

# It's the Soviet's fault, says Time fan

Your article, Behind the Boat People Problem — a closer look, 11th September, 1979, does not reflect the actual state of affairs confronting the Indochina's refugees. The very fact is that the Indochina's refugees problem is a natural consequence of human rights violation contrived by the Russians, and being executed by its Asian Cubans, the Vietnamese. When Vietnamese citizens of Chinese ancestry were given a choice between going to the new "economic zones" (the Hitler's equivalent of Auschwitz), or leaving their country (provided they or their relatives can meet the ransom of the Vietnamese government), they have no free will. It is not novel that Russia has a long standing racist policy towards its Jewish, Ukrainian, and other minorities. To cover up this post-war genocide would encourage further violation of human rights in other parts of the world.

The mass exodus of refugees from Vietnam is a continuous trend of "final solution" in human history. With what the Ottoman government did to the Armenians, Stalin's did to its political opponents, and Hitler's did to the Jews, the half a million corpses of the boat people in the South China Sea would rank with these historical records.

Please allow me to counter some of the points in your article.

Firstly, the Vietnamese refugees are genuine refugees. They are the victims of the Vietnamese government's policy

towards ethnic Chinese. Most of these refugees (who escaped after Mid-1978) are either ethnic Chinese or Vietnamese who have been able to obtain forged Chinese identification (Chinese in Vietnam must register as aliens; Vietnamese are not permitted to pay their way out through official organized extortion). In Nazi Germany, the rule of law had at least been superficially observed, and, hence, the Jews who escaped from Hitler's rule paid their dues legally (ranging from 25% of their property in 1933 to 90% or more in 1937). In Vietnam, official policy prevails over the law. The boat people merely pay official sanctioned extortion. The Vietnamese government reluctantly admitted this in the Geneva conference on refugees last month. The only humane side of the Vietnamese government is that they charged the refugees according to their economic situation. The fixed price is 5 ounces in the North versus 13 ounces in the South where most people had been better off during the former Saigon regime. This explains why 10% of the boats from the North are motorized while almost 100% from the South are.

Secondly, there are at present 655,000 Indochina's refugees from Vietnam alone. The ethnic Chinese population in Vietnam prior to this mass exodus was about 1 million. Having taken into account that 40% of the boat people had perished in the South China

Sea because of piracy by pirates, Thai, Indonesian, and Malaysian soldiers, and more often the capsizing of their boats. Out of those who survived, about 35% are Vietnamese who have been able to prove to the Vietnamese authority that they are Chinese, or escaped through unofficial channels. Most of these Vietnamese are Christians. The boat people are victims of racial and religious persecutions. The flow of refugees will be limited as the Vietnamese government is only interested in eliminating the ethnic Chinese population.

Thirdly, the boat people are those who have chosen to risk their lives in the South China Sea for freedom to die in the "economic zones". A very few refugees who escaped during the fall of Saigon in 1975 might be bent, but a line must be drawn to distinguish them from the majority of the refugees who are not. Your article quoted that "merchants and wheeler dealers — mainly of Chinese origin ... There were large number of prostitutes, drug addicts ..." is purely a distortion of statistics, and racist in nature. The refugees in the camps have shown their diversity of political beliefs and occupations, ranging from merchants and poor farmers to generals and vice-premier in the Vietnamese government. Another quarter of a million ethnic Chinese refugees from Vietnam have made their way to China, another Communist country, and they include

soldiers of the Vietnamese government who marched with the Hanoi's victorious troops all the way to Saigon. This explains why the fundamental issue is RACISM. Their only crime is being Vietnamese of Chinese ancestry. The risk for those refugees who opt to escape to China is lesser than those who choose some other countries because of the geographical situation.

Then, what can we do? The Students' Union has made a humane decision to sponsor a refugee family. We can write to our members of parliament and members of legislative assembly, and express our support to the

government policy towards the Indochina's refugees. We should express our concern that any aid to the Vietnamese government is an indirect abetting to its continuous acts of genocide and aggression because it can divert more money to purchase arms from the Russians. We should urge our government to strengthen our sanction against the Vietnamese government and its collaborators, namely the Russians and the Cubans.

Berry Hsu

Computing Science

P.S. Most of the above figures are based on the July-September issues of the London Economist and Time magazine.

## Quixote

A column of opinion

by David Marples

As the 1980 presidential election approaches in the United States, the fortunes of President Jimmy Carter are at low ebb. With the dismissal of most of his staff, the resignation of his talented U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young and with his personal popularity falling almost daily, he faces a downfall as ignominious as his rise to power was spectacular. The man in the White House appears a lonely, somewhat pathetic creature, indecisive and uncertain.

Ironically, the one domestic issue on which Carter has focused considerable attention, namely energy, may well be seen retrospectively as the chief cause of the failure of his unhappy presidency. Public discontent was manifested openly during the gasoline shortages of May and June. On the eastern seaboard, motorist line-ups for gasoline resulted in skirmishes and attacks on station attendants. The media suspected some form of deliberate demise of Carter, and it is pertinent to ask what the reasons are behind America's energy crisis.

