

DO YOU HAVE....

'GONORRHOEA' OF THE BRAIN?

WARNING: a serious social disease is making the rounds. This disease kills and debilitates. It strikes millions every day. What this awful disease lacks is public awareness. But don't go looking for your favourite Hollywood personality to make a bitch on TV for your "desperately needed" dollars to find a cure. It isn't something new either. In fact, about the same time Christopher Columbus was bringing syphilis back from Hispaniola, this disease was also getting its start.

Worried now that you might have it yourself? You probably do. But don't take my word for it. Here's a simple, scientific test. Take it and you'll find out if you, too, are a victim of COMMODITY FETISHISM.

But, first---an example: Let's say it's lunchtime at the factory where you work. You have let it be known to your friend, as you munch on lunch, that you are a socialist. He gives you back all of the standard arguments: greed, human nature, the Bible. There's not a one you haven't heard before. But, then he winds up with the clincher. "Alright, wise guy," he says, deeply worried. "Under socialism, you say there won't be any bosses. Then, who goddamnit will sign my paycheck?" Your friend has a serious, maybe even terminal, case of commodity fetishism. He needs radical surgery right away.

Get the picture? Well, now take the test. Put yourself in the place of the person described and answer honestly what you would do under the same or similar circumstances.

A. You are a waitress in a big hotel restaurant. A line of people, waiting for tables, has formed at the door. As the people are seated, you size them up and say to yourself:

1. "That person looks like a good tipper. I hope the hostess gives him to me." (From restaurant lore, certain persons and certain groups are known to be "good tippers".)
2. "Everyone knows I'm not working for the fun of it. I'd rather be anywhere tonight. But I wonder if that person who just sat down at my table is left-handed, likes Charlie Chaplin movies, or stays up until 5 in the morning on alternate Tuesdays."

B. On Saturday, you go with some friends to the local museum. After viewing the dinosaurs and the Egyptian mummies, you make a tour through the chamber where all the gems and minerals are displayed. Later in the day, your voice trembling with excitement, you tell your mother and your brother about what you saw:

1. "The Hope Diamond---the largest, most valuable diamond in the world! Worth millions and millions! It's so valuable they have an armed guard standing beside it 24 hours a day. Here---I brought you a postcard."
2. "I saw a beautiful blue rock (crystallized carbon from the pipe of an ancient volcano). Think of the work it took to get it out of the ground, and to cut it and polish it."

C. "Everyone" knows that "everyone" is wearing one of the latest designer jock-straps. "Everyone" is running around with a little pink aardvark pinned to his lapel. "Everyone" is beating a path to see the new movie. "Simply gripping," says Famous Movie Critic Rex Reed; "Surely, a must." "Everyone" is using the toothpaste with sex appeal. "Everyone" owns a pet trapezoid and wears it on his key chain. How do you know this? Why, you saw "everyone" last night on television.

1. It's obvious what you do. Of course, you want to be with it. You'd simply die otherwise. You go out immediately and you buy and buy and buy. What an orgasm! (Besides, it helps the economy.)

continued---

2. No question at all---you puke! (Defacing a few billboards or smashing a television set, or shredding PEOPLE magazine in the grocery store check-out line also counts for those with extra-strong stomachs.)

The Results: First of all, the person who answered #2 in every hypothetical case above with complete honesty and not one second of hesitation is either---1)a member of an isolated hunting and gathering society just discovered in Brazil, or 2)an alien being from a planet with an advanced communistic civilization. (As one final and sure-fire test, explain what the following numbers mean to you: 1,000,000 and 38B.)

For those who are beginning to recognize, after taking this test, that you may very well be infected by commodity fetishism, don't worry. The disease, like other social diseases, is curable if detected in time. Control methods are known which are effective against it. Consciousness of the condition and its insidious symptoms is more than half-way to the cure. So, perk up. Your life is just beginning. The future is yours!

On the other hand, if you still don't have the foggiest idea what the difference is between commodity fetishism and syphilis, go straight to a physician. You may have syphilis.

NEXT: Commodity fetishism and the parasite that causes it---the life cycle of a very strange organism. Stay tuned.

Sally Hemmings

THIS ARTICLE WAS CONTRIBUTED BY A KICK IT OVER READER IN THE UNITED STATES.

'Lolita' in diapers....

The following item appeared in one of Toronto's dailies recently. Apparently, it's never too early to start teaching a woman to know her "place"!---

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, Wis. (UPI) -- A judge who sentenced a 24-year-old farm worker to a brief jail term for sexual contact with a child described the 5-year-old victim as an "unusually sexually permissive young lady."

