

Try, Fail, Try Again, Fail Again Attacks on ALIVE Continue

Bolshevik Union hadn't seen *Alive* 157 yet when they produced the October issue of "*Proletarian Revolution*" (number 17) but they proved they mean to be serious about pursuing *Alive* in a fight, nonetheless. *Alive* 157 reproduced an attack launched by this group in the September issue of the same periodical. Our issue 157 also contained our response to Bolshevik Union, which we have suggested is better called Bullshit Union. No doubt the November issue of the B.U. publication will show whether they can respond to *Alive's* article or not.

In every issue of the B.U. monthly they publish a special page on a green ink background graphic of marshy grass, under the general title "the swamp". The reference is to Lenin's quote about the danger of marching astray from the path of revolution into the swamp of opportunism. Lacking the genius of Lenin and completely without a grasp of what is to be done, this Bullshit Union cannot distinguish in the blur it sees when it looks at the careful path charted through the marsh. Thus, it sees those on the revolutionary path and those wallowing in the bog as standing on the same ground — lumping such good or promising trends as the Red Star Collective, WCP(ML), *Alive*, etc. in with trends diametrically opposite such as En Lutte, the Bainzites, the Revisionist Party, the trotskyites, the social-democrats, etc. At the same time as they lump those with fundamental differences together, the Bullshit Union pulls apart those with similarity of view — separating themselves from the likes of the Bainzites, En Lutte and the rest of the opportunist fold, so dearly loved by the ruling classes.

Having made a tradition of such a confused mess in their column "the swamp" there was no better place for B.U. to attack *Alive* since they are certainly incapable of doing so properly anywhere else. The second blaring at *Alive* comes in the swamp of B.U.'s October issue, however, the attempt succeeds only in proving that even

in this special column B.U. is without political skills which would be needed to wage a polemic with *Alive*.

The Bullshit Union gives themselves 290 words to attack *Alive* but gives *Alive* 650 words to attack them. The presentation is an introduction and a conclusion from B.U. separated by a quote from the speech made by a representative of the *Alive* Production Collective on September 9, 1979. The excerpt from the speech is the section on page 11 of *Alive* 153 in the second column beginning with the second paragraph. ("We go further, too, and this really gets to rankle those we've demarcated from." Prophetic or what, eh?) The excerpt finishes with the end of the fourth paragraph in the same column. ("Mao Zedong lived in our era, that's why he can speak to us, the people who live in this era.")

The Bullshit Union's introduction reads: "The following is an astonishing admission from *Alive Magazine*, which claims to produce 'anti-imperialist cultural work in the spirit of Norman Bethune and Lu Xun.' These ardent Maoists and supporters of the theory of 'three worlds' are noted for their obituary of John Diefenbaker (ex-prime minister of Canada) which praised him (and suggested he might have learned to be more 'revolutionary' had he lived to go to China), and for their recent 'struggles' over such burning questions as the place of humour and profanity in so-called 'revolutionary' work. *Alive* openly calls for an alliance of the Canadian proletariat and the Canadian bourgeoisie in a united front against U.S. imperialism, a line carried by the League, 'CPC(ML)', and In Struggle in more or less covert forms. They refuse to talk of the dictatorship of the proletariat because they are worried it will scare off those sections of the bourgeoisie with whom they are intent on making an alliance. The following is a lengthy extract from issue 153, 22 September 1979. It says openly what the other Maoists are afraid of admitting."

The conclusion which is tagged on the end of the excerpt which B.U. chose for its swamp, reads: "Mao Tsetung was a bourgeois nationalist who did everything to bring about the domination of the bourgeoisie in China. He attacked the Soviet Union and Stalin and cut out the revolutionary essence of Marxism under the guise of conforming to the concrete conditions of China. No wonder *Alive* 'doesn't (*sic*) approve of the term Stalinist,' a term which was worn with pride and respect while socialism flourished in the Soviet Union. *Alive* can have Mao and run with those who cower before the proletarian dictatorship. The Bolshevik Union will stand with Marx,

Engels, Lenin, and Stalin and the international proletariat."

Thus, B.U. makes flash response to *Alive* issues 153, 149, 143 and 125, not to mention the series of 14 issues containing the second series of *Some Lessons* columns — not bad for 290 words; eh? It certainly shows just how deeply these characters can delve into politics.

