

Cafeteria confusion

I shall attempt to remove any misconception readers may have from reading Allain Demers letter "Cafeteria Staff Rude", printed October 25, 1979.

While the rudeness of the SUB Cafeteria staff certainly cannot be condoned, (I assume that we are referring to the cafeteria located on the second floor of SUB), these staff members work for the Department of Housing and Food Services, and are paid, indirectly, through our tuition fees.

However, the operation of this cafeteria, including staffing, is in no way connected to the Students' Union. I would hope that readers did not assume this cafeteria to be one of those food operations run by the Students' Union (which are indirectly financed by our Students' Union fees).

While our operations have not yet reached perfection, I would not want to see our staff accused unfairly of anything that they have not committed.

I would suggest that grievances regarding SUB Cafeteria be sent to Ms. Gail Brown, the Director of Housing and Food Services, and those concerning RATT, Fridays and the new SUB Coffee Shop, be sent to myself.

Sharon Bell
Vice-President
Internal

Let's boycott Radio Shack

I am writing this letter to suggest to students that they should boycott Radio Shack.

Radio Shack has indulged in blatant union bashing—they continue to refuse to recognize the rights of their workers to unionize in Barrie, Ontario, in spite of recognition by the Supreme Court of Ontario.

Radio Shack has fired employees for joining a union, and when the labour relations board ordered them reinstated, Radio Shack refused.

The union (United Steelworkers of America) has brought twenty five charges against Radio Shack to the labour board, and won every one. Yet still the company refuses to recognise their employees' democratic right to unionize.

During negotiations, Radio Shack offered pay increases on a merit system which would be worth 6% over a year, and would not be guaranteed to anyone. And this from a company which had sales worth more than \$150 million in Canada last year.

Radio Shack offered no improvements in vacations, overtime, or sick leave.

Most famous of all, they insisted on a clause which would allow the company to fine the union \$10,000 if any member refers to the company "by suggestion or innuendo" without the permission of the company president.

The right to unionize and to be represented by a union in the collective bargaining process is being slowly eroded by the Canadian capitalists. Students' interests lie in uniting with labour to stop such a regressive process.

Boycott Radio Shack products, in solidarity with the workers of Barrie.

Cliff Engleman
Eng. 111

Reader Comment

Robin Hunter

Nicolas Dimic (*Gateway*, Oct 23) regrets the "Western nations seemingly have washed their hands" of the Kampuchean situation and suggests that they exploit the propaganda possibilities of the famine currently faced by the nation, since it is clear that "Communist war crimes" are at the root of the disaster.

Dimic's wretched letter and his feeble understanding of the situation in Kampuchea certainly testify to the exceptional propaganda possibilities open to the U.S. side of the cold war. Ever since the U.S.'s plans to "free" Indochina became a manifest disaster our media have done their best to give the impression that it's all the communists' fault, a line which Dimic seems to have swallowed and digested.

It is worth recalling that after overthrowing the Sihanouk government in 1970 and setting up the Lon Nol dictatorship, the United States dropped half a million tons of bombs on the Kampucheans (over 100 pounds of explosives per capita). Dikes and other irrigation projects were destroyed, draft animals slain by the thousands. Defoliants were sprayed on rice fields. A full-scale famine was imminent when Lon Nol was overthrown in 1975. The U.S. government at that time cut off the food aid program the country was in past dependent on.

Already pulverized, Kampuchea was governed by Pol Pot's underdeveloped and deformed (Stalinist) "communist" movement, which adopted a draconian and wildly adventurous economic policy. Urban centers were evacuated and a rural-based collectivism was aimed at by military force. The resulting dislocations have led to the deaths of three million Kampucheans.

Dimic and others sophisticated enough have no trouble in drawing the lesson: the root cause of these disasters can be distilled to one factor: communism. In spite of the fact that a faction of Kampuchean communists, (with Vietnamese aid) have overthrown Pol Pot and endeavored to reverse his policies, although this may be too late to prevent further widespread famine.

Perhaps Dimic could now explain to us why his friend, the U.S. government has recently thrown its support to the ousted Pol Pot forces in Kampuchea, the "communists" most clearly implicated in the disastrous famine. They recently backed Peking's effort to deny the U.N. recognition to the new Kampuchean

government, and kept Pol Pot's spokespeople in the U.N. Also Washington is channeling food and arms to Pol Pot's military forces via Thailand. Dimic might add why these acts, U.S. support to the Stalinist Pol Pot are not war crimes, and explain his attribution of the disaster in Kampuchea to "Soviet and Cuban expansionism."

Readers interested in Western policy toward Cambodia should check John Pilger's article in *the Journal* (29 Oct, p. A6) for further grey tones to the black and white picture Dimic gives.

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Term: one year starting from the date of appointment
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Please submit a letter of application and a detailed resume to Speaker, FOS Policy Board. Attention: Selection Committee. Room 278, SUB, U of A T6G 2J7. Phone: 432-5319. Closing date for submissions is Nov. 2, 1979, by 4:30 PM.

P.S. The director for 1979 is available for consultation

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