Ralph Snodgrass was placed on probation for three years and sentenced to 90 days in jail for sexual contact with the youngster.

During the sentencing, Judge William Reinecke said, "I am satisfied we have an unusually sexually permissive young lady and he (Snodgrass) did not know enough to refuse. No way do I believe Mr. Snodgrass initiated sexual contact."

Testimony at Snodgrass' jury trial indicated the incident occurred when the girl climbed on top of him while he was sleeping in the nude. Snodgrass' attorney, Maureen Kinney of La Crosse, said she believed the child was merely curious.

The youngster, child of a woman friend of Snodgrass, told a school teacher about the incident and authorities were notified.

What goes around, comes around....

It's always easy to support the struggles of oppressed people in the "enemy" camp. The family, described below, was probably among those who, like good Pavlov's dogs, waved the flag and foamed at the mouth during the Iranian "hostage" crisis. It just goes to show ya---there's some justice in the world.....

BIDDEFORD, Maine (UPI) -- Dorothy and Philip Rogers followed U.S. President Ronald Reagan's patriotic lead and put a lighted candle in their window as a sign of solidarity with Polish workers. It burned their house down.

"We don't want to talk about it," said Mrs. Rogers, whose family escaped unharmed but pet dog and cat perished when the candle on a window sill ignited the porch and exploding aerosol cans ignited the house, which was gutted.

Not A Film Review:

An Article on Censorship

A small crowd who have gathered in a darkened room watch a succession of images on a screen of women writhing, jerking, and undulating to the tune of various sexual fantasies. When midway through the film, the plug is pulled and the light switched on, more is illuminated than the room. This is obviously not a stag party or a porno house crowd. In the audience one notices that there is an equal number of men and women, most in their twenties and thirties. In sharp contrast to this young, avant-garde crowd are two towering, middle-aged figures--responsible for the apparent "power failure"; they are representatives of the long, twisted arm of the law whose job as enemies of vice is to stop--not the showing of any number of pornographic films on Yonge Street or the equally numerous strip shows--but a film which is expressly against pornography, the film in question "Not A Love Story---A Film About Pornography".

I would have liked to review the film had I been allowed to see the whole thing, but, as one of the audience remarked, there was, perhaps, even more worth exploring in the drama which ensued the order to stop the screening of this NFB film at this private showing on Queen Street, and the subsequent arrest of a woman who had undertaken to show it. The reaction of the audience was one of shock, anger and outrage.

The organizers of the event were perhaps the most surprised of all, having earlier that day consulted with the Department of Justice to ensure that all the proper legalities had been observed, and had been told simply to have a list of the names of the people present.

Whatever technicality the law, in its infinite wisdom, chooses to harass the organizers of this private(by invitation only) screening with, one can be sure that the issue is not the showing of naked women in whatever pornographic context(while Yonge St. strip still flourishes) but the challenge of pornography itself---that multi-billion dollar business---which continues to fester under the protective wing of the law in our "free" society, while any attempts to challenge it are themselves subject to censorship.

Alexandra Devon

MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATION

A business of expansion
Knows the market surveys.
Another hungry audience
Begs for exploitation.

Flood the market
Generate demand
Economies of scale
Are dancing in the bank.

I'm in love with an image,
Addicted to the show.
Numbed by the spectacle,
I'm happy, I respond.

I wanna be a multinational corporation.

Tie with your soft chains.
Fill me up with pills.
Television rape me.
Still I'll ask for more.

The media meltdown,
Total stimulation.
A permanent erection
Gets 60 second sex.

Redemption by the dollar,
Salvation on credit,
Peace through acquisition,
Sell me another dream.

I wanna be a multinational corporation.

Purchase my soul.
Your wish is my command.
I wanna be a product,
The consumer's demand.

