

Attack of the killer pinkos

Greetings from the "angry pro-life supporter." Allison Annesley neglected to mention Grant Notley blew up at me first because quite frankly, the NDP do not have a leg to stand on re: their anti-life platform.

Notley lied outright when he stated abortion is a federal matter; the Alberta NDP platform specifically spells out an "abortion-on-demand" philosophy (copies available upon request).

The forum was poorly organized because questions were not overly-encouraged; furthermore those asking questions (unlike Grant Notley) did not have the benefit of a microphone. Hence he shouted me down effectively when he did not like what I was saying. New "Democrats"?

Notley's claim that abortion is "a matter between a woman and her doctor" gives the individual the right to kill. No other party in Alberta politics officially promotes the killing of the child in the womb. Therefore pro-lifers are morally obligated to vote for any candidate except the NDP.

Yours for Life,
Gerard Liston
President, Campus Right-to-Life

As NDP theory claims to pursue policies protecting people less materially favored in our society, its endorsement of the right to kill the unborn child is an embarrassment to itself.

If the right to kill the unborn were merely a matter between a woman and her doctor, it would not be an issue at all, federally, provincially or otherwise.

The Alberta NDP party is pro-abortion because it is the only one of Alberta's political parties to adopt a pro-abortion plank. Since 1971 in fact, a pro-abortion platform was accepted, and in 1977 it was confirmed by defeating the attempt that was made to remove the reference to abortion.

It is interesting that the party policy on abortion was not mentioned until someone asked about it. Maybe it was considered privileged information.

Jane Hagerty
Arts III

Finger Phalangists, not Israelis

With reference to Mr. Shihadeh's letter regarding the Students' Union decision not to support the motion to condemn the Israeli invasion of Lebanon I'd like to point out a few things:

1. There are people who feel that Israel's occupation of West Beirut was justified and that Israel should not take the responsibility for the massacre of the refugees.

2. By opposing the motion, the twelve council members were in fact expressing an opinion, and thereby making a political decision.

3. Events in South America are not isolated incidents but are part of the process of systematic suppression of their opponents followed by certain South American governments. The recent massacre of Palestinians is but one example of the atrocities perpetrated by one group of Arabs on another group within the context of the war between Israel and the P.L.O.

If Mr. Shihadeh wants to apportion blame for the massacre he must look to the Christian Phalangists and not the Israelis.

Mr. Shihadeh, I highly doubt that the twelve opposing members will be at the next cake sale - chances are that they will be exercising their intellectual faculties

to enable them to take an informed stand on current political events.

Michael Nochomovitz
Arts I

Voting sensibly

Your Editorial of October 18th puzzles me. I quote: Para 13. "...how many seats NDP is going to get. I would like to see them with 20 or 30.

Para 12. "I would like to see how .. (they) .. perform in opposition before even voting for them." (My emphases)

Put this was the non-logic becomes obvious. Who are the people who are supposed to "switch-vote" to achieve the "good, strong NDP opposition" whose performance you wish to observe?

"Who?" Mr. Watts. Further guidance over and above "But not me!" seems in order before November 2nd. One vote is worth more than many editorial platitudes: it might even achieve what you wish to see!

I remain, sir,

Yours respectfully,
John A. Eddington. M.D.

CHOPPING BLOCK

by Jens Andersen

The money required to provide adequate food, water, education, health and housing for everyone in the world has been estimated at \$17 billion a year. It is a huge sum of money....about as much as the world spends on arms every two weeks.

Disarmament plug



A bit of simple arithmetic shows that this is about \$4.25 for each of the world's 4 billion persons. You must forgive me, but I presume to doubt that, even in the Third World, one can get housing alone for \$4.25 a year. Certainly you can't in Edmonton. I know, because I went down to the Housing Registry and asked them if they had any cheap bachelor suites for \$4.25 a year. None.

This sort of hallucinogenic arithmetic leads one to ask who the drug-addled person is who estimated the \$17 billion figure. The answer is some person connected with the current nuclear disarmament crusade.

