

## Zimbabwe not yet safe

The Reader Comment by Mike Walker in the March 11 *Gateway* is so obviously absurd that it scarcely deserves comment. Still, I hope that the student body does not allow such nonsense to pass by unchallenged.

The letter by Wangia C W W., on the other hand, raises valid points to which a reply is in order.

The people of Zimbabwe have the right to choose their destiny. And this right will still be theirs ten years from now. Anything which might make it necessary for more blood to be shed to regain that right in the future is naturally viewed with dismay by the world.

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics is not a free country. It is a place of political, national, and religious oppression which seeks to extend this tyranny wherever it can. This is not an opinion, but a reality of the world situation. To be ignorant of this reality is as dangerous as being ignorant, behind the wheel of a car, of the meaning of a red light. Many African leaders, however, behave as though they are unaware of this.

The people of Zimbabwe have long suffered under one form of oppression. Therefore, it is not impossible that they may be incautious with respect to other, competing, forms of tyranny. A historical parallel can be drawn with the reception the Nazis received when they first entered the Ukraine.

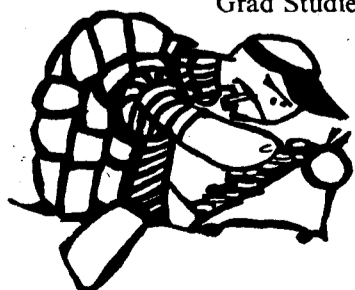
Up to fourteen million Ukrainians had starved to death in the late 1930's in famines not caused by crop failure, but by the withdrawal by Stalin from the Ukraine, the Russian Empire's most fertile agricultural region, of the crops grown there. In the Ukraine, as everywhere else in the Soviet Union, the press and radio were under the total control of the government—and the people knew it, and did not trust them.

It is not surprising, therefore, that at first the Nazis were welcomed with open arms. Many Ukrainians joined a Ukrainian military unit created by the Nazis; but they and the other Ukrainians soon realized the true nature of the Nazis and turned against them, making a not insignificant contribution to their defeat.

This much misunderstood chapter of Ukrainian history has, of course, been distorted by Soviet propagandists to discredit the Ukrainian patriotic underground organizations and to justify their hegemony over the Ukraine.

The applicable lesson of this is that "the people" can make mistakes. And the world does have the right to view events in Zimbabwe with concern. Admittedly, it is not just because the people of Zimbabwe are our brothers and sisters. Zimbabwe is one of the largest producers in the non-Communist world of several exotic metals used in electronics and defense. These resources give it, and its people, a grave responsibility to the world as a whole.

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# Quixote

by David  
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The removal, by illness, of Josip Broz Tito from the helm of the Yugoslav government, has ended the rule of one of Europe's most remarkable and controversial statesmen. In the West, admirers have portrayed him as the man who rescued Yugoslavia from the Soviet bloc in 1948, in defiance of Moscow, whereas critics have labelled him a "communist robot", the "most loyal supporter of Soviet imperialism". How should one evaluate the career of Tito and his contribution to Yugoslavia?

First, it should be emphasized that Tito was an "Old Bolshevik", who only left the fold with the greatest of reluctance. Having become associated with the Russian revolutionary movement as an Austrian war prisoner in 1914, he took part in the abortive July uprising in Petrograd in 1917 and joined the Red Army as an eager volunteer after the October Revolution. His experience in Russia prompted him to join the Communist Party of Yugoslavia in 1920, upon his return home and after becoming Secretary-General in 1937, he made further visits to Moscow in 1938 and 1939.

A further example of his unswerving loyalty to Moscow is Tito's response to the German dismemberment of Yugoslavia in March 1941. The CPY refused to combat the invaders while the Nazi-Soviet Pact remained in effect and thus it was only after the Germans invaded the USSR on June 22, that Tito and the CPY formed a partisan movement to oppose the Fascists. Moreover, the Partisans operated in the knowledge that the Soviet state was in danger. Only in October 1941, after the Royalist "Chetniks" led by Mikhailovich began to collaborate with the enemy, did the Partisans become the *de facto* national liberation movement.

The 1948 Soviet-Yugoslav rift, cited frequently as a victory for Tito, was in fact, engineered almost entirely by Stalin. The latter, incensed that Tito should negotiate independently with neighboring states, instructed him to form a federation with Bulgaria (presumably to dilute the CPY leadership). Tito's mild refusal resulted in the removal of all Soviet specialists from the country and a Soviet declaration that Yugoslavia was now "outside" the Cominform. Tito's response, at the Fifth Congress of the CPY in 1948, was a cautious speech stating that there had been

a "mistake" and ending with the meek formality "Long live Comrade Stalin".