The very funny thing is that the Bullshit Union never responds to either the whole speech of September 9 nor to the specific excerpt they quote. They never give their readers (not even one of the eight of them!) an explanation of what is supposed to be wrong with what *Alive* says. They are incapable of doing so. They can only stand, mouths gaping in wonder, that *Alive* is proud of its correct politics and proud to expound its politics openly. This is too subjective, boys — you are so stuck in your own experience of having to say with great unease that you are "Leftists" when you are actually agents of the Right that you cannot understand our ease and our pride at stating revolutionary principles which we actually uphold!

On the conclusion to the Diefenbaker article (p. 3, *Alive* 149): Boys, you really should read the columns you seem to hate so much on the subject of humour. Sarcasm is a form of humour, you know. It is also a form of trap for the humourless. You're caught! Ha, ha! Did you really think we thought Dief could have been a revolutionary? Real slow on the uptake, eh!

The next two slights which B.U. throws out against us have already been answered. A response on the *Some Lessons* column is contained in the last article on B.U. Responses to the charge that we fear the dictatorship of the proletariat were given the last two times the charge was thrown out — once by E. Pickersgill and once by C. Lauzon. (See *Alive* 125 and 143.)

There are some interesting sidelights in this second slight being put forward by Bullshit Union. One is their nonsense that our call for a united front against U.S. imperialism puts us on the same line as the League (now, the WCP) and En Lutte. Of course, the fact is that *Alive's* analysis that the primary contradiction in our society is between U.S. imperialism and the Canadian

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people is precisely the point that has demarcated us from those who foist the faulty view that Canada itself is an imperialist power. Which groups are united by holding the thought of Canadian imperialism? WCP, En Lutte and (whew!) Bolshevik Union! Nice try at sleight of hand but it didn't work, boys.

In our previous response to B.U. we explained that one individual with a vendetta against us was the motive behind this outfit breaking the pact to have a conspiracy of silence on Alive. It is interesting to note that this leaping to the same empty charge as E. Pickersgill and C. Lauzon is not coincidental since the same individual was a close pal of both. We answer the charge just as easily as we have before: We are not afraid of the dictatorship of the proletariat, we are working for it. The route to proletarian revolution in Canada must encompass anti-imperialist revolution as a first stage. Without that crucial first stage, all talk of proletarian revolution is empty, devoid of practice, ultra Left posturing and game playing. This means you, Bullshit Union.

Now, we answer the rest of the charges.

Mao Zedong (we do use the Pinyin, even though B.U. opposes it on some strange principle on the national question that people cannot determine the rules of their own language) was a revolutionary patriot. He broke the domination of the feudal ruling classes, the foreign imperialists and the bourgeoisie in China. He upheld Stalin and attacked modern revisionism in the Soviet Union. All this is 100% more than B.U. is capable of doing.

The revolutionary essence of Marxism is fulfilled by having it conform to the concrete conditions of any given country. Strange that B.U. remembers Lenin's words about the marsh but not his words

ANOTHER FRUITLESS POLITICAL QUEST BRIAN BURCH

Get yourself
to the capital
and you'll find them
gathered around their favourite brand
of leftist ideology
seeking supporters
to form an electoral party.

Perhaps opinions will be asked for
and internal debate encouraged.

But who has the power?
Where is the power?

Check around.
Look at the leaders.
Look at yourself.

When asked for your support
during an election try to remember
the last revolution won by ballot.

about the heart, the living soul of Marxism.

What we said was not that we "doesn't" but that we "don't" approve of the term applied to us by Trotskyites. It is fitting that Bullshit Union rises to defend the Trotskyites whom we attack.

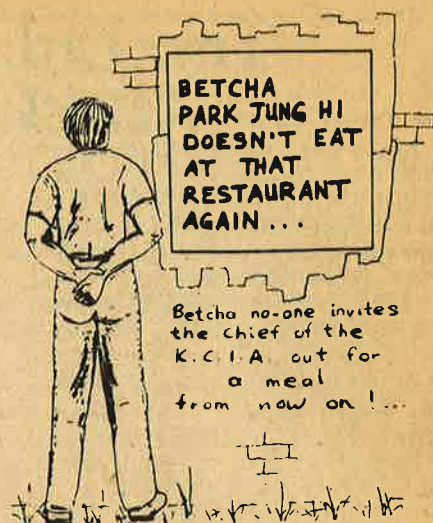
Thank you for trying to give us Mao, boys, but we already had him and we refuse to keep him for ourselves. We propagate Mao Zedong Thought to others in Canada and they will use it as the key to revolution. After all, that is what scares you, isn't it, Boys of the Union?

