

## Socialism vs. capitalism debate

By LILY CONTENTO

A heated debate on whether capitalism or socialism is the superior moral social system ended in favor of capitalist advocates last Thursday at the University of Toronto.

Two socialist speakers squared off against two capitalist opponents in a debate on the moral aspects underlying the two economic systems.

York Associate Professor of Economics and Intellectual History John Ridpath and Leonard Peikoff, self-proclaimed "intellectual heir to the late Ayn Rand," represented the capitalist side while Dr. Gerry Caplan, federal secretary of New Democratic Party and Dr. Jill Vickers, associate director of the Institute of Canadian Studies in Ottawa defended the socialist view.

The debate was moderated by Peter Desbarats, dean of the school of Journalism, at the University of Western Ontario. The speakers presented their arguments to an audience of nearly 2,000 people.

The debate was organized by University of Toronto student Sandra Shaw and Maria Peleggi, a member of the Economic Association at York.

The capitalists maintained "freedom of the individual" was the moral foundation of capitalism. "Capitalism is the system that leaves every individual free to function," said Dr. Peikoff. The socialist opposition offered a variety of incriminations against the capitalist philosophy. "Capitalism worked, but then so did slavery," said Dr. Vickers, adding, "socialism proclaims a responsibility to others."

As the evening unfolded, the capitalist argument gained momentum. In fact, the debate diluted to a one-sided capitalist lecture. Trying to present an emotional case, Caplan accused the capitalist system of being not only morally bad, but also cruel. Ridpath diplomatically

told the socialists: "I've had it with you people, I've had it."

Both Peikoff and Ridpath held the view that equality entails sacrifice and prevents man from being a totally free individual. "There is no reason why every man should be equal," said Peikoff. According to Caplan, however, "socialism is a belief in an egalitarian society—it's a philosophy that calls passionately for social justice."

Peikoff made a case against the ideological trend of our education system. He believes that the university system is not providing students with both economic philosophies, but rather gears towards the presentation of socialism as the only alternative. Peikoff said he would like to see one capitalist professor for every 200 of the others as a step in the right direction. This, he believes, would suffice to convince students of the superiority of capitalism.

In an interview after the debate Ridpath suggested that universities have developed into a closed society of academics and it is extremely hard for someone who perceives things from a different angle to enter the teaching profession.

The debate was followed by a question period in which Peikoff was asked how handicapped people are expected to survive in a capitalist society that encourages the abolition of the welfare system and promotes individuality. "They must depend on private charity," he said.


Caplan spoke of democratic socialism even though the debate called for a presentation of absolute socialism. "We do not believe in any socialism that is not democratic. If socialism is not democratic, it's not socialism." Both capitalist speakers advocated capitalism in its purest form. "Capitalism is not what we have in the West today," said Peikoff.

## THE ORIGINAL.

THE SPRING BEER. FROM LABATT'S.



**NOW AVAILABLE**



**CANADA'S WONDERLAND**

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
St. Vladimir Institute - 620 Spadina Ave.  
Mon., Feb. 6; 12:00-4:00 PM

CANADA'S WONDERLAND  
Canterbury Theatre  
(Instrumentalists - Scandinavian Studios)  
Sat., Feb. 4 and Sun., Feb. 5; 12:00-4:00 PM both days

Note that there are special interview dates for Technicians, Characters, Escorts, and Usher/ettes. Please call 416/832-8356 for further information.

**Singers • Dancers • Instrumentalists • Technicians  
Variety Performers • \$190-\$260/week**

Contact: Entertainment Department, Canada's Wonderland, PO Box 624, Maple, Ontario L0J 1E0

© Copyright Canada's Wonderland Limited 1983  
Registered trade mark of Canada's Wonderland Limited

**SPECIAL OFFER!  
(LIMITED QUANTITY)**

**APPLE II COMPATIBLE COMPUTER**

64K RAM with built-in Miniwriter, disk drive, interface card, and 12" Zenith Monitor ..... \$899.00  
64K computer only ..... \$589.00  
IBM PC COMPATIBLE ..... \$1600.00

**CALL 968-1612**

**CK** CKIN COMPUTERS LTD.  
1 Gloucester St., Toronto

ART GALLERY OF YORK UNIVERSITY

**TURBULENCE**

A multi-media installation by  
SAM KRIZAN and TONY McAULAY  
January 16-February 10, 1984  
ROSS BUILDING N145  
MONDAYS- FRIDAYS 10 to 4

**SUMMER  
EMPLOYMENT  
WITH A  
CHALLENGE**

**WE OFFER**

- Summer Employment from May to Sept. for 3 consecutive summers
- On-going year-round part-time employment
- Personnel develop through challenging experience
- Professional leadership training

You must be a Canadian citizen between the ages of 17 and 23, medically and physically fit and a full-time university student. Become an officer in the Governor General's Horse Guards, an armoured regiment in the Canadian Reserve Army.

For a personal interview, apply to Captain J. Dorfman, Tues. Feb. 7th between 8 and 10 p.m. at Denison Armoury, 3621 Dufferin St. at Wilson Ave. Phone # 633-6200, Ext. 648.