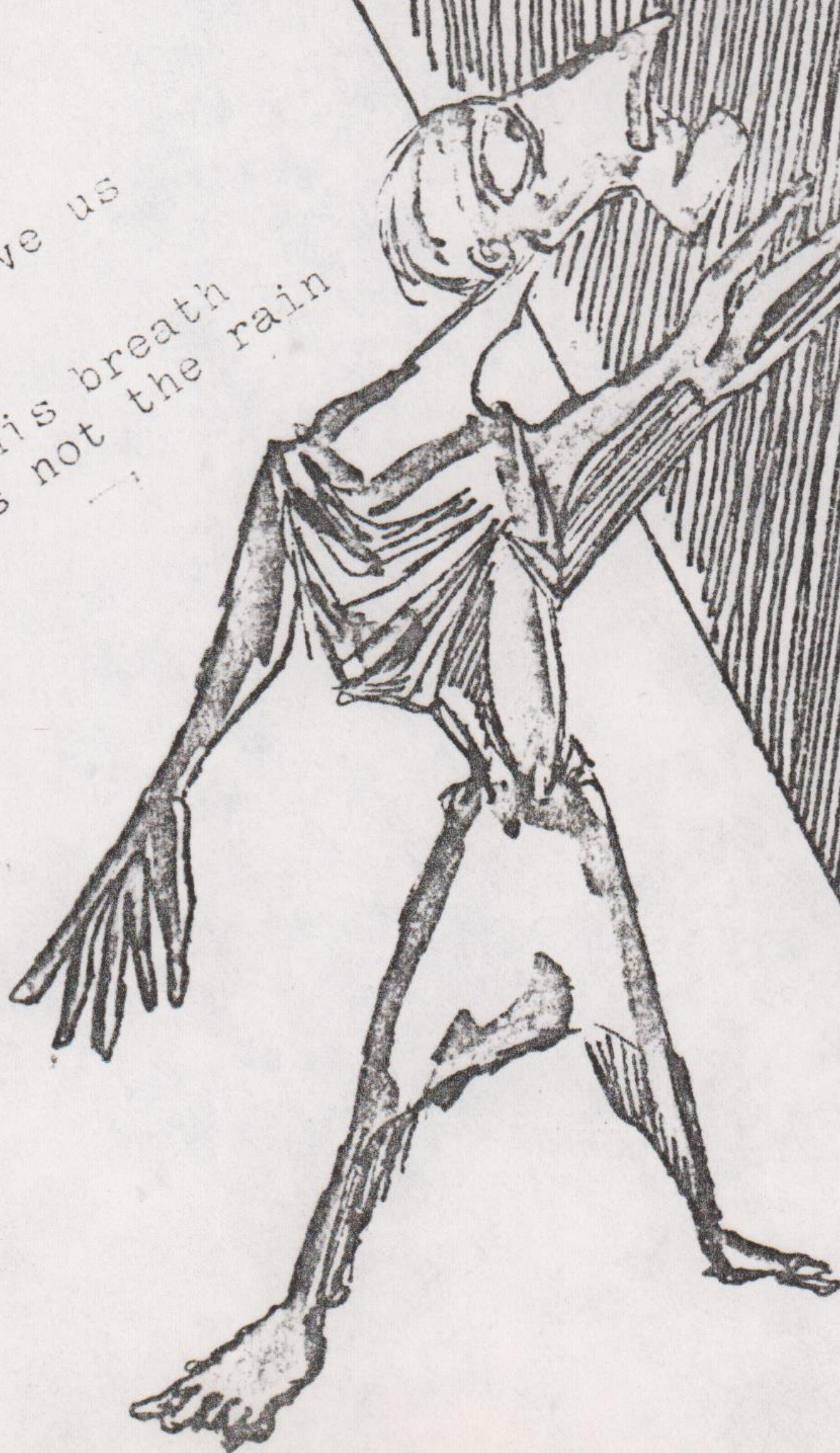
I wanna be a multinational corporation....I wanna be.....

They did what they wanted to and thought what they liked
Everybody else could go to Hell
In their penthouse apartments and clapboard houses
Trust the government, they treat you well...
Listen for a minute-can you hear it?
Over there behind the tenement block
The sound that you'r hearing now is not the rain

Alife of security so traditional you smug little pioneers
With an actor for a president who makes up the facts
To either lay away or stir up your fears
For thirty years before the present crescendo
They've said the power would be contained
But the sound that you're hearing now is not the rain...

It's just the same dog with a different collar
Who says war is over as he loads his gun
It hasn't rained for a long time
Pools of memory fill with dirt

Black shirts brown shirts, red, white, blue,
They say they are the troops of freedom
but in the morning after they finally save us
whose right will it be to enslave it
listen to the warning and believe it
yes a drowning man should fight for his breath
The sound that you're hearing now is not the rain



WILL THE REAL REDS...

PLEASE STAND UP?

