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The Beast and a Senile Old Man

by Winston Gereluk

To all deans, department heads, co-ordinators, supervisors, presidents, governors, senators, and even the odd professors—and especially to that friend of the students, Dean of Arts, Douglas Smith.

—A pox on your activities—and this letter story is dedicated to you!

It seems that a long time ago, in a very far away land, there dwelt a ruler, conveniently referred to as "the King."

Now life had been going well for the King; his wife, the Queen; his daughter, the Princess; and her pet, the Royal Cat; and, oh yes, the royal subjects weren't too badly off either.

But, it came to pass that in the King's kingdom there arose a great problem. A huge beast, a dragon rumor had it, was making regular nightly forays into the King's villages, carrying off and devouring several subjects each time.

Because the villages were overpopulated anyway, this situation in itself was not sufficiently grave to cause the King any anxiety. However, upon further study, the King observed that the beast was very noticeably eating his way towards the Royal residence, the Palace, and his own royal neck.

Worse yet, upon further study, it became evident that the beast was focussing on senile, old men, slow of body and mind. Now the king was worried; he was senile.

Long were the sleepless nights that our ruler spent tossing and turning in his luxurious bed, wondering what he should do. Many were the times in early morning when fitful sleep finally overtook his tired old body that the King would awake with a scream, he had dreamed that the beast had him by the throat.

What to do?—already the beast had sampled an old man in the neighboring village.

It came to him in a flash—a dream—surely the gods were merciful, for suddenly he knew what he must do.

Next morning, he arose as one in a dream, was fed, dressed, placed on his horse and given a spear. Then amidst cries of "God be with you," he galloped (or floated) out of the castle gates.

Straight the lair of the terrible beast our now-brave king; neither brake nor bush, stream or gorge could stop him as he rode straight towards his objective, as if guided by a dream.

At the cavernous entrance to a huge cave, let's call it 'the beast's lair', the king stopped and dismounted; the countryside rang with the sound of his powerful challenge to his foe.

Straightaway the king found himself locked in mortal combat with a great dragon—aha! the rumors were correct.

Parry followed thrust, as the king driven as if with the force of 20 men, threw himself at the beast. Time and time again, his spear—or was it a lance—found the dragon's breast as the battle raged.

And finally it was over. The King was the victor, standing with one foot on the dragon's neck, his one arm at his side, and the other pointing the sword (aha! it was a sword after all) to the heavens. His eyes surveyed the kingdom, and the kingship, which he had just saved.

Next morning, while the dew was still on the grass, and the air fragrant with the bouquet of jubilant morning glories greeting the newly-risen sun, the king was awakened by a feeble but persistent knocking at his chamber door.

Upon rising and opening the door, who greeted his horrified gaze, but his precious and beautiful daughter.

Precious yet, but not beautiful was the princess, for her little face was dirty and tear-stained, her features were haggard and worn. In one of her little outstretched hands, the girl held a bloodied axe; in the other, the horribly mutilated remains of the royal cat.

International unions benefit workers; they are not in bed with any company

The recent article in The Gateway of Thursday, Jan. 15, by Mr. Winston Gereluk, entitled "Mullin Mad at U.S. Interference," deserves a reply.

The statement and assumption that international unions only serve the interests of the large American companies and the American government, not the Canadian workers, is false. Mr. Donald Gordon headed a royal commission to determine whether there was interference by international unions in Canadian affairs. His answer was "no." Canadian workers decide their own economic destiny, their right to strike, without interference from the United States of America.

The Pulp and Paper Workers of Canada's coffers are empty, because they had to return \$40,000, illegally taken from the International Pulp and Sulphite local in Harmack. We should point out that this organization, which claims to be democratic, has never put out a financial statement to all of its membership, showing the source of revenue and where it is being spent.

When the Canadian Pulp and Paper Workers have an assessment on the membership, it is not voted on, but is done by executive edict. His accusation that "the strike funds of international unions are more often used, not to benefit workers, but to fight subversive elements such as myself . . ." is blatantly wrong. Strike funds in every national or international union are stringently administered and the monies only used for the purposes of strike assistance to workers.

The problems they have in certification "because they are not in bed with any company" does not bear very much scrutiny. When their group first decided they were going to break up the International Pulp and Sulphite, they were able to sign men up on the job illegally and with full knowledge and blessings of the company. To go to a university and the public and deliberately create an impression that international unions misuse strike funds, are full of "pork choppers," support the war in Vietnam, are in bed with the companies, and have the

support of government, then they do only what the companies and the Chamber of Commerce types want them to do, create a distrust and disunity in the trade union movement.

International unions have done a good job in Canada. For example:

- The United Steelworkers of America, which is an international union, was big enough and tough enough to take on the strongest companies in Canada, and not just achieve parity with American steelworkers, but to have wages that will be in excess of those in the United States.

