

CHOPPING BLOCK

by Jens Andersen

In the Feb. 14th *Maclean's* there is an article on possible contenders for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party. In discussing Loughheed it mentions, "One drawback is that he cannot speak French."

Wait till they discover that he can't speak English either!



Finally, behind all the beautiful visions of a better tomorrow which they both peddle so assiduously, aren't they simply trying to maintain their own powerful, exalted position as visionaries?

Marxism appeared in the world at a time when the rosy promises of Christianity were beginning to fade, and it has largely taken over from Christianity the job of peddling pleasant hallucinations to the dreamers of the world. Therefore it is not surprising that Marxism should resemble Christianity: the dreams of dreamers, after all, have always been the same - prosperity, social tranquility, spiritual contentedness et al. The Marxists simply picked up a few pointers from the Christians, in developing their own religion.

Nor is it surprising that the Christians should steal a few ideas, like bashing the rich, back from the communists. After all, Jesus threw the moneylenders out of the temple long before Marx began to get similar ideas.

So Barbara Amiel should not be too surprised at current developments. In fact, if she had been reading her Orwell, particularly his essay "Toward European Unity," she would have gotten intimations of the current Catholic co-opting of Marxist ideas:

The dangerous thing about the (Catholic) Church is that it is not reactionary in the ordinary sense. It is not tied to laissez-faire capitalism or to the existing class system, and will not necessarily perish with them. It is perfectly capable of coming to terms with Socialism, or appearing to do so, provided that its own position is safeguarded.

But if it is allowed to survive as a powerful organization, it will make the establishment of true Socialism impossible, because its influence is and must always be against freedom of thought and speech, against human equality, and against any form of society tending to promote earthly happiness.

Some mysterious person sent a page of the *Sunday Times*, Dec. 5, 1982, to the Gateway office. It contains an interesting feature on the recent surge in venereal disease. The most interesting fact, to my mind, was the finding by Oxford University scientists and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund that wives of seamen, lorry-drivers, laborers and lodging-house and hotel-keepers are 10-20 times more likely to get cervical cancer (a promiscuity-related disease) than the wives of clergymen or scientists.

The innuendo, I presume, is not too subtle. Perhaps reality perpetuates stereotypes?

To fill the last half-inch of space, allow me to quote a favorite saying, by Oscar Wilde from his pamphlet "The Soul of Man Under Socialism":

Disobedience, in the eyes of any one who has read history, is man's original virtue. It is through disobedience that progress has been made, through disobedience and rebellion.

In the same *Maclean's* is a column by Barbara Amiel attacking "Marxist" Christians, especially those Roman Catholic bishops who issued the recent working paper on the immorality of unemployment.

In her zeal to stomp "evil incarnate" (her term for communism) she utters some rather idiotic statements, most notably on the supposed ideological incompatibility of communism and Christianity.

"Marxism is totally at variance with the most basic values of Christianity," Amiel says, adding that Christians who become Marxists "cease to be Christians" and, "One would expect that, having long shed the spiritual cassocks and crucifixes of the church, they would have the decency to finally shed the official vestments that cloak their ideas with the moral authority of Christianity."

In fact Christianity and communism have a remarkable number of similarities, ideology being just one.

Is there not the very essence of communism in the statement, "It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God"? Isn't the statement that the meek shall inherit the earth equivalent to the claim that the proletariat shall inherit it? Doesn't the beatific communist vision of the withering away of the state strongly suggest the coming of the Kingdom of God?

Furthermore, doesn't the development of revisionist forms of socialism, in response to the absurdities of original Marxism and the abuses of Soviet Russia, parallel the reformation of Christianity because of Christian absurdities (e.g. its belief in witches and witchcraft) and the abuses of the Catholic Church? And don't both groups resemble each other in their claims that they possess some sort of ultimate truth, and in trying to suppress anyone who criticizes them, or snickers at their pretensions?

Graduate Studies in CHEMISTRY or PHYSICS

at the University of British Columbia

Request for Application Forms

Name: _____

Address: _____

Current University: _____

Field of Interest: Physics _____ Chemistry _____

Mail to:

Dr. John A. Berlinsky
Physics Recruiting
Department of Physics
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 2A6

Dr. John R. Scheffer
Chemistry Recruiting
Department of Chemistry
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Y6

Applications are invited for admission to M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs in Physics and Chemistry at the University of British Columbia. Financial assistance is available to all students admitted to the program. Minimum stipends for 1983-84 will be in the range from \$11,000 to \$12,000 per year.

For full information and application forms, please complete and send in the accompanying coupon.

The Alberta Association For Children and Adults With Learning Disabilities announces the **SIOBHAN ISABELLA REID MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

- Two Scholarships of not less than \$500 each
- Requirements:
- full time student at Alberta University;
 - undergrad with 2 years previous enrolment OR
 - postgrad taking further studies;
 - satisfactory academic standing;
 - contributions to campus and/or community;
 - future involvement with learning disabled children or adults.

Deadline for applications: April 15th

Further information:
 Alberta ACLD
 1103 Baker Centre
 10025 - 106 Street
 Edmonton, Alta. T5J 1G9
 Telephone #423-1073

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
co-sponsored by **Alberta** CULTURE

sub theatre

Louis Falco Dance Company

Jubilee Auditorium - 8 pm.
Tickets at all BASS Outlets & at the door

Last Performance Tonight!!

SUB THEATRE presents

Tuesday, March 22 - 7 pm.
Tickets: SUB Box Office - all BASS outlets.

Spoons

Futon Sofa-Beds

BENEFITS OF A FUTON

- Versatile, can fold into a day couch
- Extremely comfortable
- Firm, healthy support for your back
- Portable & affordable

7TH HEAVEN FUTONS

7359 - 104 Street 433-1356