

The new politics ... a man called Peter

By Larry Martin

At one stage of his participation in current events, it was suggested no less an organization than The Kremlin was supporting him.

When he appeared outside a south-eastern Ontario high school, the principal called Provincial Minister of Education Davis, and he is barred from attending any Ontario high school.

His opponents are so wide-spread and in a number of cases so distinguished, the desirable journalistic procedure of "talking to the other side" was totally impractical.

Our impressions of them, therefore, were gained through a lengthy conversation with him, and reading of the admittedly leftist magazine "REV", of which he is circulation manager and a contributing editor.

His name is Peter Kormos.

Early in the 1968-69 school term at Eastdale Secondary School in Welland, he successfully carried off 75 per cent of the balloting for student council president.

His activities there, however, which resulted in a student walkout and, in actuality, transfer of the design of the student council into more of a student union with class representatives as stewards, were not approved by the administration.

Participants in the three-and-one-half days strike, about one-sixth of the school population, were threatened with loss of exemptions, loss of position on the football team, and destruction of industrial arts projects.

Those who would return to class, on the other hand, would be free of the fear of suspension or detentions.

The students returned when the Board of Education promised to set up an investigating committee of students, teachers and officials.

Almost immediately, we are told, 10 and 15-day suspensions and long sentences of detention were handed out.



Kormos was suspended.

When he arrived at the school to discuss his suspension, it was dropped and a new one immediately put into effect for "insolence and assault by trespassing".

This second one was ignored by him on the grounds it is illegal, since it does not specify a length-of-time or reasons.

Court proceedings lasted three and one-half months.

During those 100 days, he was not allowed to attend school. His family allowance was cancelled, and steps were taken to prohibit his receiving welfare cheques.

Returning to the school after a verdict of innocence, he found his locker had been forcibly entered and belongings confiscated—reportedly destroyed.

His name had been removed from the attendance rolls and his old job as student council president filled by a principal's appointee.

Since then, he has immersed himself almost totally in the

problems of students, and other members of Western society he considers oppressed.

This includes travelling, by thumb, over most of the Niagara Peninsula and much of the rest of central Ontario as well.

Roughly three weeks ago an assembly of Young New Democrats of Ontario elected him one of two Provincial high school co-ordinators.

A newly-created position, it includes a certain amount of spreading of the NDP message; and, in Peter's interpretation, "organizing students to defend themselves against oppression from the community."

This will apparently be attempted through organization of student unions.

A Kormos-approved society would include worker-control of the factories with either the laborers owning the business, or receiving wages from the General Public.

The area of concern of Peter Kormos also includes the compulsory cadet training of some high schools; slowdowns of

Canada's American-owned food factories because the USA control prohibits contracts from certain countries; and countless other situations in this vein.

Apart from his provincial travelling, the newly established, 500-circulation magazine "REV" is a forum for many of these views.

Edited mainly by Rev. Robert R. Wright, it is published by Michael P. Cyopl and Peter is contributing editor and circulation manager.

And what does he see for the future?

"A revolution is inevitable, although the form it will take can't be determined now. At present, 200 economists are controlling the country, the power of government must be placed in the hands of the masses."

Curling team at CWOSSA

A bad start which cost the Acton boy's curling team their first rink meet sudden death in C.W.O.S.S.A. curling finale in Brampton last Monday afternoon.

Gord Reed, Barry Buchanan, Neil Anderson and Paul Youngblut came out behind in their first game with West Hill Collegiate, Owen Sound. West Hill went on to become C.W.O.S.S.A. champions.

Acton defeated Wyerton District High school and Guelph Collegiate during the afternoon, but unfortunately it was that first game that counted.

Co-ordinator, Mrs. Nan Hurst said she was pleased with the team. Of the eight schools competing in the finals, many were from larger centres such as Kitchener, Galt and Guelph, that have up to 100 curlers in their school clubs. "I figure we placed third in over-all performance," she said.

Earlier this year, the team

defeated the three schools in Guelph and Georgetown, and came home with the Fergus School Board Bonspiel trophy. This was the last competition for the boys this year. The girls' team goes to C.W.O.S.S.A. on March 17.

'Young generation'

More than 90 attended the Young Generation dance at St. Alban's Parish Hall last Friday night.

The 'Young Generation' provides dance entertainment for public school age students every Friday night. It's interdenominational to anyone can come.

An entrance fee of 25 cents is charged with pop 15 cents and chips 10 cents. Further information may be obtained from Sam and Debbie Schonnop, Margie Frizzell, Cindy and Debbie Barr.

fresh tracks

by Barbara McIntosh

AFTERTHOUGHTS ON WINTER

There are several ways the average Canadian can feel about winter. He can hibernate, look at it through plate glass and dream of summer, he can quietly endure it pretending it could be worse, or he can enjoy it.

Actually there are a number of hidden advantages to sub-freezing temperatures and knee-deep snow drifts. You can look at it as a kind of challenge that's supposed to build up that Canadian character.

Imagine going through an entire childhood and never experiencing a frogbitten ear, the joy of making angels in freshly fallen snow, or the thrill of having school cancelled due to slippery roads.

Without winter, we wouldn't be able to look forward to spring with the same degree of excitement. There would be no distinction to being the first on your block to find pussywillows, or the last of your friends to drain the anti-freeze out of your car radiator.