In the same month that a so-called "workers' state" is viciously suppressing its own workers, a film is released, chronicling the life of John Reed, foremost popularizer of the Russian Revolution. The film hints at Reed's incipient disillusion before his death in 1920, and the viewer is prompted to ask: is there any connection between the elements of degeneration supposedly perceived in the Bolshevik regime in 1920 and fascist states reigning in Moscow and Warsaw today?

This is a loaded question, and care must be taken in answering it. The bourgeoisie certainly has its answers. They, who trumpet this "best-of-all-possible" worlds, and who would brand all attempts to transcend it as foolhardy hubris(given "human nature", you know), are quite clear: what you have over there is communism. True, it bears little resemblance to the communism proclaimed by Marx and Lenin, but that's precisely the point---it's all a pipe-dream. You try to make things better for people, and they wind up worse!

Are things really worse? Undoubtedly they are(that is, if you're not a Canadian Indian, or an Afro-American, or a Haitian locked up in a concentration camp!). But the "Free World" doesn't stop at the borders of the U.S. and Canada. What about relative to Chile? Or El Salvador? Or Haiti? Or South Africa? Comparing conditions in the heart of a rich empire with conditions in a poor one is a rather spurious exercise. Imperialism only "works" when it has lots of blood to suck. What they describe as "communism" is only a leaner, hungrier version of themselves. And make no mistake. Brezhnev and Jarelsuski are CAPITALIST through and through. True, they don't "own" any factories, but neither does the president of General Motors. Indeed, the latter no more pockets the profit of G.M. than Brezhnev pockets the profit of Soviet industry. Both are paid exorbitant salaries out of that profit, but both are capitalists, not by virtue of their private ownership, but by virtue of their control over the disposition of a collectively produced surplus. Moreover, the fact that they are not owners, in the strict sense of the word, in no way diminishes the degree to which their every decision is aimed at maximizing profit.

All this is a far cry from Lenin who, despite whatever errors he made, was a revolutionary socialist. So where did he go wrong? While it's always easier to see things with the benefit of hindsight, in retrospect we can say that Lenin(and, to a certain degree, Marx before him) underestimated the significance of the contradiction between the leadership and the led. They underestimated the degree to which this contradiction(based, as it is, on the division of labor inherited from capitalist society) is embrvonicallly a class contradiction.

This merely underscores that the main target of the revolution is not capitalist ownership (that's only the outer layer!), but the capitalist division of labor. So long as some people administer while others produce, so long as society is dependent on a relatively small elite for the running of its political and economic affairs, the basis exists for such people to turn their social position as mind workers into an exploitative one---their administration of society into their control over it. If one has any doubts on this score, one need only go back to the dawn of civilization. Those, who later evolved into the kings and nobility of the first ancient feudal societies, were originally chieftans and priests, who, possessing no rights in property, acquired them by manipulating the trust of those who had delegated them their administrative authority. The division of labor is the foundation of the division of society into classes. It must be abolished before communism can ever be achieved.

Mao Tse-tung, who launched the historic Cultural Revolution against the transformation of China into a Soviet-style capitalist state, had the opportunity to witness up close the transformation of his "comrades" into oppressors. He said that "leading cadres who are taking the capitalist road have turned, or are turning, into bourgeois elements sucking the blood of the workers" and "You are making the socialist revolution, and yet don't know where the bourgeoisie is. It is right in the Communist Party---those in power taking the capitalist road."

continued---

Those in power taking the capitalist road refers to those who are heavily infected with the outlook and ideology of capitalism---who think geniuses, technocrats, or leaders make history, and who subscribe to the pragmatic creed of "whatever(in the short run) works, do it!" Obviously, capitalist methods work better in the short run, since they have the distinction of being "tried and true". By virtue of their considerable authority, such people are in a position to shape the social relations in society at large. Hence, they are in a position to take society back down the capitalist road(while camouflaging their trail with Marxist phrases).

