

Human rights concern for Roche

by Peter Michalyshyn

Member of Parliament Doug Roche discussed human rights in the world today at a meeting of the Political Science Undergraduate Association (PSUA) last week.

Political terrorism is rabid, in over 70 countries, said Roche. In Cambodia alone, over two million people were killed methodically by the Pol Pot regime.

"There has never been as much potential to solve the problem of poverty. We have the economic potential" Roche said, but "we haven't the political potential for implementation."

Instead, over one million dollars per minute is spent on the arms race, Roche pointed out.

"We cannot achieve security through the arms race," and yet we cannot realistically disarm unilaterally, he said.

Roche called security a "two-edged coin." Canada must stay part of the "western alliance" on one edge yet must do everything possible to build for peace through mutual disarmament, on the other.

"It's a paradox . . . its a dilemma" Roche said. "The world is a very complex place. Beware of those who say there are black and white solutions."

Roche questioned the

meaning of the "good life" if we cannot feel satisfied with the "human condition."

He said there is an "integral relationship between us as human beings and as a global community."

"Its not there yet, but its coming," he said.

Roche said this human revolution is inevitable and is happening economically and politically.

He admitted Canada could do more to find solutions to quicken the process, however.

Aside from the Nobel prize winning exploits of the late Prime Minister L.B. Pearson, Roche said we have not been

creative or daring enough, and have not been initiating enough proposals to cure the dismal human prospect.

Persistently questioned on the option of a neutral status for Canada in foreign affairs, Roche said he liked the idea, but it was not politically wise.

He noted that in the 60s when Canadian forces were reduced in Europe, Canada lost prestige in the West.

However, Roche did say Canada was neutral in one sense. "We are the only country with the capability to build nuclear weapons, who does not yet have them."



Doug Roche

photo Stan Mah

National Communist leader speaks on campus

The Soviet Union's involvement in Afghanistan was not an act of aggression or intervention, according to Bill Kashtan.

Rather, the Soviet Union was honoring a 1978 treaty with

Afghanistan which stipulated that Afghanistan could ask the U.S.S.R. for military aid.

Kashtan said both internal and external factors prompted Afghanistan's call for assistance.

He cited resistance to the revolution by the land-owning and capitalist classes as an internal factor.

And continuing interference in the affairs of Afghanistan by China, Pakistan, as well as the CIA, is an external reason mentioned by Kashtan.

But, he said if no external forces had been present in Afghanistan the USSR probably wouldn't have become involved because they do not interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign state.

Moreover, he maintained that the Soviet Union is not lessening the likelihood of detente by its actions because the

U.S. is already following a Cold War policy.

"The American decision to establish a strike-first missile base in West Germany has done nothing but increase tensions and indicates the West's decision to move away from detente.

Kashtan also accused the U.S. of "playing the Chinese card" against the Soviet Union.

Kashtan said an accelerated arms race is in the interest of the capitalists because it will keep the armaments industries healthy, decrease unemployment

and provide large profits.

Kashtan also accused the American media of propagating misinformation and waging a "war of words" against Communism.

"The capitalist press has never done anything for the workers," he said.

"Eventually people will realize that they're being taken in and they'll object," he added.

And though Kashtan admitted that many people don't like life in the Soviet Union and

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Baird opens his door

Reaction was lively and opposition vocal when Bill Kashtan, national leader of the Communist Party of Canada addressed Dr. Max Baird's Political Science 202 class last Friday.

But Baird estimated that only one-quarter of the students were openly hostile during Kashtan's half-hour speech on the Communist Party's views on Canadian economic and foreign policy.

And Baird says it's a valuable experience for his students to be exposed to an alternative point of view.

Kashtan didn't seem bothered by the hostile audience, either. "I have no objection when people yell and swear at me," laughs Kashtan. "I know there are differences."

Telerama tele-booming success



photo Karl Wilberg

Telerama '80 was a resounding success.

The annual Associated Canadian Travellers' (ACT) telerama, held this weekend in SUB Theater, raised over \$611,000 for the handicapped people of Alberta — a \$34,000 increase over last year's total.

"This was one of the best productions we've ever put on," said ACT foundation president Morley Peacock.

The funds will be used to provide equipment and monetary grants to handicapped people. The telerama also provides funding for capital projects and other facilities for handicapped people.

Gateway Staff Party

Okay, Eraserheads, party's Friday night.

Wear your rubbers.

SU Forums Presents: CANADA, MY COUNTRY "to be or not to be"

- the Chairperson in Alberta for UNITY WEEK

SPEAKER: Jean Forest, U of A Chancellor

TIME: 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

DATE: Thursday, February 7

PLACE: Room 158, Meditation Room (1st Floor, by the Elevators) Students' Union Building

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Advocate

by

Colin Wong



The Student Bill of Rights has been a topic of much discussion lately, and some students seem to see it as a magical solution to all their problems. Last week the Council on Student Services (COSS) recommended to General Faculties Council Executive that the bill of rights be thoroughly studied.

If passed, the bill will have far-reaching ramifications on relationships between faculty, administration and students. The following questions attempt to deal with some aspects of the bill.

(1) What does the Student Bill of Rights mean to you? It means that most of your rights and obligations will be explicitly proclaimed. At present, some of these, such as protection against improper academic evaluation, are only assumed to exist.

(2) What if we don't have a Student Bill of Rights? At present, we have to rely on the good will of university officials. Most basic rights on procedures are stated in the GFC regulations. The parts dealing with principles are largely omitted. The result — when a situation not covered by the regulations arises, an official has to use his discretion. The only requirement is that his discretion must reflect good faith, reasonableness and professional competence. With the bill of rights, he would have a set of principles to rely on.

(3) What are its benefits to you? The bill of rights would make students more aware of their rights. University officials would be less inclined to misuse their power, and students would be more prepared to assert their rights if they were aggrieved. At present, most grievances occur because others don't know that students have rights or think that students won't pursue grievances.

(4) What are the disadvantages? The bill would constrict the freedom of university officials in carrying out their duties. This is undesirable because the main objective of a university is to advance and disseminate knowledge. Unnecessary assertion of rights and frittering over small details may impede that goal.

(5) What are the obstacles? It's difficult to ascertain the bill's effects on existing regulations. It could have a wide effect, like the American Constitution, which invalidates any law not conforming to it. Or it could have very little effect, like the Canadian Bill of Rights, which is only a declaration of good will and intention.

(6) What is the real issue? All these questions can be reduced to one — whether university officials can be trusted to exercise their power properly. The study, if carried out thoroughly, should tell us whether they are worth trusting, not only during the time of peace and tranquility, when everyone is sane and accommodating, but also in times of turmoil, when the system is put to a real test.

The Student Advocate represents the Students' Union on grievances. If you have an interesting topic you would like discussed here, please contact me at 432-4236, 272 SUB.