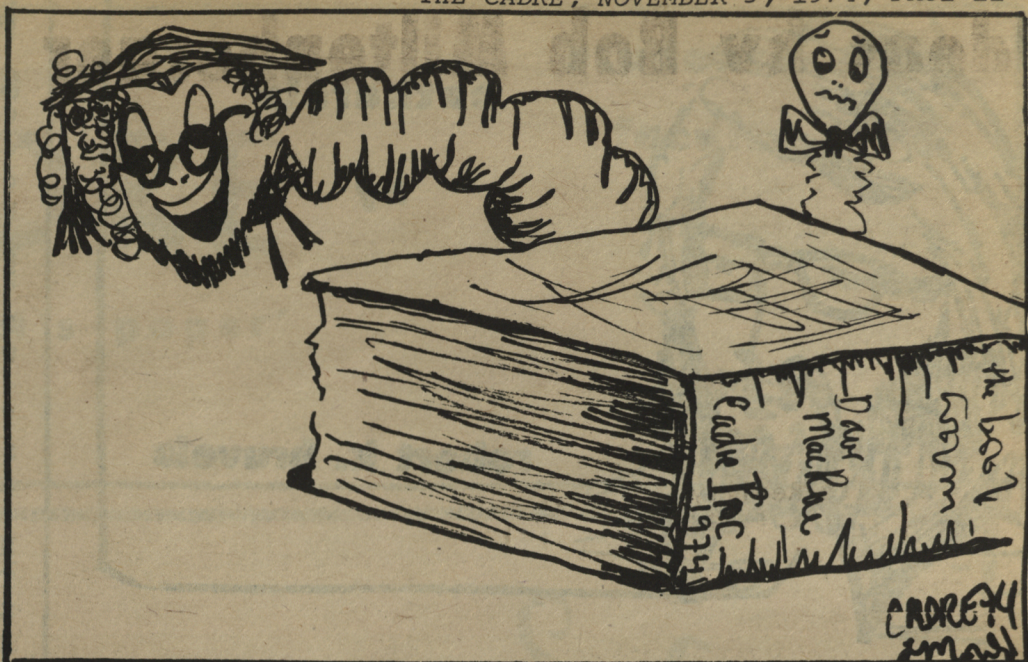


reviews....



the book worm

dave macrae



A look to the Left through magazines

For this week's review I decided to look at three of the more important magazines on today's Canadian left scene, "This Magazine", "Canadian Dimension", and "Last Post".

Of the three, "Last Post" is probably the most well known and provides the most international view point. It provides a world wide objective rarely achieved by anyone in the Left or, for that matter, elsewhere on the Canadian scene. For example, this month's edition contains articles on Guatamala, Greece and Jamaica, among others, all of which show some advance or retreat of the international socialist cause, or merely a fresh viewpoint on some newsworthy happening. As well, there are always articles on Canada.

Two of the best articles in this month's issue include

one of Rhodesia which shows clearly and consisely the isolation of Rhodesian Whites in their little play world and the frustration of the blacks, desperate to free themselves from oppression all in a style of now hidden, now vocal outrage too rarely achieved without descending into the depths of rhetoric. The other deals with reform city councils such as David Crombie's in Toronto or Dorthy Wyatt's in St. John's. It demonstrates what I suppose we already know but only instinctively that the lightly touted "new looks" are merely another example of a government which claims to be responsive and actually is (to the developers)

Canadian Dimension, by contrast is more parochial, dealing mainly with the national scene, although the international is not

forgotten. Compared with Last Post it is probably less readable but without a doubt is better researched and backing its conclusions with more evidence. Any article in Dimension is almost certain to provide facets of a story that you'd never thought of before. And it is not afraid to admit its mistakes. For example this month tears apart the NDP government in B.C. while two years ago Dimension touted it as the first truly socialistic government in North America. Whether that is favourable to the magazine, depends on your view point.

Its main malaise is its tendency to jump from one thing to another without definately establishing anything of the relationship between the two. Even if the point is well taken this can prove frustrating to the reader and interrupts the generally smooth flowing style.

"This Magazine" by contrast, takes a different tack. While it can and does deal

with the major events of the day it prefers to keep close to home and with, for example, a Newfoundland outport or an Ontario prison. At one time it was totally about education and still is deeply involved with the education system and any of its articles on the topic can be guaranteed to provide a fresh and thought provoking look. Its other major topic of concern is the closely related one of "culture", whether defined as a new Canadian film, community theatre group or the latest Arts Council fiasco.

In sum, each of these magazines provides something of interest. If a wide-ranging view is your bag, Last Post is the ticket. Canadian Dimension is probably ideal for an intelligent analysis of current Canadian problems, while This Magazine provides a fine insight into the common man's life and every day problems. Each should provide a good introduction to leftist thought. Choose one to suit your taste and look in to it.



charlottetown

cuisine

wendy sauer

albert macdonald

ISLAND GRILL – Good place to go for lower prices

The Island Grill restaurant was selected for this week's review. This establishment, situated on Queen Street between Grafton and Kent, serves both Canadian and Chinese food. The decor is agreeable; the walls are hung with lovely Chinese style tapestries, and there is an area partitioned off

with metal grills and more lavishly appointed than the rest of the restaurant, for dinner dates and so forth.

We went down Friday night after Ash Mountain. Although the place was quite crowded, the proprietor found us a table in a very short time. We sat down and our menus

were brought. We chose Chicken Fried Rice, Chicken Chop Suey and Pineapple Chicken. Inspecting the menu, we found the prices comparatively speaking, to be quite low. We looked around and noted approvingly that this Chinese restaurant apparently backed up its image by the hiring of a

number of Chinese staff.

The food was brought in only a few minutes. The portions, although not huge, were reasonable, and the food was fairly hot. Tasting it, we decided that the fried rice was excellent, and the chop suey adequate. Unfortunately, our favorite dish, the pineapple chicken was slightly soggy. All in all, however, the meal was filling and quite good.

Over coffee, we discussed our impressions. We decided overall, that the Island Grill was a good place to go for lower prices, excellent service and adequate food.

Wendy Sauer
Albert MacDonald