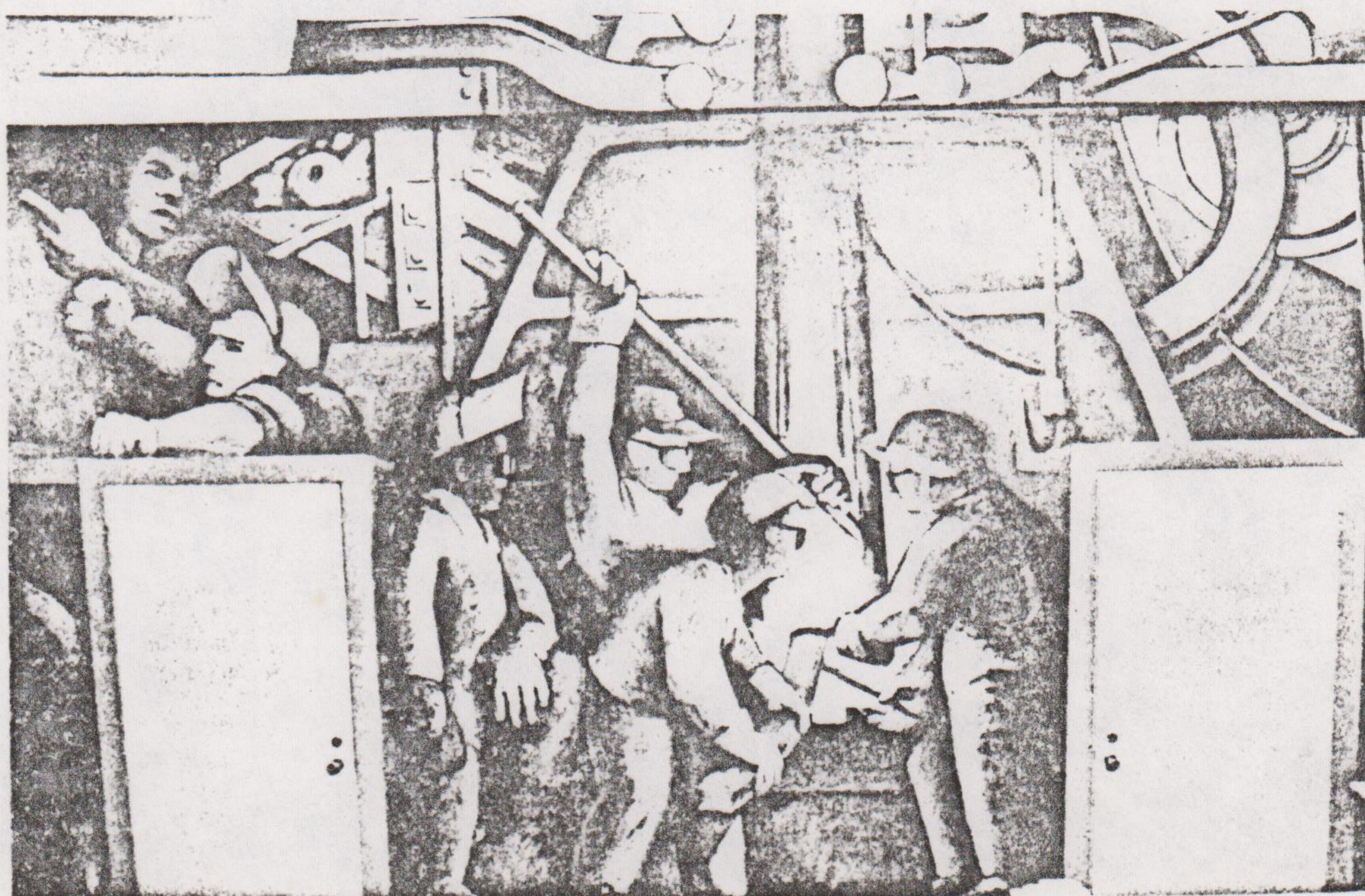
"Capitalist roaders" invariably gear production to the maximization of profit. From a very narrow point of view, this is the most "cost effective" way to run an economy. You pay managers and workers bonuses for extra production; resort to piece work, wage competition, and laying people off. Let the less developed sectors atrophy, and invest the bulk of your capital where the profit is most immediately to be had. This is the path that has been taken by every allegedly "socialist" country in the world today.

And what is the result? Agriculture lags behind industry; some sectors lag behind other sectors, and are unable to provide them with the parts and equipment they need. The economy as a whole becomes more and more dependent on the production of certain export products that are supposed to earn the foreign currency necessary to import advanced technology, and, as the crunch gets more severe, the "socialist" captains of industry invariably sell their souls to foreign banks. In such a situation(precisely that of POLAND 1982), the workers are just as much slaves of capital as anywhere else. And increasingly--just as in the Western capitalist countries--the working class must be made to bear the burden of this crisis.

In Poland today, this takes more extreme forms 1)because Poland is exploited by both the Western nations and the Soviet Union; hence its crisis is more severe; 2)because the Soviet bloc is much less rich; hence the knife that cuts the "fat",much more quickly hits the bone, and 3)because the Polish upheaval is a serious challenge to the cohesion of the whole Soviet bloc at a time when both superpowers are feverishly preparing for war.

