

the Gateway

EDITORIAL

Good news

The latest word from the Soviet politburo is: "... the practice of socialist development once again convinces us how important it is for a Communist Party to be strictly guided by Leninist norms of party life."

Thank goodness. For a while there (as they pursued a "realistic economic policy without incurring an excessive debt with the capitalistic states"), I wasn't sure the U.S.S.R. still was committed to world socialist revolution.

Now their position is clear. Pay no attention to Ronald Reagan's claims that Poland's troubles foreshadow the "beginning of the end of communism". The politburo assures the world that Poland merely is displaying "acute, crisis phenomenon" — a situation that undoubtedly would reverse itself if only the Western bankers would forego their 20-odd billion in loans and let Poland get on with the peoples' revolution.

To confuse the issue, there is the growing suspicion that the Soviet Union is no more communist than Ronald Reagan is conservative. For example, heed the observances of Doug Wahlsten of the Anti-Imperialist Alliance, Calgary branch.

Wahlsten says the forms of ownership in the U.S.S.R. are not socialist. Even though there is state ownership of property, the real owners are the small stratum of bureaucrats and not the working people. (Reminiscent of the power structure of American unions.)

This can be seen, he says, by how the wealth is distributed in the country. A small upper stratum receives high salaries, favors, and privileges to the extent that the ratio between workers' and bureaucrats' salaries is from 1:10 to 1:30.

Of course, Wahlsten's facts may be disputed. But assuredly they are as reliable as those from the Angela Davis types in our midst who would tell us the U.S. alone is responsible for Soviet crop failures, among other world disasters, while other friendly socialist nations look on peacefully, aghast.

Now, I'm not by habit a reactionary, but it would be of great comfort to know just where the Soviet Union stands on its ideology. It doesn't matter that the U.S.S.R. is a cruelly repressive totalitarian state; in subtler ways, so is the U.S.

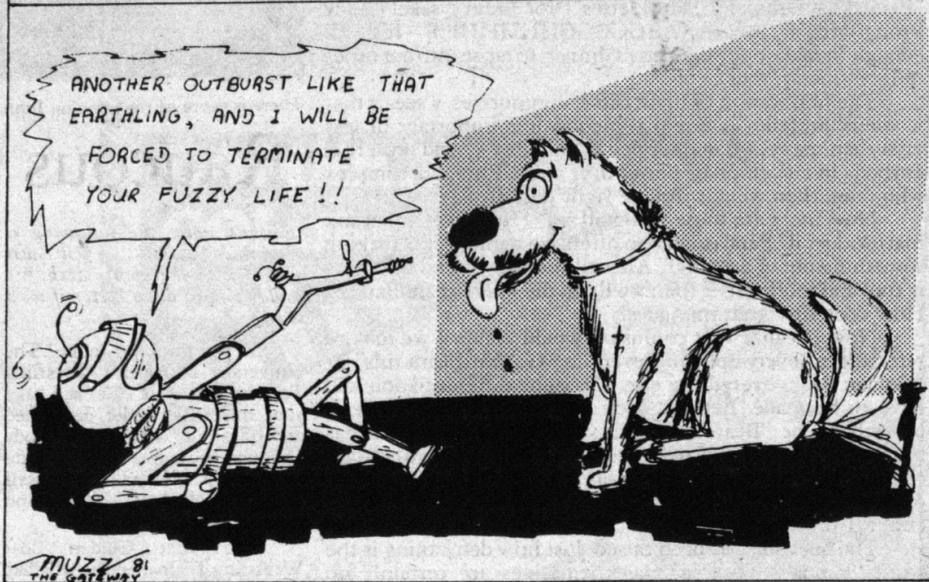
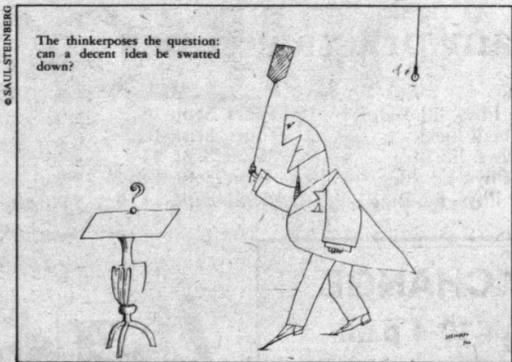
What matters (correct me if I'm wrong) is the degree to which the Kremlin et al adheres still to Lenin's Marxist fantasies. For if at some point the Soviets' zeal for world domination is sufficiently watered down, perhaps we will be able to stop worrying about invasion and stop spending billions on defensive weapons and get on with improving the human condition.