Two events sealed the severance of relations, namely Zhdanov's statement in Bucharest that Tito was an "imperialist spy" and Stalin's decision to cut off all trade with Yugoslavia, thereby ensuring the disastrous failure of the country's Five-Year Plan. As a result, Tito was forced by circumstances and against his expressed wishes to seek an alternative route for Yugoslavia. The position of the CPY has been aptly likened to a group of cavemen, leaving the security of their cave for the first time, confused, aimless and uncertain. Titoism began, essentially, as a risky experiment.

However, my second point concerning the career of Tito, is that once Yugoslavia had left the Soviet bloc, he became, in a very real sense, the country's first national leader. Although established in 1918, Yugoslavia had been beset with ethnic problems from the outset. The Croat's resentment of Serbian rule from Belgrade was illustrated with terrifying brutality in 1941, with the massacre of Serbs in Croatia by the fascist *Ustashi* group. The country was comprised of six republics, six different nationality groups and three religions. Born of Croat and Slovene parentage, Tito was fully aware of the aspirations of the various ethnic groups and his measures after 1948 reveal his sensitivity towards and understanding of, this question.

For example, he began to question the centralization of power in the hands of the state. In 1950, Parliament enacted Worker's Councils to run industry and the economy was deliberately decentralized. Increasing autonomy was given to the six republics and to the ethnic minorities. The government-controlled collectivization of agriculture was halted and a dominant private sector, with restricted landholding, restored. The CPY became the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, with reduced functions. The League's Seventh Congress in 1958 declared that one of its aims should be to oppose the transformation of the state into an omnipotent force.

This federal structure, known as "national communism" or "Titoism" not only ensured Yugoslav stability, but provided inspiration for non-aligned nations that a state could find its own way to socialism. Yet, as a final point on Tito, it should be noted that his later years have seen a period of bleak reaction and rapprochement with Moscow. Thus Soviet ships dock freely and with increased facilities at Yugoslav ports, closer economic ties with the USSR were implemented at a Brezhnev-Tito summit meeting in November 1976 and Tito even made an appearance at an East Berlin conference of Communist Parties in this same year.

The Seventies have seen a Soviet-style crackdown on dissidents and on ethnic minorities. The Yugoslavs have protested Western defences of human rights and the Marxist intellectual "Praxis" group, based at Yugoslav universities, was forced to disband. This is a sad end to a distinguished career. Tito has returned to his Stalinist roots. His volte-face however should not detract us from his achievements. Tito will be remembered for combatting Nazism, for defying Stalin at his most truculent and for giving confidence to a multi-national country. His departure is to be lamented.

## Punk critic simply an elitist pig

Barry Lee's review of the XTC concert which appeared in the last issue of *The Gateway* contained a number of distressing comments.

Mr. Lee's implication that one's ability to enjoy "straight-ahead rock quality" is proportional to his lack of education reeks of musical elitism that any real punkophile would avoid. Mr. Lee's comment perpetuates the image that hard rock and roll fans are all neanderthal types, who like to accompany their music with fights and beer-guzzling contests. Education has little to do with one's taste in music. At least, a lack of education does not mean a lack of taste in music.

Of course, Mr. Lee might have meant musical "education", something which his review displays an astonishing lack of. Anyone professing to be a rock

critic, especially a critic of the British rock scene, should realize that cheap shots at the Beatles hardly rate as intelligent thought. Now I'm not one of those die-hard Beatles' fans who will defend them to the death, and God knows they did some questionable things, but to say that XTC represent the great progression British music has made since The Beatles, and then to quote the XTC lyrics Lee quotes, is absurd. The hip, high school cynical poetry that Lee quotes is hardly complex, and most Beatles' songs were at least as creative, and much more poetic. The punk scene is unique for its energy, its honesty and its drive, but when someone starts calling punk lyrics "complex", then his ignorance is showing and the punk movement is almost automatically misrepresented.

Mr. Lee might think that only those such as he can appreciate the "complexities of Mingus-like jazz", (also bullshit), but the art of criticism has certainly escaped Mr. Lee.

Knocking The Beatles is easy, but recognizing and weighing the impact of progressions and trends in rock music is a little more difficult.

A little too difficult for Mr. Lee, I fear.

Martin Lamble  
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## LETTERS

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