

Confucius under attack

Chinese sage preached reactionary tenets

By DOUG TINDAL

Confucius was a reactionary and a chauvinist.

That's why an ideological movement led by Mao Tse-tung has been criticizing Confucianism in China for the past year, Atkinson professor K.T. Fann told the first meeting of the Atkinson Philosophy Club last Friday night.

Fann said that Confucius, who "shaped the old Chinese mind", is traditionally remembered as a benevolent humanist. But an examination of the social and political context of his philosophy places him firmly in the reactionaries' camp.

Confucius was born while China was in transition from slavery to feudalism. The introduction of iron implements had increased and improved agriculture.

Whereas all land had previously been owned by the emperor, the new agriculture allowed the aristocracy to open up former wastelands, and to own these privately. They became feudal landlords on these estates,

and developed a code of written laws (replacing the emperor's "rule by rites") to attract slaves.

Since the slaves who worked for them became free men, the rising landlord class represented the progressive force of the time.

Confucius was opposed to this movement and declared the goal of his life to be the restoration of the rule by rites, a code which governed even the colour of dress one was allowed to wear.

Confucius distinguished between noble men and 'mean' or 'little' men.

"Traditionally," said Fann, "the term 'noble men' has been interpreted to mean those who possess the Confucian (humanistic) virtues. But the best translation is a literal one. 'Noble men' are children of the emperor — the aristocracy.

"Confucius's golden rule — don't do unto others what you wouldn't want done to you — should actually be translated, don't do unto other men what you wouldn't want done

to you. The Chinese language at that time distinguished between men — human beings — and slaves or the landlords.

"Confucius was actually talking about a sort of gentlemen's agreement among the aristocracy."

Fann told the meeting that he

visited China in 1972.

"When I found only women working in the daycare centres, I asked why," he said.

"My guide answered, 'You know the old Chinese saying, 'Father should be stern, and mother should

be gentle'. It's that kind of chauvinist attitude that women in China are now criticizing.

"Confucianism is the sum total of traditional ruling ideas in China," Fann concluded. "It is the past. It's interesting that Soviet Russia now defends Confucianism."

Office personnel service in Alberta offers courses on how to bust unions

EDMONTON (CUP) — An American firm is giving union-busting seminars in Alberta, and organized labour is not at all pleased about it.

The firm, Southern Employers Service Corporation (SESCO) of Tennessee, conducted seminars in November for Edmonton businessmen on how to "legally challenge the 'organizers' and make their actions difficult and expensive . . ."

The seminars were hosted by Central Personnel Services, a company which provides office workers for Edmonton businesses. CPS promoted the classes with the phrase "if you want union-free manage-

ment, attend this seminar".

Reg Baskin, president of the Alberta Federation of Labour, commented, "The Alberta Labour Act purports to say that employees have a right to join a union of their choice without management interference. "If that's the case, the minister

should tell that group to run back to Tennessee and stay there . . ."

Alberta NDP secretary Howard Leeson found it "incredible" that "these jokers are going to come up here and tell how to prevent working people from asserting one of their rights."

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NEW YORK (CUP/ENS) — Somebody up there at Parker Brothers is taking their Monopoly game too seriously.

So thinks the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, which is currently investigating the Parker Brothers Company for possible anti-trust violations concerning the takeover of smaller toy and game companies.

The FTC investigation is also aimed at General Mills, the parent firm, for its possible monopolistic tendencies.



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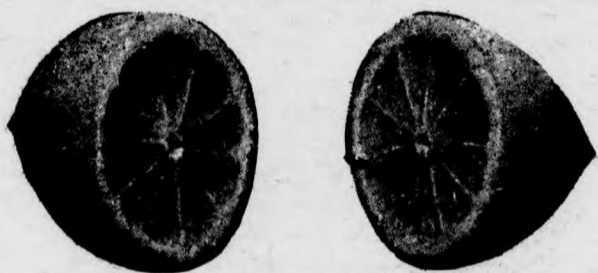
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