Well, the fantasy begins with the steady dissolution of the state after the overthrow of capitalism. That's still pending. How about the prediction that all wars are founded in capitalism? Tell it to Czechoslovakia. But this — that the working class condition in the West will progressively worsen and become intolerable until the masses are reduced to total poverty? Quoting Solzhenitsyn, if only the U.S.S.R. had such bearable poverty.

Well, this hasn't been much help. If it's true that Marx is dead to Red Square, then the non-ideological Kremliners who give lip service to communist principles must really be just ordinary, run of the mill imperialist dogs.

Thus, Soviet history has been a show of one-upmanship on the American yankee imperialist dogs, who've been non-ideological all along. Tit for tat. But how to explain that to the proletariat?

Peter Michalyshyn



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Steal from the rich

Dear Gateway:

A very interesting article appeared over the summer in the *Summer Times*, the *Gateway's* summer substitute, called "Let's be a little grateful," written by David Cunningham for the U of L *Meliorist*. It's too bad it didn't reach the larger audience of the *Gateway*.

The article was an attempt to remind us, as we go about our daily lives here, that we are very fortunate people, compared to most of the world's people today and to our ancestors, whose efforts and sacrifices built our good fortune; thus, we ought to see how terrible it looks when we lapse into laziness or self-indulgence.

That is certainly true, and not the outcome of a "liberal guilt complex." But if we don't "become martyrs and give all [our] wealth to Third World countries," (the one political act the article mentioned, only to reject it) what else should we do?

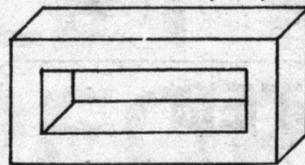
Perhaps those of us who are living together should get married to placate our revered pioneer ancestors?

It might well be good if we determined to attend class more regularly, and be more diligent in our studies — but people who aren't doing that for their own sake aren't going to start doing so because of feeling sorry for those not fortunate enough to have the opportunity for a university education.

Well, I'd like to offer a little

suggestion. No, not "don't give all your wealth away, but give a little more"; a laudable idea, but in itself not nearly a true acknowledgement of the moral responsibility imposed by our privileged status (although it has the virtue of being useful to the poor themselves).

Does our relative prosperity, which we are determined to continue enjoying as long as we can, come what may, anyhow,



Insurance freebies

The following jingles have been submitted to the *Gateway* by Campus Security and Traffic Director W.F.G. Perry, with the hopes of indoctrinating students with the need to be security conscious — memorize and repeat:

"Fall is here,
The time you like,
But don't forget
to lock your bike."

"Concentrate
during study sessions,
But keep an eye
on your possessions."

enable us to do some things that the poorer countries cannot which will benefit them as well? Yes ... and these are things which will help us maintain our own prosperity, which is itself not so secure these days.

The current energy crisis, coming minerals crises, and so on, are problems which are beginning to affect us. We may be very well off right now, but it isn't really clear we're going to stay that way.

The article noted "most of the students ... are ... so culturally myopic that a change in the setting of a thermostat is enough to send ripples of apathetic outrage murmuring through the platonic couches. Most of you do not have the foggiest idea as to how well off you are, neither do you care."; true enough, but these changes in the settings of thermostats may not be as insignificant as Mr. Cunningham seemed to think.

Our privileged position gives us the chance to perform the kind of research into fusion power, medicine, space exploration, and similar ambitious ventures to bring about prosperity, health, and purpose for all of the earth's billions. To abolish not just poverty, but perhaps mortality ... for the individual and the species.

If we just use our good fortune to enjoy it while it lasts, then we don't have much claim to it.

Yours sincerely,
John Savard
the "real" world

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Staff this issue: Anndd... the puck is dropped. I's scooped up by Team Canada. Jordan(justice) Peterson skates past Ben Yeevonsky into the Team Canada zone. He's looking around. He passes it behind the net to Dave(freedom) Beoit. He throws it back past Alison Thompsonovsky and on to Peter(equality) Hammond. He's skating up and down the blue line and oohhhh, he's decked by Jim Millerov. But there's no penalty. The loose puck goes to Peter(laissez-faire) Jarvis. He's flying past Sandra SHAWYENOV. He's hit by DAVID Chanilev. He flips the puck to Garnet(capitalism) DuGray... and they score!