Winter is a particular advantage to fashion-minded women. It's an excuse to indulge in an entirely different wardrobe, and it challenges one's ingenuity to come up with ideas that show enough to look like a girl, but cover enough to keep warm.

Some Canadians don't need excuses. They actually like winter and complain that it doesn't last long enough. For them, speeding down a slope on skis is the greatest thing that could happen to a weekend. Others prefer to bounce around on a skidoo or spend the morning in a shack fishing through a hole in the ice.

Naturally it's better to cope than complain, but for those who spend their winters wishing they were in the Canary Islands or frantically counting the days until April, the future is looking warmer all the time.

Thanks to modern scientific advances they will soon be able to change at least a small area of their world back into summer. An outdoor swimming pool can be used all year if it's covered in a giant plastic bubble. One type of enclosure available in Canada is made of polyvinyl chloride film 12/1,000 thick, supported by arches of galvanized steel. The Toronto Cricket, Skating and Curling Club installed a plastic tent over a tennis court last October and, no doubt, winter will be kept off more sports fields in the future. R. Buckminster Fuller, the creator of the United States pavilion at Expo 67, predicts total communities enclosed in such domes, completely protected from the weather.

Personally speaking, there's nothing like that cool crisp winter air, and the crunch of snow underfoot, to make one burst out in a rousing Ontario-ari-ari-o.

Free Press Youth Page



GRADE 13's LIGHTFOOTED CHARIOTEERS took first prize in the Winter Carnival chariot race. (left) Doug Allen, Claude Champagne, George Wallis, Cam Forbes (hidden head), Harry Oehrich, Michael Joe, Bill Landsborough, Ray Hibbard, Barry Buchanan, Wayne Barber, Jim Lee, Gord Reed.—(Staff Photo)

Jim Holmes comes from Fort Erie. He has his B.A. from Waterloo University College with majors in philosophy and psychology, and minors in English and History. In his fourth year at A.D.H.S., he lives near Oshinga.

Pedagogues are people

Mr. Holmes spent his first year of teaching at Smooth Rock Falls in the James Bay Lowlands. He claims it really wasn't the occasional 62 degrees below zero weather, but the sheer isolation of the area that persuaded him back to southern Ontario.

"It was a good year for contemplation," he concludes. After four years of teaching at A.D.H.S. he is convinced that English doesn't have to be a bore to students. "I think it depends on the interest you can create in it, and the course of study. English is an eclectic type subject, that is, you have a vast source of material to draw from." He compliments department head Mr. Lambourne, for selecting a variety of books for study that

can be interesting at the high school level.

He admits that for most students the word "poetry" brings on nausea. In an effort to overcome this initial dislike, he includes the lyrics from various current folk songs on the curriculum.

For example, his classes have studied Gord Lightfoot's "Old Man Came Home From the Forest" and the Beatles "Eleanor Rigby". "I've found that very few students have thought about the words or meanings of the songs before we study them."

When asked for his thoughts on the new county school board system Mr. Holmes remarked, "In the last few months it seems there hasn't been enough money for various school activities.

Considering the high salaries of the top administrators on the board, I would say the money is going to the wrong place, and the allotment for salaries is top-heavy."

Mr. Holmes would like to see more emphasis placed on school excursions, especially to live theatre productions.

Not a particularly avid sports fan, Mr. Holmes claims that ping-pong was the bit rage while he was at university. "So many kids were skipping classes that they finally took out the tables. I was only a mediocre player though" he admits. This fall he coached the boys senior soccer team.

During his summer vacations, he has done considerable travelling, most recently to North Africa, Spain, the Balaric Islands, France and England. Among other things he recalls rowing a punt around Regent Park in London and losing an ice cream cone to a sneaky swan.

A first prize winner in the beard contest, Mr. Holmes says he was surprised and pleased with the success of the winter carnival effort.

"It was the best attitude I've ever seen in students for an outside activity. I think a lot of credit should go to the administration who were so lenient with the experiment. All we need now is a school cafeteria.

4-H opener

The first meeting of the Acton 4-H girls, on Feb. 13, marked the start of another club. Our leaders, once again, are Mrs. Kaye Lynch and Mrs. Ruth MacNaughton.

The current project, "Cottons may be Smart", involves the sewing of a cotton dress by all members and the more experienced girls may try their hand on jackets also. The tricky art of installing a zipper and hemming with the dip stitch will be taught by the leaders.

President of this club is Corie Maxwell with Linda Sayers as vice-president. Secretary is Kathie Lynch, treasurer is Shirley Sayers and reporter is Mary Ann Freuler. Shirley Jaque has been given the new post of "telephoner". Other members include Jean Hiscock, Linda Beers and Dorothy Newton.

The meetings are being held Monday nights at the homes of different members but in the future hope to have use of Speyside Public School.

The name "Cot-teens" seems to be favourable with most club members but a definite club name has not yet been decided. Our thanks to the leaders for the work they will be sharing with us. We are sure it will be profitable.

Did you hear what one tonzil said to the other tonzil? "You'd better get dressed. The doctor is coming to take us out tonight."



JIM HOLMES sporting his prize-winning Van Dyke.—(Staff Photo)

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