

CAN PROPERTY SURVIVE DEMOCRACY ?

by E. Gardner

On Monday October 8th at 8:30 pm, C.B. MacPherson professor of Political Economy at the University of Toronto, gave a guest lecture in the Duffy Amphitheatre. His lecture came under the title "Can Property Survive Democracy."

Richard Gool introduced MacPherson's before a crowd of about one hundred people as a revolutionary activist, contrary to his reputation as a Political Theorist. He gave grounds for such an introduction by mentioning various political activities MacPherson had engaged himself. Gool mentioned the MacPherson Report which had a profound influence in revolutionizing the Educational structure in the Toronto area.

MacPherson's immediate response after the introduction was that he did not know how revolutionary he was until he came here. "Perhaps," he said, "could it be that things look revolutionary here, that don't look so revolutionary in Toronto?"

MacPherson then began a two hour lecture. MacPherson went through the trouble of tracing the concepts of property and democracy from ancient Greeks to contemporary concepts. He optimistically projected that people will develop a much broader concept of property which would include things such as conjugal affection, honor, respect, and personal things of the body, along with the right to have some control of what is to be produced by the means of production and also, a more equitable share of what will be produced.

MacPherson's lengthy presentation ended by saying that property will survive democracy and he stated why he thought it would. Mr.

Gool asked the audience if there were any questions or disputes on what the guest lecture had to say. Only two people had asked questions.

The reason for such little reaction could be that MacPherson's lecture was primarily within a theoretical vacuum. When he was asked to compare his nice rosy theory of how things to come will be so much better with the nitty critty reality of today, MacPherson admitted that perhaps he was too optimistic.

Perhaps, rather than perceiving society as tumbling down to it's utter destruction, more political theorists and political activists should adopt MacPherson's positivistic and optimistic attitude; thus preventing the disastrous decaying of humanity. For those who are interested in MacPherson's lecture, it is on tape which is available at the Audio-Visual department in the Duffy Amphitheatre.

What Did You Think of C. B. MacPherson's Lecture?

Andy Leuty:
"I thought it was very boring".

Bloyce McLellan:
"It was boring as old f----".

Lorraine MacDonald:
"He made some very good points about getting away from the capitalistic ownership thing. He wasn't a very interesting speaker".

Sam Evens:
"What MacPherson had to say was very important because he talked about basic values that need to be changed. However, he repeated himself quite often and he could have said what he had to say in a lot less time".

Don Grey:
"He knew what he was talking about but he was extremely boring. I didn't like his monotone voice".

Gary Higgins:
"I found that I had to force myself to listen to him. If he had not all the credits behind him, I would not have listened to him. Perhaps I didn't get that much out of him because I didn't have any background of his previous works".

A.R.C.U.P.

On the weekend of Nov. 5-7 the Atlantic Region of the Canadian University Press held its annual conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia, hosted by the Saint Mary's Journal.

There were representatives from eight universities in the Maritimes as well as two members of C.U.P.'S head

office attending the conference. Five members of the Cadre staff were in attendance, and it was felt that the conference was a great trading post of ideas on running a newspaper.

One of the highlights of the conference was the seminar held with Harris Sullivan a prominent Halifax journalist and broadcaster. Mr. Sullivan admitted that large corporations and business firms have a great deal of say on what is being published or printed in commercial newspapers.

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