Despite the brute force of repression manifested in Poland, El Salvador, and elsewhere, the imperialists of all stripes are, in reality, beginning to quake in their boots. The future belongs to the people.

Ronald Hayley



'PINHEAD OF THE MONTH'

I'm afraid I must disagree with the female movement toward executive positions as described in Leader of the Pack (Jan. 9). At a time when Western democratic countries need a large measure of strength and security, there is nothing more important than the stability of the family unit and the essential role that biology demands of the female.

While it is very true that a significant number of women may indeed have the "smarts" and the ambition to compete for these positions, I contend that the areas of industry, big business and the military are far better left to men, and that women be encouraged in the arts, crafts and sciences if they must seek a career.

If you would like to enter our 'Pinhead of the Month', you too could win a lifetime subscription to the Toronto Sun, and a free autographed copy (suitable for framing) of Lubor Zink's latest orders from the CIA Disinformation Department.....

It doesn't take much imagination to see what will happen to our society as more and more females grasp onto their elder executive sisters as role models. This perversion will prevail as long as employers refuse to pay men a wage sufficient to properly support a family.

Just send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to KIO, c/o P.O. Box 5811, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1P2.

Man is the hunter and provider. And in times of war he is the fighter and protector of the nation. This male role is as natural as childbirth is to the female, and I believe it will ultimately impair the strengths of both sexes to seriously blur these distinctions. We are in the process of rearing a generation of men that may eventually become so emasculated as to be next to useless if they are called upon to fight for our country.

I wouldn't be surprised if the boys in the Kremlin are just salivating with anticipation.

Robert Lawrence
Toronto

Imperialists Invoke Fair-Fight Doctrine in Dozier Kidnapping

Blustery winds filled the White House on Friday, December 18, as word of Brigadier General James L. Dozier's capture by the Red Brigades reached his Commander-in-Chief. "This is, I think, a terrible situation," Reagan fumed to the Press Corps. "It's a most frustrating situation because I would like to be able to stand sometime—I'm sure we all would—and say to the people who do these things, they are cowardly bums.... They wouldn't have the guts to stand up to anyone individually in any kind of fair contest." Of course, with all this hokey tough-guy talk aimed at those who love America as much as his movies, Reagan is hardly referring to the kind of contest that was offered him in the late '60s when, then Black Panther Eldridge Cleaver challenged him to a duel—as in one-on-one. That one he definitely turned down. No, what big bad Ronnie more had in mind is the kind of "fair contest" involving him and his

30,000 nukes against any comers. These are the kind of fair fights that U.S. imperialism is into waging.

Across the Atlantic another scene in this grade-Z melodrama was being played out. In this little tear-jerker, directed by the U.S. State Department, the General's wife figures prominently into the production. Appearing in several pathetic balcony scenes, Mrs. Dozier and her daughter—a captain in the army—have appealed for the General's safe-and-sound return saying he was a good family man who wouldn't dream of harming anybody. This touching display just must have caused some consternation over in the Pentagon. Imagine the head of NATO's Southern Command with all their nukes and everything else, who wouldn't harm a flea! That man should be fired immediately! At the very least this would call into question Dozier's fitness for duty. Why with such an attitude he wouldn't

even be qualified to graduate from the ROTC much less command an army. We suggest that the U.S. imperialists look into this matter further.

Somehow we doubt that Mrs. Dozier's claims are accurate, however, as evidenced by the massive efforts to get her pacifist husband back. And it has recently been reported that he has trusted friends not only among the U.S. ruling class but elsewhere. It has been reported in the press that a reward of nearly a half-million dollars has been promised for the safe return of General Dozier. It turns out that the benefactor who posted the reward is a high-ranking, drug-trafficking kingpin in the Italian Mafia. How fitting these thoughtful and fraternal actions are from another organization whose members wouldn't harm a flea either and they certainly are all *family* men as well. □

The above article appeared in the Jan. 1st, 1982 issue of the "Revolutionary Worker". This worthwhile newspaper comes out weekly and is available at "This Ain't the Rosedale Library".

Hey Mr. Bourguoise!

There's a man standing there in the subway car
You can tell by his face he knows who You are
And the questions in his eyes are demanding
Concrete answers...

He has a wife and two kids: he works so hard
Has a house with a mortgage and a Union card
Drives a cab at night saving for the years
That are gonna come after the kids are grown...