I saw the quote tacked to a bulletin board display at a seminar for high school teachers held this weekend on "how to incorporate disarmament topics into the Alta. curriculum." The quote, and other things I saw and heard at the seminar, give me the impression that many nuclear disarmament folks are less interested in saving you and me from becoming tomorrow's shish kebab than they are in pushing a lot of dubious propaganda.

Would it surprise you to learn that the seminar was sponsored by that collective of resolute leftists, the Learner Centre? Or that they were in alliance with Pax Christi, who had an information table at the seminar and (I believe) the abovementioned bulletin board, which also displayed posters with slogans like "It's a sin to build a nuclear weapon" and "You can't HUG your child with nuclear arms," and a letter to Ronald Reagan saying: "Where peace is emerging, so is Bible study and prayer. A new peace church is taking hold at the local level on an ecumenical basis....it will take a miracle to stop the arms race. The best leadership will come from those who believe in miracles."

The Christian disarmament types I will leave to psychopathology: they will be praying and sticking pins in voodoo dolls of Cruise missiles up to the moment the Big One hits, happily faithful that their God will protect them from modern physics.

The Learner Centre poses a more interesting question. As anyone who has attended their two Third World Film Festivals knows, the Learner Centre is an organization supplying educational materials to the public, ranging from liberal-humanist stuff (like NFB films) to hard-core communist propaganda like *History*

Book.

History Book is a film length animated cartoon film - produced somewhere in the Soviet bloc, if I remember rightly - which gives a history of the world, or rather Western imperialism, narrated by a mouse who spouts such gems of wisdom as:

"The Soviet Union stays in eastern Europe because it fears another attack from capitalists."

"The Russian people have learned that the only way to be free is to have a revolution."

"In a people's war everyone takes part in the collective effort and the capitalists are defeated. YAAAAAY!"

In case the message isn't clear enough, at the end of each of the film's nine reels a world map is shown with the Third World in red. The red areas coalesce to form a red star.

For the teachers who attended the weekend seminar, a "Curriculum Index" of material available from the Learner Centre was handed out. In it *History Book* was recommended for certain purposes in grades 9, 11 and 12.

At one point in the seminar someone mentioned that if disarmament material was introduced into the classroom it might be seen as "commie crap" by some. If he was referring to *History Book*, which wasn't talked about at any point in the seminar, he could well be prophetic.

What are the motives of people who push such junk? From having chatted a bit with one or two Learner Centre people I would say they are sincere and naive, but probably not programmed by Moscow (one even expressed slight qualms about *History Book* to me when I first saw it a year and a half ago).

Nonetheless one has to ask why they yell so loudly about western capitalism and imperialism in their curriculum materials, and utter scarcely a peep about similar behavior by Russia. It is as if a man confronted by two murderers suddenly begins violently denouncing one and ignoring the other.

Indeed, one lady from the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament, who came to our office and talked with us the other day, said that it was enough for her to know that Poland's Solidarity was backed by Reagan. This was so reminiscent of the old line, "It is sufficient to observe that Hanoi is backed by China and Russia," that I had to repress a smile.

But I am beginning to stray from my central thesis, which is that during the upcoming two weeks of disarmament activities the talk and debate will probably wander from strictly practical questions of how to halt or dampen the arms race, to partisan boosting of the various paths to alleged salvation.

If you are planning on attending any of the numerous activities (some of them, like the film *If You Love This Planet*, are quite worthwhile) keep your eyes open for the parrots in sheep's clothing.

To paraphrase Jesus, "By their baloney shall ye know them."

Oh yes; the Coalition woman also said that the real battle in the world today is between capitalism and socialism. It seems to me however that socialism is simply a distillation of the worst aspects of capitalism - namely the transfer of power from a few hands into even fewer, with no guarantee, even under democracy, that the government hands will be cleaner or more capable than the private hands.

If these are the only two choices open to me I refuse to take sides.

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