

Marie Josée Simard

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Saturday, March 27, 1982 8:00 pm

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SUELECTION



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The Students' Union requires staff for the by-election on Friday, March 26. Help us out and earn \$4.00/hour at the same time. For further information, please contact the SU Retuning Office (Room 271, SUB) or the Receptionist. SU Executive Offices (Room 259 SUB).

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by Jens Andersen

I generally refuse to support charities on principle. Being a card-carrying Social Darwinist I believe only in helping people who, though they are rendered temporarily incapable of helping themselves, are basically able to stand on their own two feet. Most charities (the Salvation Army and its flophouses come readily to mind) are simply supporting people who do not need or want help, or people who will never be able to pull their own weight, people who can do no better service to the world than dying off and ceasing to be a burden to other people.

Nevertheless, I understand that many people classify such an attitude as crypto-Nazi, so occasionally, as in the recent "Bowl for Millions", I allow myself to suffer a small reduction in assets to avoid tension with the bleeding hearts.

And last week, when a fellow Gateway staffer approached me to sponsor him in something called the Hunger Project Starvation, I politely pledged 20 cents per hour, while reflecting privately that from the standpoint of ecology and human nature the Project's goal of ending starvation in 20 years in pure moonshine, and noting that the methods to be used to accomplish this grandiose scheme, as put forward in last Thursday's Gateway were remarkably vague.

A day after the Gateway appeared on the stands the Chaplain's Office sent down a wad of xeroxed articles about the Hunger Project and its apparent relationship to the cult organization est (Erhard Seminars Training).

One of the articles, "Let them eat est", from the Dec. 1978 issue of *Mother Jones*, reveals that the Hunger Project was started by est's Werner Erhard, that the top personnel of the two corporations are rather cosy (e.g. one of Hunger Project's three directors, Michael Chetzky, was a director of California Aesthetics when that company was the sole shareholder in est; another HP director, Robert Dunnet, was vice-president of Erhard Seminars Training Inc. when that was est's corporate name), that Hunger Project people have been pressured to recruit for est, that Erhard lives a life of levantine luxury, and that the Project's plan to eliminate hunger by 1997 involves nothing more than a vague sort of consciousness-raising among prosperous first-worlders.

My Hunger Project volunteer, on being informed of this, told me that *Mother Jones* had made an apology over the article, which I have been unable to confirm, since our starved library system doesn't carry the magazine. At any rate I doubt that any such apology would have been made for more than one or two factual errors (if this is incorrect I will humbly print a retraction and apology).

At any rate, what I consider the most damaging charge in the *Mother Jones* article - that the Hunger Project is simply an exercise in brow-wrinkling, gabbing and agonizing - is confirmed by the Hunger Project's own publication *A Shift in the Wind*, which reveals that 22 per cent of its expenditures of about \$2.2 million goes into "fund-raising, management and general administration" with the rest going to "Communication, information and educational activities" (31 per cent), *A Shift in the Wind* (14 per cent), and "Volunteer community activities" (33 per cent). Revenues exceed expenditures by \$5 million, but the disposition of this money is not accounted for.

These figures seem adequate proof to me that Hunger Project is all froth and no beer. Not a cent seems to have gone into combatting the multitudinous causes of hunger with anything but the puny weapons of words. Not a cent to deal with climate, insects, pests, diseases, over-fecundity, wars and civil strife, or any of the 6,517 varieties of human stupidity ranging from drunkenness and ignorance of good agricultural practices, to over-taxation and that endemic, rapacious will-to-power so well exemplified by Werner Erhard and his lucrative enlightenment racket est (see Saratoga Restaurant Equipment).

We have partial remedies for some of these causes of hunger, but to eliminate them all presupposes a control of nature (including human nature) which the human race does not possess as yet. One cannot undo all these persistent causes simply by milking well-intentioned people and pumping the money into a dubious corporation which specializes in high-grade pep talk (and which is not, incidentally, a registered charity with the Dept. of Consumer and Corporate Affairs).

To believe that the staggeringly complicated problem of hunger can be ended in 20 years is a delusion of grandeur. If we are lucky, and if we work hard and intelligently, we may have time to help a few of our fellow humans through a few of their tribulations on this sorry globe. But by trying to bring on the millenium we may only end up giving power, prestige and money to that most undeserving charity case, Werner Erhard.

Women's unemployment

Heather Menzies, author of *Women And The Chip*, will speak at a free public forum to be held at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Menzies' research shows that "unless policy makers move to head off current trends, up to one million Canadian women could be unemployed by 1990". The trends include the automation of clerical and related information work, which is consistently and substantially reducing labour requirements in areas where women are most heavily concentrated.

Heather Menzies from Ottawa, Ontario will address the effects and implications of these changes brought by microtechnology at a free public forum on Wednesday, March 24, 1982. The forum is at 7:30 pm in the Theatre of the Students' Union Building on Campus. Child-care will be available.

The forum is sponsored by the Faculty of Extension Women's Program. However, the following local unions and associations are providing financial assistance: the University Non-Academic Staff Association, the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, the Letter Carriers Union of Canada, the Alberta Federation of Labour and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers.

For further information please contact the Women's Program, Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta at 432-3093.

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Sweet versus Griffin

The University of Alberta Women's centre will be sponsoring a forum on "Pornography and Censorship" Wednesday March 24.

The featured speakers who will present differing views on the issue will be Lois Sweet, columnist for the *Edmonton Journal*, and Britt Griffin, researcher for the Alberta Society of Women Against Violence project, *Looking at Ourselves*.

The forum will be held on Wednesday at noon in Room 1-7 of the Humanities Centre.

sub theatre

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