

that the situation cannot change and so I must be the one to do so; this I have done by learning to block out from my mind the very presence of those things which make me feel uncomfortable when I do use the Women's restroom. However, enough of my problem; Arty Poodle Abby Landers is here to offer you some possible solutions to your problem.

First, have you tried spreading mayonnaise all over it and then slapping it with a dead herring? Whoops, wrong problem. Oh yes, you're the...well, I guess I don't have to mention it. Well, let's try this again.

Since space is limited Donna, I'll just put down four suggestions here. If you'd like some more, just send Don to see me.

- 1) See my problem.
- 2) Hold it until you get home.
- 3) Abstain from doing it until after your final operation. It's a disgusting habit anyway, in fact, it might do you good to give it up for life.
- 4) See Robbie Greenhill again. It's obvious you didn't approach him properly, as I have on many occasions (remember Robbie, spread mayonnaise

over it and then slap it with a dead herring, not the other way around). All he wants is a little reciprocity on your part, so just give it to him (but be gentle). This done, I know he would only be too happy to designate the washrooms of your choice, on campus, to be for "Transexuals in the process of being heterosexual only".

There you have it Donna, 4 solutions to choose from. Isn't it nice to know that when you have a problem, Auntie Arty Poodle Abby Landers is here to solve it for you? Remember now Don, and all you other readers out there, when you have a problem, don't take it to the University Administration, write to your Aunt Arty if you want results.

Arty Poodle  
Science III

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**Secret Message**

Attention all G.A.T.E.W.A.Y. Agents: Real important secret type staff meeting today, at my office, at 4 o'clock. Be there, fate of Western World at stake (P.S. Eat this paper after reading).

**CHOPPING BLOCK**

by Jens Andersen

"Synthesizers are programmed to sound white - that's how prejudiced white people are..."

The speaker is Miles Davis, as quoted in the September 29 *Rolling Stone*. Another quote from the same article:

"If I was black for sixteen years and I turned white - shit, I'd commit suicide. 'Cause whites have knowledge but no rhythm. Classical music was invented 'cause white people didn't have no rhythm..."

There are more quotations in the same vein, and the writer of the article on Miles is finally obliged to point out that "Miles Davis is no racist," and even likes Frank Sinatra.

The point, it seems to me, is that Miles is a racist, but so what? Racism is largely an imaginary crime anyway. After all, you can't have any sort of group pride (as Miles does) without looking down on people who don't share the group's virtues. This attitude is a natural manifestation of the human tendency towards insular groups.

There are damn few cosmopolitans anywhere in the world. What separates this harmless "darkies-got-rhythm, honkies-don't" sort of racism from lynch-mob and gas-oven type is something that rarely gets talked about: the almost universal human need for a scapegoat to bludgeon whenever a crisis arises.

The reason for this silence is not hard to find.



The fact is that most people who claim to fight racism merely have *different* scapegoats. If their bugaboo isn't the Jewish conspiracy it's Zionism, or the spectre of anti-Semitism. If it isn't the communist conspiracy or creeping socialism it's the oppressive capitalist system and greedy businessmen. If it isn't permissiveness and moral decline it is authoritarianism and cultural imperialism. If it isn't militarism it's defeatism.

Just as there are very few cosmopolitans there are very few people who make a genuine effort to analyze and understand a given state of affairs. Most people just look for someone or something to blame.

While doing the Orwell research for the *Chopping Block* last week I did plenty of random browsing through his essays. A pleasant time it was, and it turned up some interesting items. Take, for instance, these comments made during a 1946 British Royal Commission into the press, and still valid in these Kent commission times.

*In the current discussions of the Royal Commission that is to inquire into the press, the talk is always of the debasing influence exerted by owners and advertisers. It is not said often enough that a nation gets the newspapers it deserves.*

*What matters is that in England we do possess juridical liberty of the press, which makes it possible to utter one's true opinions fearlessly in papers of comparatively small circulation. It is vitally important to hang on to that. But no Royal Commission can make the big-circulation press much better than it is, however much it manipulates the methods of control. We shall have a serious and truthful popular press when public opinion actively demands it. Till then, if the news is not distorted by businessmen it will be distorted by bureaucrats, who are only one degree better.*

★★★★★★★★ **WHAT'S LEFT** ★★★★★★★★

by Mike Walker

**Construction unions backed against the wall**

Our provincial government seems to have a bottomless bag of tricks for the trade unions. The latest is Bill 110, which could destroy most trade unions in the construction industry.

Bill 110, after passage in the legislature, will make a simple change in the Alberta Labour Relations Act: it will allow unionized construction firms to set up non-union subsidiaries. This will be a dream come true for large unionized firms like Cana and PCL since they will be able to replace most of their unionized workers with non-union workers whose wages are substantially lower — in the case of laborers, for instance, \$6.70 per hour lower.

This could indirectly affect most of us since high union wages push up wages and salaries throughout the economy, even for people outside unions. If union wages drop, so will wages in general.

During boom times, with a shortage of labor, the big firms which needed large workforces were willing to pay high wages to keep up a steady pace of work. Now, with tens of thousands of desperate unemployed construction workers willing to work for much less than union wages, the firms would like a way out of the contracts they agreed to. Up to now, there was no way out. The collective agreements bound the companies to employing only union members, at union wages. And if a firm set up a subsidiary company, the subsidiary was considered part of the parent company for labor relations purposes. It was thus bound by the parent's collective agreements.

The new law will change this. Wholly-owned subsidiaries of unionized firms will no longer be bound by the parents' collective agreements; so their employees will not automatically be union members, and will not automatically get union

wages. Labour Minister Les Young says the workers in a newly formed subsidiary will now vote on whether to become union members. This has a certain democratic ring to it. But the change really has nothing to do with democratization; it has a lot more to do with profit.

Within a short time, we can expect all the large construction firms to set up subsidiaries. Membership votes will be held all right, but the workers will know the facts: if they vote to join, and thus get higher wages, the parent company will waste no time in setting up another subsidiary. They will then be laid off, and replaced with more non-union workers in the new subsidiary. Under these conditions, very few of the membership votes will pass.

Young says the change will create more employment by spurring construction activity. This is patently absurd; the recession, not high wages for construction workers, has caused the slump in the construction industry. Bill 110 won't create jobs. The same number of workers will be employed, but at lower wages.

The motivation behind the change is simply to allow employers to use the current unemployment among construction workers (expected to hit 60 per cent by spring) to reduce wages, and thus increase profits. If and when the current recession ends, and there is renewed pressure to increase wages, there will be no unions in many firms. The workers thus won't have the bargaining power to increase their wages. Their income will remain low, and the employers' profits will jump as the industry picks up.

Many of the construction unions supported the Conservatives in the last election. Bill 110 makes it obvious that an alliance between workers and the party of big business is a risky thing indeed. Perhaps the union leaders will think again come the next election.

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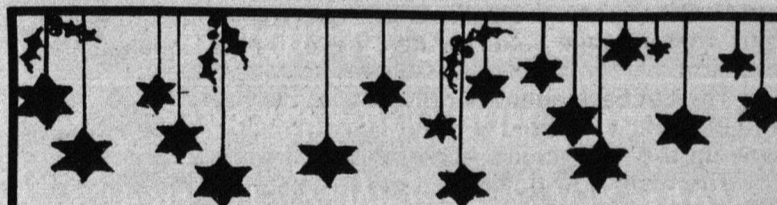
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. . . and to all a good night