



Canada's oldest college newspaper. Member of Canadian University Press. Opinions expressed editorially are not the official opinion of the Council of Students. Official publication of Students of Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

A Fundamental Change:

The Cuban Revolutions

by ROY CLARKE

Mr. Clark, who comes from Barbados, is a senior student studying economics and politics with particular reference to the underdeveloped areas. His major argument in this article is that the Cuban Revolution was no mere changing of Juntas but rather a basic social revolution, and that this fact must be the essence of any full understanding of the Cuban situation.

Cuba's Revolution has highlighted many of the janned features of the "plundered continent" of Latin America; unlike the man with rheumatism Cuba has not accepted its pains as part of providential disposition.

To many, the Cuban Revolution is a call of a far wider social revolution designed to overthrow archaic social structures and to surge ahead rapidly in the forging of a new order; to a few, it is symbolic that the nation and its young leadership has swung out of the orbit of "Christian" civilization and is moving fast to hell in a red handcart.

What are the catalytic forces behind this revolution? We know that a revolution (except the Hollywood version) is not fortuitous, but arises from a series of quantitative and

qualitative changes; that it is not an event but a process.

With the exception of the Mexican Revolution, "social change" has not too frequently meant the substitution of one military junta for another. Cuba's upheaval differs profoundly from the Mexican pattern by the velocity with which it has uprooted the old order and the boldness with which it is catapulting the nation into the slipstream of economic development. In the dynamism of its approach the Cuban experiment portends to be the pathfinder of other Latin American nations.

From the beginning the Revolution struck deep roots in the rural campesinos (peasants) and not in the industrial proletariat according to the traditional Marxist schema: it was the irresponsible force, supported and led by the urban intelligentsia, that was the iron fist of the 26th of July Movement.

The Cuban *campesino* differs from his classical European and Asian counterpart who work on fragmented individual holdings. The bulk of the nation's rural dwellers were landless proletarians earning starvation wages on the largely foreign-owned North American sugar *latifundias*. The majority were seasonal workers.

This class constituted the lowest stratum of Cuban society and even the Roman Catholic Church, as Sweezy and Huberman have reported, had a negligible ideological impact on its social and cultural mores. Far from being a conservative rural force, the *campesino*, by virtue of the large-scale *fundos* contained vigorous revolutionary shoots.

Thus, in many ways, the archaic land pattern matched by unprecedented corruption and alien control of the nation's resources determined the topography of the revolutionary upsurge and direction of struggle. Blessed with a variety of rich soils, the nation is able to support a variety of crops; but in the old Cuba monoculture practised by the large export-oriented corporations prevailed.

From the very beginning there was no need for land reform: the quick shift to a co-operativized agricultural structure was simple. Given the *campesinos* alienation from the land the "kulak" mentality was unknown, and the basic job was to "heighten his revolutionary consciousness" so as to develop and extend the co-operate structure. In this respect, Cuba's tackling of the land problem differs from the classic Soviet and Chinese approach—a divergence to be explained by a different agriculture heritage.

From the early stages the regime was able to provide the nation with an agricultural marketable surplus which is the cornerstone of economic growth. We all know that the industrial takeoff depends on the tackling of the land question—since basically workers in industry must be fed before they can produce.

Russia learnt this the hard way. Cuba, in contrast to the social bloc, has thus been able to grapple with the land problem immediately upon the seizure of power by the mere expropriation of these foreign-owned properties. It is easy to envisage why such solutions would have great appeal to the rest of the "plundered continent."

Another feature of Cuban development is that it is not menaced with a demographic avalanche, where productivity gains are threatened with being wiped out by population growth. Rene Dumont, a distinguished French agronomist, states that if the nation is as intensively cultivated as South China, it could sup-

LETTERS

...orgy...

The SCM Cabinet would like to thank Mr. Scammel for the unexpected publicity in his recent article and to extend its invitation to him and any of his brothers who would like to attend its next orgy.