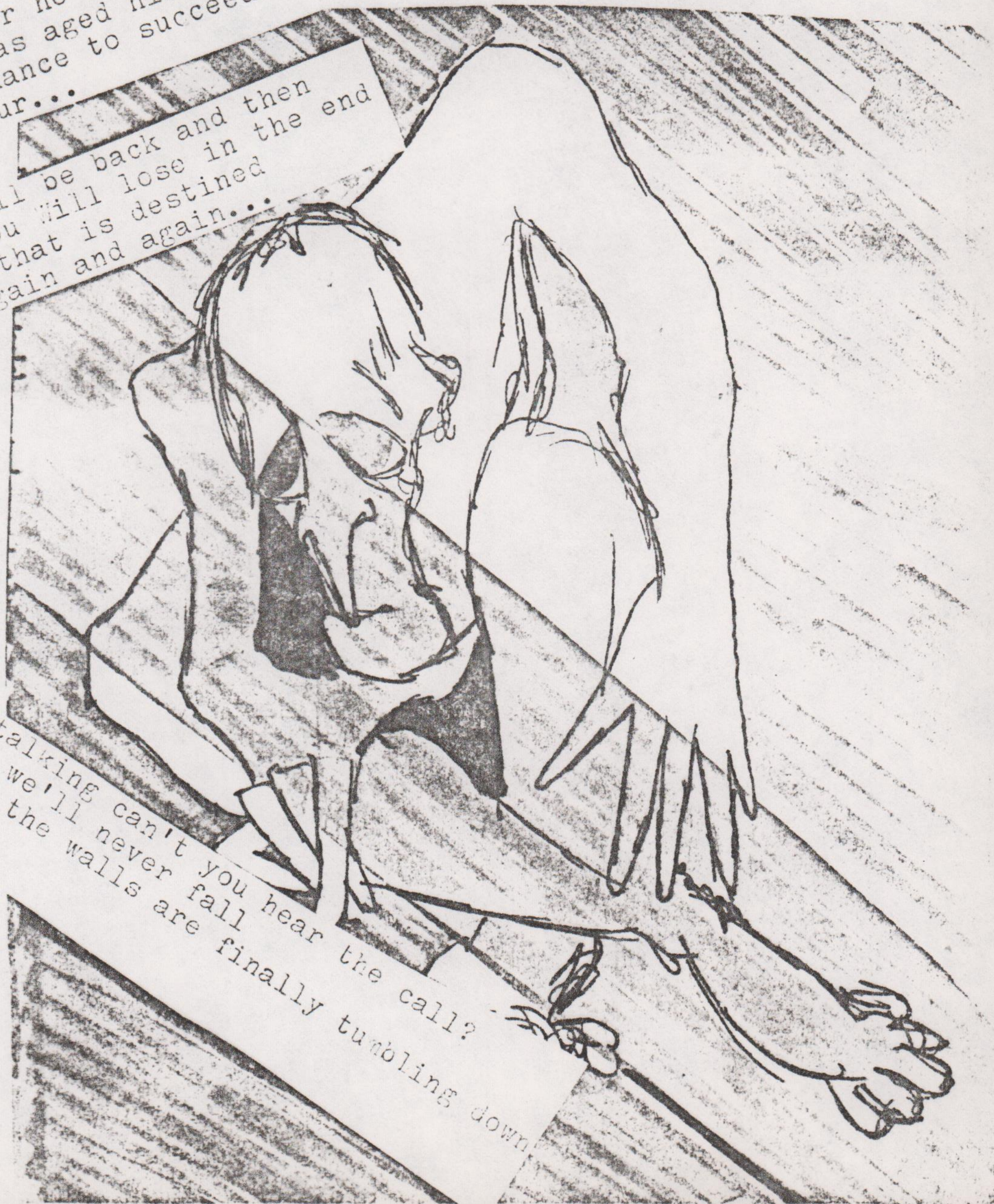
We will stand united

Jennifer works in a grocery store
She makes a little money we could all use more
cos They keep us thin and wanting, just
Working for the minimum wage

Jerry wants to be a father he can't find the time
Pressure from his boss has aged him and he's past his prime
Christ he never had a chance to succeed
It was a matter of colour...

Throw me out but another will be back and then
The fight will go on and you will lose in the end
It's just a line in a song that is destined
To be written again and again and again...

