Garneau housing energy-conscious. A new fee was to be added to the already exorbitant rental rates.

I live in a two-man unit (\$550/month) in New Garneau. The apartment is 66 square meters and the gas bill alone is \$44.11. I might add that, apart from being small, the apartment is by no means luxurious. Also, the gas bill is standardized, meaning that we can use as much as we want and still pay the same amount. So, I don't think I would call myself "energy-conscious."

"Ah," they are quick to point out "Housing and Food has a break-even policy, so no one is being cheated." How, then can they justify the price? We have no pool, no sauna, no parking space, no dishwasher, none of the extras now offered by other apartments (at a far lower price) elsewhere in the city. In fact, the only bonus is the convenience, and the price is still comparable with Lister Hall. This, of course, only means that Lister is a bigger rip-off.

It isn't enough for Gail Brown to put the screws into students (after all, they are extremely wealthy). As for myself, I will probably have to vacate soon, as many of my neighbors have already done, and look for a place that is hopefully run by human beings.

Robert Johnstone, Arts II

Can the fairy tales

Idiot = L. Samarasekera.

I am taking this opportunity to respond to Idiot's response to Shauna Peets' February 8th "Second Wind". In doing so, I shall attempt to disregard Idiot's total lack of ability to express himself, as well as his ignorance of basic grammatical structure (which served so well in betraying Idiot's intellectual abilities). Indeed, I didn't realize such persons made it past "Baz", let alone "Second Wind". And "Grad Studies" yet. Consider these words for the hard of thinking:

First of all, Idiot's conception of the press as an agent of "peace and prosperity" defies all understanding of our twentieth century democratic system. The function of the press is to report "news", leave the fairy tales to Hans Christian Andersen, Idiot. In fulfilling this role, the press (or as Idiot personified them, the "staffers") must decide what is or isn't news. Given that "news" are those phenomena which are deemed to be relevant, in whatever capacity, to the subscribing public of the responsible newspaper, that which is irrelevant is therefore not news and should not be reported. Such irrelevant information finds its venue of expression through other means, such as street corner prophets, and other less responsible institutions. Indeed, it may well be that these alternative sources profess it as their intent to promote "peace and prosperity", but if what they have to say lacks the contingent element of

relevance then they have no place in the press. If this were not the case, then there would be no space for "Second Wind" or any other intelligent thought, as the papers would be filled with such topical articles as "the biweekly Scientology report" or "You and the Jehovah Witness."

Idiot also calls down Ms. Peets as a closed-minded censor. What Idiot has failed to realize is that "Second Wind" was never intended to simply be a "news" medium. Rather, it encompasses a function known as "editorializing". Idiot is calling for an end to editorials. Ms. Peets had editorialized in this instance in order to offer an explanation as to why the unpublished materials in question weren't published (i.e. they weren't regarded as "news"). Indeed, Idiot himself concedes in his concluding paragraph that such literature would not be news. Granted, Ms. Peets article does reflect an opinion, but that is the essence of editorials. The intent here, I'm sure, was not to dictate political choice to the readers, but rather to stimulate their thoughts on her opinions. So if you're going to criticize, Idiot, criticize her opinions, not her right to opinionize.

J. Mackenzie, Business

The gospel truth!

As Almighty GOD, I greet you.

This Letter is the second in a series of two in which My Holy SPIRIT Dictates excerpts from Our Letters to Editors and Publishers over the past twenty years.

Since 1942, My Holy SPIRIT has been in the body of My Son, Eugene. The newspapers have treated Us shabbily with their silence. Very few Editors had the courtesy to answer Our Letters or in receipt of the Books We graciously sent. The World should know that I Am Alive, here on Earth and NOT hid in the pages of the Bible. Editors and publishers should not suppress information to which the masses of the people are entitled. My heart is sad and heavy laden. Love and Devotion should not be suppressed. I hereby state that I Am NOT the author of confusion but of Tranquility and Love.

Almost two thousands years is a long time to be locked up after the death of My first born, Jesus. I traveled the empty corridors of Time alone. Now, I Am in My second born Son Eugene's body, to give hope to the World. Mark My Word and mark it well, Eugene and Jesus are One and the same — reincarnated.

Crime will not go unpunished. Justice will triumph over evil, as the blade of the Reaper flails against her adversary — which is life. The just will be severed from the unjust. In the end, Love will conquer all but the wicked will dwell in hell.

Now, the Words of Life must come to a halt, as My Son's pencil must stop writing. Just as the on rushing tide must stop at the sea shore, so must another day fade into the sunset.

As Almighty GOD, My Holy SPIRIT has Dictated this Holy Letter to you through My Son, who wrote down My Exact Words. My Holy Name is void of form, so it can never be written on any document. My humble Son will sign this blessed Letter so that Faith and Love are not denied. With Love and Devotion, I bid you a fond Anon.

Prayerfully yours, Eugene Changey
Maple Heights, Ohio

P.S. In Our Existence together — almost forty years — My Son and I did NOT receive one red cent in contributions for Our Letters and Books which We mailed. ALL Our expenditures come from the job which My Son holds as a Turret-Lathe operator in a Machine Shop. This dates back to 1942. All Our works are sent gratis to any one who wishes to know of a Real, Live GOD.

Managing Editor's note: Eugene Changey included the ultimate cosmic truth in his letter, but it was decided at a Gateway staff meeting that the University community is at present unprepared for the magnitude of the revelation. Also, space considerations preclude it.

In an attached letter Changey reveals the