In the first place, the problem rests with American consumers. They are, simply, using too much of their energy resources. Natural domestic supplies of energy have been frittered away due to an almost incredible gluttony of consumption. It is notable that whereas West Germany consumed 5,792 kilograms of energy per inhabitant in 1975 and Sweden 6,100, every U.S. resident used an astronomical 11,960 kilograms.

The need to import energy has been affected by a second factor. Although of the two principal energy commodities of the world, coal has the long-term future; it has been temporarily superseded by oil, since the latter is easier and cheaper to transport. The demand for oil has risen to the extent that over sixty per cent of the oil produced today enters the world market. In consequence, the countries with oil surpluses, in particular those of the Middle East, are enjoying a hitherto unprecedented voice in world affairs.

American policies in the Middle East, especially the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty have resulted in the alienation of oil-exporting Arab nations, such as Iraq and Libya. Relations with Iran have also been strained since the fall of the Shah. Saudi Arabia remains friendly, but unpredictable. Having constantly squandered domestic supplies of oil, the United States now faces the possibility of an embargo on oil imports from hostile Arab countries, which have not been slow to capitalize on the opportunities for political clout.

Carter has had the misfortune to be president at the time when the wasteful policies of the past bear their natural fruition. In the future, the Americans will have to rely on oil imports from Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and Venezuela in order to maintain present consumption levels. Further, American investment is already heavy in oil companies which are developing the resources of friendly neighbours such as Canada and Mexico.

It is worth emphasizing that the United States still has abundant reserves of energy. In terms of production, the U.S. is the world leader in coal, oil, natural gas, uranium and hydro-electricity. Carter has claimed with justification that by cutting down consumption of energy to reasonable levels, self-sufficiency could be realized in a very short time. He has, however, revealed a distinct reluctance to impose the stringent measures required.

In any rich consumer-oriented society, familiarity with a commodity is but one step away from necessity. The average white American has come to take for granted such material assets as two family cars, has come to expect a superior standard of living. He does not usually see that this has been achieved by over-using the natural wealth of the

It will be a brave but realistic president who tells his countrymen that they must conserve energy at the expense of the consumer. The alternative is the depletion of U.S. energy resources within the next decade.

## Time out for Student Help

It has been brought to our attention, rather, Student Help's attention, that some of our posters we have posted in various buildings on campus have hours of operation which are a little outdated. We have inadvertently put up posters which had the outdated times. We do apologize and hope that there has been no inconvenience to anyone seeking our services. The correct times should be: 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on weekdays and 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on weekends. After the stated hours we do have an

electronic secretary to receive and answer any calls that come to our office. Again I apologize for any inconvenience we may have created.

On a shorter note I would like to address all those eager students who are interested in helping other students. We are currently in the midst of a

volunteer drive and if you are a warm open person concerned with helping other students please drop in to Rm. 250 in SUB and pick up an application. Volunteers are available to answer any question(s) you may have. Thank you.

David Luhway  
A Volunteer

## Please more parking!

I have never written to the Gateway in my previous three years on campus, because I never had a beef to air, but now I've reached my boiling point. We recently applied to Parking Services for a parking spot on campus, only to be turned down because we supposedly live too close to the university. I agree, we do live fairly close, but it is definitely within walking distance.

Even visitor parking is full when we arrive at class leaving us no place to park except on side streets, where only one-hour

parking is allowed. But we are not the only ones; there were many, many cars parked on the block where we were, all with \$10 parking tickets.

As a last resort we walked door-to-door asking to park in their driveway for the winter. The result: \$15/mo. without an electrical socket.

There is definitely a need for more parking on campus but until that time comes, what's wrong with opening the side streets for us poor individuals who are refused campus parking.

Dean Perry  
Eng. 3

Ed. note: Take a bus.

## Cheers for coffee shop

I would like to commend the Students' Union for the marvellous job done in setting up the coffee shop in SUB. I spent at least five minutes drooling over the delicious looking pastries and cakes, finally settling for a lowly salad, but it was very good. I'm also reassured to know you can still get coffee in mugs somewhere on this campus, but I wonder how long it will be before students rip them all off.

Unfortunately, the hours of the shop are extremely limited and irregular, and service is still slow. I hope these problems are just temporary, but as business improves, things will only get worse, I fear.

Anyway, kudos to the SU; this is probably the most useful thing they've done in years.

Tracy Panas  
Education 2

Ed. note: The letter appearing in Tuesday's issue discussing North Garneau housing inadvertently omitted the author's name. Our apologies to David Liverman.

Got talent?  
Then why not join the Gateway?  
Come to ...  
**ROOKIE NIGHT**  
(non-rookies too!)  
...and learn the fine (well, maybe) art of journalism —  
news writing, sports writing, reviewing, photography.  
Thursday, September 20, 7:00 p.m.  
(yeah, that's tonight!)  
**ROOM 282 SUB**