There's no more time for
We will stand together and we'll never fall
We're banging our heads but the walls are finally tumbling down
This is the fallout...



talking can't you hear the call?
we'll never fall
the walls are finally tumbling down

PRAYERS OF THE FASCIST

Our CIA that art in the USA

Hallowed be thy initials

Thy invasion come

Thy will be done

In Eolivia as in Viet Nam

Give us this day our daily arms

And forgive us our debts

As we forgive your investors

And lead us not into inflation

And deliver us from the guerrillas

For thine is the empire, and our

wealth, and our country

forever.

Amen.

and El Salvador

+
CHILE

+
IRAN

+
CANADA

+
CUBA

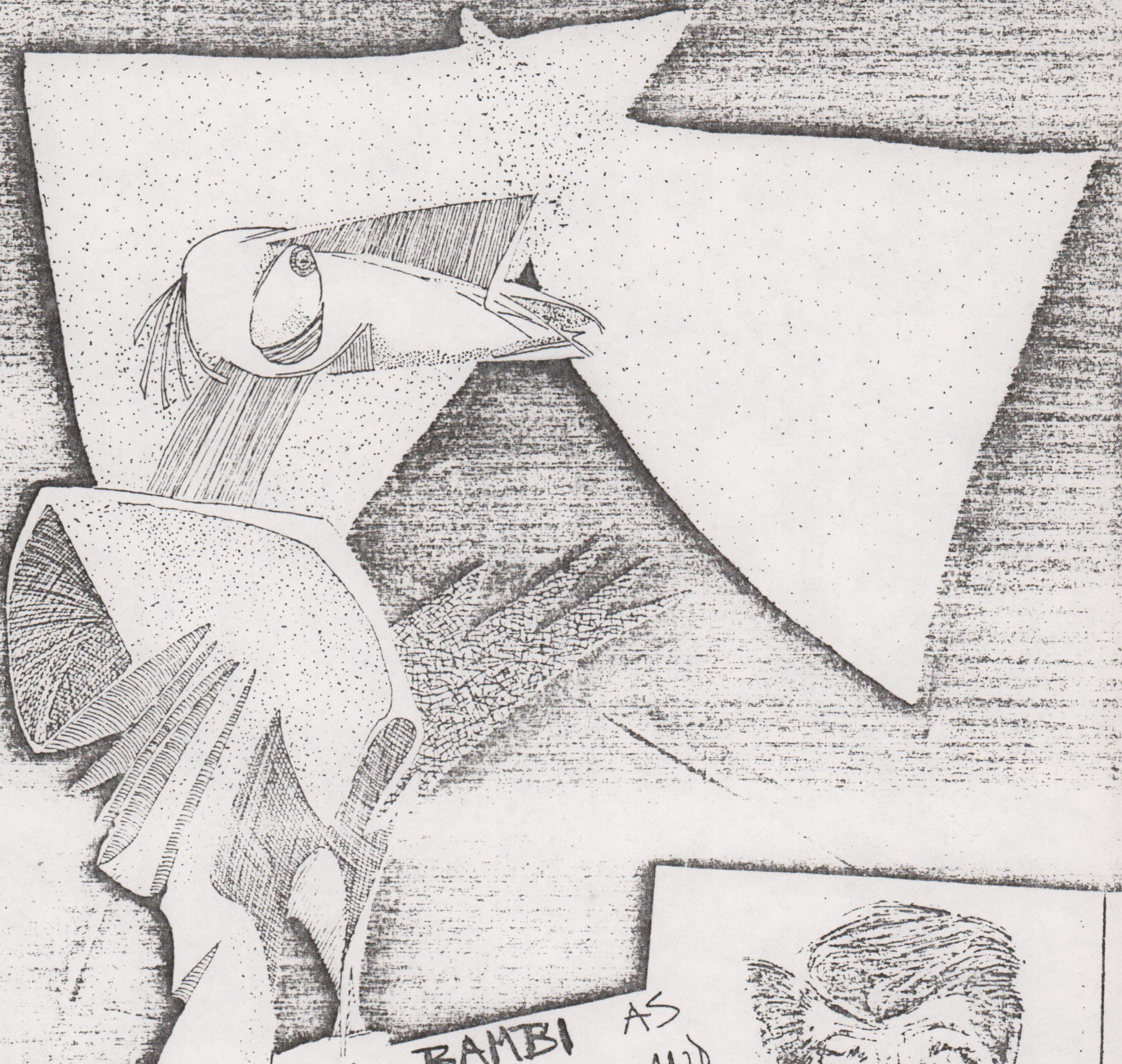
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Roque Dalton Garcia
(PULGARCITO, VOL. III, no.1 (March '78))

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