- The International Woodworkers of America, also have taken on large international corporations such as: MacMillan-Bloedel, Crown Zellerbach, etc., and now have wages in British Columbia that are higher than

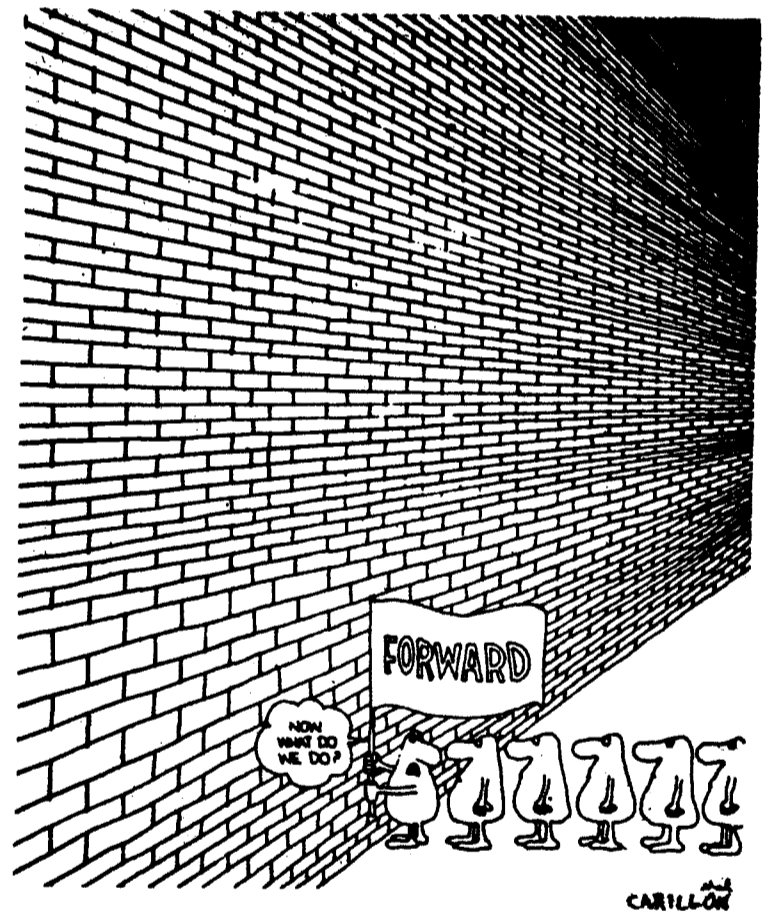
those in the U.S.

- United Automobile Workers, also an international union, will have parity with the U.S.

Why is it that his organization of 5,000 members, paying an assessment of \$5 per week, cannot pay sufficient strike funds to sustain these few members on strike in Alberta. Perhaps a financial statement, showing the income of the organization and where the strike funds have gone, would be an illuminating experience and one that would increase the democracy within his own organization.

Mr. Mullin's organization could stop serving the interests of the Canadian Manufacturing Association and international capitalism by letting legitimate unions alone.

John A. McNevin
Executive Secretary
Alberta Federation of Labor



Women's liberation doomed to failure! Working girl not concerned with committee

Dear People:

I just finished reading the indubitable Dennis Zomerschoe's article of Jan. 27 about Women's Liberation and I find myself quite enlightened—in a negative aspect. Mainly because I see that the movement is doomed to failure.

Now to say that I am completely against all that these women spout would be a ridiculous categorization too. One should not refute the claim that *equal work deserves equal pay* even though one can see the logic behind the policy of businessmen to give men more pay in an effort to keep them as permanent staff. Women must support families too, however, and extra pay is always needed. Other matters, like more time spent with the child for the father, are

serious considerations.

Well I suppose that I should get on to the letter, the tone of which is enough to drive one shrieking up a tree. In effect it says . . . "Well I know that women are picked on but I'm goin' to throw you some objective questions just for practice . . . duh . . ." By the end of the letter I was sickened by the total condemnation of men that I couldn't understand why I tortured myself so. Anyway, with trivial matters such as opening doors and giving up a bus seat I plead complete apathy; I will leave such fundamental questions to the Liberation Committee's executive. The construction and abolition (either way) of the above projects are within the realm of credibility but

when one reviews the controlled rantings of Mary Van Stolk (. . . "Women face a fight for survival . . . mental, physical, economic castration . . .") one can only say it is a crock of road apples. Miss Van Stolk's ideas haven't a cop in heaven of touching the ordinary working girl who is more concerned with Joe Nice-Guy Hubby than some with vague university organization.

If the enlightened women found this letter disgusting then T.S., but for those *Status Back Baby's* (a Mother's allusion) on this campus—most everyone—who think I am one of their apathetic, cog-in-the-machinery groovers, *forget it*.

Lee "the Hat" Venables
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