We had a most productive revel last weekend with that well-known entertainment team, Kaplan and Aitcheson, providing diversion on the theme of **Disarmament**, the No. 1 tune on the International Hit Parade. The party proved so stimulating that we are planning a Spring Bacchanalia for the end of the term.

Invest in a moss green sweater (\$8.50), a brotheal creepers (\$5.00), a palm tickling Miss (\$15.00 plus tax) and other essentials and join us.

Decadent Dick,
Carousal Convener.

...birth control...

Since the Associate National Secretary of the S.C.M. in Canada, Rev. Vincent Goring, is unable to explain his stand in the lecture on birth control reported in connection with an S.E.M. meeting by the Gazette of Feb. 16, I would briefly like to comment on the letter of March 2 by Messrs. Murphy, Hurley and Ryan.

In reading their comments, I at once noticed that almost everything said therein had in fact been dealt with by Mr. Goring in what he called "the Roman Catholic point of view." The Gazette, of course, could not cover the whole lecture for space reasons.

If my Roman Catholic fellow students (as some of their fellows believers did) would have attended the meeting in question, they would have spoken with a man who was well versed in Roman Catholic medical thinking. As a result, they would have saved the time taken in writing such an excellent letter, as was the case with "Goring's Arguments Still Born."

E. Lawrence Peck,
Student Ecumeical Movement

port a population of over 50 million; today Cuba's population is 6 million.

Noteworthy is that Cuba is free from the fetishes and shibboleths that fetter economic progress in many underdeveloped areas. I am particularly referring to the Indian bovine and monkey population and the Hindu monkey patterns to their deities.

The days are not long past when the American ambassador could exultantly boast that the U. S. embassy was the most important institution in Cuba. A new dignity has arisen that is now truly meaningful. Prostitution and gambling that catered to the depravities of tourists have been eliminated, and so has radicalism; a drive to exterminate illiteracy in one year is now being waged (UNESCO thought it would have necessitated ten); medical care and hospitalization will be free, and the age-long scourge of unemployment and underemployment is being rapidly liquidated by industrialization.

We know that freedom, as has been stated, is and never can be defined once and for all. Freedom has no claims to finality. Every generation must fight for its freedoms anew, interpret them anew, and struggle to add new dimensions to them.

We may or not like it but we cannot ignore it. And it behooves us to keep in mind the words of Prof. C. Wright Mills:

"Above all, we must not allow our reactions to the manner of the Cuban accusations to hide from us the fact that many of their complaints about the United States, past and present, are solidly based upon historical and sociological fact... We must address ourselves to the very real basis of Cuba's case; we must answer—with fact, with reason, and with civilized policies—the argument of these revolutionaries of the hungry nation bloc."

Editor-in-Chief	DENIS STAIRS
Managing Editor	MIKE KIRBY
Associate Editor	GEORGE MARTELL
Business Manager	BOB DAVISON
News Editor	Betty Archibald
Associate News Editor	Dave Nicholson
Features Editor	Bob Ryan
Associate Feature Editor	Jim Hurley
Boys' Sports Editor	Joel Jacobson
Girls' Sports Editor	Bobbie Wood
Associate Girls' Sports Editor	Sharon Blackburn
Feature Columnist	Peter Outhit
Features	Rolf Schultz, Ian MacKenzie
Students' Council Reporter	Ian MacKenzie
Copywriter	Brian Backman
Cartoonist	Jim Hurley
CUP	Sandra Greenleaf
News Reporters:	Philip Amys, Joan Stewart, Henry Muggag, Peter Spenser, Bill Dennis, Mary Doody, Jan Martell, Jim Bates, Ralph Ferguson, Marilyn Withrow
Sports Reporters:	Gerry Irwin, Blair Green, Brian Creighton, Jamie Richardson, Wayne Beaton, Albert Bartlett, Linda Lee, Linda Stoker, Leona Ramsay, Jean Hattie, Kay Tucker.
Managing Typist	Penelope Stanbury
Typists	Lorraine Kirby, Winna Miller, Joan Smith, Elinor Pushie
Circulation Manager	Sally Ross
Circulation:	Chris Banks, Joyce Wyman, Jane MacLean, Sharon Connolly, Charlotte Davidson, Heather Corston.
Photography	Dave Bissett, Joe MacDonald, Bob Risley