Finally, you can try to stand with whoever you like. The question is: who will stand with you? Not many will stand for you hanging around beside them. We know Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin will only stand for it because they're dead — alive, like us, they'd spit on you, as we do and as they always did with your like. The proletariat? Stay away from them if you value the arrangement of your faces, kids — they won't stand for it at all. The proletarians we know bloody the noses of Bullshitters.

THE BAINZITES, TOO

Since Bolshevik Union decided to break the conspiracy of silence against Alive, the Bainzites have followed suit. This gang has even dared to acknowledge reading Alive 125, since B.U. had already broken the path here too. In the PCDN of October 30, CPC(M-L) publishes a cross between a pop song and a piece of doggerel at 24 stanzas length (including double chorus refrains), of which the longest stanza is given to Alive.

This stanza reads: "When I was visiting a friend in Guelph / What an exciting time it was / Theft, fraud, power struggles, / Wheelings and dealings / And every sort of criminal activity, / Not to mention the juicy gossip. / I really learned a lot. / My friend told me how to produce / Culture in the service of 'Canada' and China / And how they used the tactics of thief crying thief / To get CPC(M-L) / Which after all is the foremost task. / My friend told me all the lies which were used against CPC(M-L), / Including the frenzied espousing of Christianity, / Because truth after all is what works / And if religion works then what is the harm? / It must be true. / I spent full nights listening to this excitement. / My friend told me how / Throughout all this excitement / They still kept their bearings. Oh yes! / They were not led astray. / Instead, they did a self-criticism / And after showing to the whole world / How they were rotting alive / They said their Hail Marys / And vowed to carry on as before / Aiming blow after blow against CPC(M-L) / Oh yes! Penitence is so good for the soul. / And they are learning so much / That they have set up an 'Understanding China' series / To make sure that nobody understands / What is happening in China. / They carried



out their own four modernizations / By deposing His Eminent Dogship / And are doing very well without him. Oh yes! / They came oh so close to resurrecting the Dead / But unfortunately lost the 'v' / And ended up with 'A Lie' / Repeating all the warmongering verbiage / Of the great teachers in Beijing and the White House. / Oh yes! Those were exciting times / So I came home to tell you all about it."

Lines 2 through 6 give Hardial Bains' own words on Alive 125. It was an exciting time overthrowing all that criminal activity. Bains has his day coming, too — after all, he taught E. Pickersgill a lot of what he knew, that's why he can detail it so concisely. Certainly, E. Pickersgill attacking H. Bains was a matter of a thief crying thief but the Bains gang misses the fact that old Fast Eddy attacked H.B. The Man unwillingly. It was the rest of us who were consciously behind the anti-Bainzite campaign. Attacking CPC(M-L) is not the foremost task. Attacking U.S. imperialism is. Dealing with the Bainzites is important, though, since they play the role of disuniting those who we must unite so as to attack the class enemy. They are the agents trying to preserve exploitation of man by man and oppressive class rule against revolution. They are the counter-revolutionaries.

The doggerel is mixed up on one point — we have never used lies against the Bainzites. The truth opposes them far better than lies ever could. They are their own worst enemies as far as exposing themselves goes. The old saw about Alive's liberal Christian humanist roots is pulled out (just as it was by Bullshit Union) because Bains likes to have a straight line for his old standard joke about reciting Hail Marys. Is that better or worse than "Heil Hardials"? One thing is certain: our views at the origin of Alive were not the best but they were more honest than the Bainzites' KGB roots in Moscow.

What upsets Bains the most, though? (He is the author of the piece, by the way. Either that or some 'comrade' is under fire for having mimicked his favorite expressions

of speech so closely.) That we dared to do public self-criticism upsets him. He'd be destroyed for sure if that trend ever caught on — just as some other false leaders would be. That we dare to continue to expose the Bainzites upsets him. It upsets him that the loss which friends of China in Guelph suffered at the hands of the Bainzites has been reversed. (That renewed attacks from the Bainzites on the Understanding China Society have been soundly repulsed upsets him, too. As well, though he calls that society Alive's group, he knows it is much more broad based than that and that upsets him.) However, most upsetting of all is that his fondest dream has been smashed. Hardial Bains dreamt that the overthrow of

E. Pickersgill detailed in Alive 125 meant that our organization was ripe for the picking again. What a boost it would be (as it had been before) to have something real and popular associated with his sordid gang! But, no. Life is fickle. Dreams are to no avail. Alive kept attacking the Bainzites but it took Bains eight months to come around to see that his dream is empty and our attacks are real. Who's really the religious one, with real dreams of the resurrection, eh Hardial?

