

casserole

a supplement section
of the gateway

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Amid total confusion *Casserole* was born this week by a somewhat liberated staff.

Tom Kofin's photo graces this week's cover. Is it really relevant to what is on C-4 and C-5?

In reply to last week's article "Then let them eat cake" Myrtice Baker retorts in the typical 'reply to SDU article' fashion.

Lyn Fearon provides us with an advance look at the new pregnant *SUB* on C-3. If all plans go through we may be faced with a novel situation of being able to breathe again without suffering from an acute case of claustrophobia.

Meanwhile Cathy Morris went to Vancouver to become liberated and came back with her comment on the whole issue which appears for your reading pleasure on C-4 and C-5.

And as for this week's arts pages, thank god Cathy looks after them.

Then let them eat cake—and why not?

A simplistic analysis supporting the enemy

I object to the simplistic drivel that passes for social analysis or commentary in "Then let them eat cake"—and they did! and other articles of the same ilk that have appeared in *Casserole* and *The Gateway*.

The latest particularly bothers me because of the simple-minded equation stating that anyone who would attend such a reception must of necessity be "the enemy" who has no concern for starving children in Greece, the condition of the Metis and janitors and who, furthermore, has oil stains (filthy lucre) on his hands.

It seems evident to me that the only way to illustrate the stupidity of such an analysis is to do a comparable one of my own.

INCIDENT I—YORKVILLE

I had occasion to visit Yorkville this summer and spent considerable time talking to people on the street. I was rather shocked when I was "hit-up" for money several times in the course of one afternoon, but what was even more shocking was the quality of conversation that was in evidence.

In response to questions concerning the merits of Yorkville, or the faults of the society these people had "escaped," I received revealing answers such as "Yeah, like man, it's great" or "Like you know how it is man." I was fur-

ther surprised to find that this highly literate group of young people were really allowing themselves to be used by up and coming entrepreneurs who have lined Yorkville with smart boutiques selling way out clothes at way out prices.

A talk with a social worker was perhaps somewhat less revealing than the brilliant, incisive social commentary of the residents, but did yield these facts.

The population of Yorkville is divided into two groups: the permanent residents and the transients. The permanent residents keep alive by a productive combination of petty theft and pimping the resident female population.

It was with considerable surprise that I learned that the group that is supposedly so concerned with humanity was prepared to live by selling the body of another human being (or perhaps I'm just expressing the fraudulent sentiment of "the enemy").

I learned further that the permanent population suffers from chronic malnutrition. This ailment is so prevalent that it is considered a status symbol for a girl to become pregnant and carry the child to full term as most abort naturally in the third or fourth month as a result of malnutrition.

The transients who, incidentally,

are the most vocal and sound the most like your writer, live with the "enemy" five or six days out of seven and come to Yorkville on weekends, to be seen in their way-out clothes and heard as they run down the society they live off for the remainder of the week.

INCIDENT II—REGINA

In Manitoba, we picked up a young couple who were hitch-hiking and took them as far as Regina. They had come from West Virginia in three days; obviously in the cars and on the gas of "the enemy." They were quite prepared to smoke my cigarettes and eat my food while running down society and people like me in general.

When we reached Regina, they asked to be dropped off at the RCMP Barracks, and we listened in amazement as we were told that the RCMP billets these people and provides them with cafe breakfasts before they set off on the road again—a far cry from what we usually hear about the police!

Also significant is the fact that the pair were heading home to live with or off the young man's parents for the winter—the parents live in a deluxe high rise (obviously members of the "enemy").

I believe that the foregoing examination of two incidents is as valid as your author's analysis of the Senate banquet—I have mere-

ly turned the coin. I further believe that the only factor of real significance that emerges from "Let them eat cake" is the fact that the author did attend the event—he did eat the olives and drink the toasts—and that, like it or not, puts him in the category of the sponging hypocrites of Yorkville and my hitch-hikers.

I am reminded of a story told me by a friend who graduated from Columbia University. Apparently, a very wealthy widow discovered that her daughter was very active in the recent riots at Columbia. She immediately brought her daughter home and asked the reasons for her daughter's involvement. It became evident that her daughter's hang-up was racial prejudice and she did a good job of convincing her Mother of how serious and dedicated she was on this issue. The Mother, who had been planning to send the daughter to Europe for a year of study and travel to complete her education, immediately suggested that if her daughter felt this way, that the money that was to finance her year abroad should be donated to an organization working toward the daughter's ideals, and that further, perhaps, the daughter should donate her talents and services to this cause for the year as well. You know the result I'm sure—the daughter went to Europe. The more I read "Then let them eat cake," the more the writer and the daughter appear the same.

It seems to me that the radical or new left or whatever had better quit whining and insulting everyone's intelligence with such simplistic analyses and solutions.

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