A Regime Assessed

In recent years, it has not been the policy of the *Gazette* to praise individuals or groups on campus. We feel, however, that this year's Students Council, under the leadership of President Doug Cudmore and Vice-President Bill Dickson, has done a job worthy of commendation.

The platform they presented last year contained 10 points. Most of them have been successfully carried out.

Their proposed work on the S.U.B. has been very well done. The S.U.B. committee was continued under the leadership of Dave Matheson and this group has spent many hours laying the groundwork for an alumni fund-raising campaign starting in October and continuing for six months. The alumni are going to be canvassed with the hope of getting \$250,000 towards the Students Union Building. All the plans concerning the organization and handling of this campaign have been made and a brief asking permission to conduct it is now before the Board of Governors.

Book-Store

A book store co-operative was established dealing in second hand books. During its three-week period of operation over one thousand dollars worth of books were sold. The venture proved to be a very economical one for the students involved and a very profitable one for the council which received 5% of all sales. It is hoped that next year's book store will do a vastly increased business.

A Dalhousie dance band was formed under the direction of Council members Mike Jennings and Tom Raddall. While the band has yet to play at any Dal dance, they have been practising and should be in efficient operation by next year. Their first performance will be in this year's Black and Gold Revue and from all reports it will be an impressive debut.

A new agreement was reached between the Students' Councils of Dal and Pine Hill. Under this revised contract, Pine Hill may complete in interfaculty sports and will receive the benefits of a Dalhousie NFCUS card. In return, Dalhousie receives a fee of \$75.00 from Pine Hill.

The only major failure of the Cudmore-Dickson platform concerned the mid-term break. A brief was presented to the Faculty for approval but was turned down. It has been suggested that had the council presented an alternative plan, such as starting the fall term a week early and then having a week's recess in March, the plan would have been much more acceptable to the administration. Perhaps better progress would have

been made had more room been left open for negotiation. In any event, the groundwork has been laid for the in-coming council and if it is followed wisely we may well see a mid-term break next year.

The Alumni were approached with the idea of sponsoring a Dalhousie homecoming, but they decided that they were not prepared to embark on such a scheme this year. As the council felt they could do nothing without the support of the Alumni, the project was dropped, with the understanding that when the Alumni is prepared to support such a move, the Council will aid in every way in such an undertaking.

Frosh

A new system of freshman initiation was introduced. Although it suffered from a lack of organization and an immature approach, the program was a vast improvement over other years. For the first time freshmen were encouraged to enter into extra-curricular activities. They were introduced to the leaders of the various organizations on campus and were given an opportunity to discuss with them the work of these organizations.

As also promised, the Council improved the seating at the Dal football games. The seating capacity of the Studley Field was increased and a section was reserved on the north side of the field for the band and cheerleaders.

Finally, an attempt was made to improve Delta Gamma. A survey of similar organizations on various campi across the country was made and many improvements were suggested. As a result, Delta Gamma did more this year than it has in the past, although quite possibly its existence is still not justified.

Standard

In summing up therefore, it must be said that this year's Council was an active one. It accomplished much and set a standard of success which will be hard to match in the future.

Perhaps, however, an even more important lesson can be learned from this year's Council. Before we go to the polls tomorrow we must study the platforms of the candidates running for President and Vice-President. We must ask ourselves whether their promises are merely empty campaign boasts or whether they can become realities.

Tomorrow we shall be electing the people who will lead our student government for the next twelve months. We have seen this year an example of what can be accomplished under good leadership. We can only hope that whoever wins the election will follow the standard set by their predecessors.