So, Hardial calls us "A Lie". Oh, a good one. An old joke. Where's the one about "It's not Alive, it's dead"? Oh, it's there, too? Well, there's nothing quite so stale as hearing a joke for the thousandth time

when the joke was stale the very first time anyway.

It's too much, though, when Bains calls Alive down on the charge of war-mongering verbiage. The Soviet Union is the biggest and the most active war-monger in the world today and that's who you work for, remember, Hardial? If not just look at the signature on your paycheque before you cash it next time.

Bolshevik Union and CPC(ML)! Ooo la, we're becoming quite the celebrities now that the conspiracy of silence is broken. We look forward to more, but I guess Giulio won't be writing for either of you, as you both had hoped. Oh well, maybe we'll hear from En Lutte next.

CAPITALISM: A History of Crises

GNS. October 31: Fifty years ago this month marks the crash of the stock market. On October 29, 1929, 500,000 shares were unloaded on the Montreal Stock Exchange — five times the usual amount. In New York, 16 million shares were sold. Black Tuesday, as October 29th was named, was the worst single trading day in the stock exchange for Canada and the U.S.

Over the years, economists have tried to sort out the reasons for the crash. Some blame the credit system which allowed speculators to buy up stocks and the greed that possessed people after World War I. Others blame one or a handful of individuals for the sudden crash.

Among the notorious personalities blamed for the crash is Arthur W. Cutten, born in Guelph, in 1870. In 1890 Cutten moved to Chicago where he became one of the United States' most successful speculators. Residents of Guelph however, remember Cutten for the eye-sore he left behind — the hated Cutten Club. This golf and country club caters to a tiny elite of rich snobs in the Guelph area.

The idea of the Cutten Club was initiated by Cutten in 1929 when he promised to donate a \$2 million gift to Guelph residents for a hotel with a full-size public golf course and general recreation area. The Canadian Pacific Railway agreed to manage it as part of a deal Cutten arranged with his friend E.W. Beatty — the president of CPR. Cutten, to keep building costs down, asked the government for the use of cheap inmate labour from Guelph's provincial reforma-

tory. The government first agreed to Cutten's demand but later backed down and refused Cutten. As a result, this profiteer cut back his original plans, squashing the idea of public ownership and eliminating almost everything he had promised to build except the golf course to which he retained the private title of ownership. So great had been the propaganda around the promise that for years afterwards, Guelphites still believed that the golf course was a publicly owned city park. Guelph residents were gleeful at the prospects of having another city park until they learnt that all the facilities promised to them were to be distributed among a small number who could afford such luxury. The Cutten Club was sold to private interests in the late 1930s.

Although Arthur Cutten had not lived in Guelph for forty years, he apparently had contacts with a number of Guelphites who took up his advice on playing the stock market. When the crash came, Guelph lost more money per capita than any other city in Canada — Guelph speculators lost about \$1 million.

While the city of Guelph suffered, it is said that Cutten survived the crash with a sizeable fortune of \$80 million. After Cutten's death in Chicago in June 1936, Cutten's official probate estate only totalled \$350,000. One story rumoured, however, that, only a few months prior to his death, Cutten had transferred assets of \$90 million to Canada. You can be sure that workers in Guelph didn't have their pocket-

books lined with this huge amount of cash!

Not all the people made money when the stock market crashed in 1929. Especially during the Great Depression years in the early 1930s, it was the working class that was hardest hit. When the U.S. economy collapsed, Canada's followed suit. A capitalist crisis of overproduction ensued and Canada, a net exporter of raw materials, dependent on other capitalist countries for trade was carried along in the nosedive.

Canada was one of the hardest hit capitalist countries of the depression years because of its dependency on the U.S. economy. In 1933 unemployment reached 20 percent. Workers were demanding work and the right to put food on the table for their families.

Today workers wonder if another depression is in the making. Investors are rushing to dump U.S. dollars to buy gold, interest rates have reached record levels, inflation continues to climb and Canada's balance of payments deficit worsens yearly. Although the specific conditions of the times are different today, workers know that we are in for hard times while oil companies continue to reap huge profits.

The gaps between rich and poor are widening and many Canadians are beginning to realize that this system does not work. Capitalism is doomed to failure. The right to work, to a decent living wage, can only be guaranteed in a socialist society. Workers will fight to make fundamental change in Canada.

