
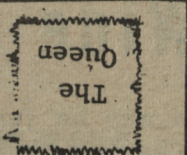


Introductory Column: The Purpose of 'Letters From Exile'



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LETTERS FROM EXILE
The Cadre,
U.P.E.I.

As many of you will remember, The Cadre carried this column throughout the academic year '75-76. In my introductory column of last year I explained that the title "Letters from Exile" did not mean that I was 'exiled' by any court of law, that is to say, in a legal sense. However, due to high unemployment and the seasonal nature of most jobs, it was impossible to find work thus forcing me to leave my home Island and look for a living elsewhere. I came to Toronto, where I had worked before entering UPEI in 1970.

The policies of the Campbell government (or rather, the lack of them) under his infamous "development plan" do not in any way, provide for full employment of Islanders. Many, many others, like me, are forced to leave P.E.I. to obtain a living when they would rather stay. They are, therefore, just as effectively exiled as though it were decreed by a court judge.

Most students at UPEI today are faced with the same threat of economic exile as I was. They are concerned with whether or not they

will be permitted to stay on the Island among their family and friends to pursue a future of material benefit to fellow Islanders as well as themselves.

I, and others like me, are waiting for employment opportunities to develop back home so we may return. I hate Toronto and big city life. It is foreign to me; but worst of all, those among whom I grew up and know so well are either back home or are scattered throughout the country and the U.S.

But worse still, the policies of the Trudeau and Campbell governments are designed to educate the people in the hinterland (underdeveloped) areas such as to make them irrelevant to their native areas. We are being educated so we will serve the capitalists interests in the industrial centers like Toronto, Vancouver, Winnipeg, etc. Our education is purposefully made irrelevant to our native areas for the purpose of keeping these areas underdeveloped so that foreign

capital (from Toronto & U.S.) can more easily exploit these areas.

Not only are they not interested in our people getting educated so they can themselves develop their native area, they are hostile to it. They don't want the people to assume control of what is rightfully theirs—the land, education, etc. The capitalists (whom our governments serve) want to maintain their control over these resources so they can maintain their profits. Their interests and the peoples interests are diametrically opposed. Right now the dictatorship by the capitalist class—a minority class—prevails.

This must change in favour of the interests of the majority—the people: workers, farmers, fishermen students— if the needs of our people are to be met.

No capitalist government will ever do it, that much is certain. As history has proven time and again in many countries (including our own) the only gains the people make are those that they themselves fight for. Thus Oct. 14th. Thus the General Strike of 1919 in Winnipeg. Thus the 8 hours Bill; unemployment insurance; Family Allowance; Old Age and Widow's Pensions; Workmen's Compensation; the Right to Collective Bargaining, and many many more.

To fightback we must be organized: there is nothing so weak as the strength of one. We must be organized so we can struggle for vital reforms to improve our standard of living. Unemployment and high living costs will remain as long as labor, farmers, and students remain unorganized—for it is only when organized and united do we constitute ourselves as a power. The UPEI Student's Union has been historically concerned with campus problems; it has rarely if ever been effectively organized to deal with the vital problems concerning students in the areas of democracy for students (there's only 5 students on Senate, one on the board of Governor's and similar token representatives on other decision making bodies).

More over, these discrepancies are built into

the University Oct. This Oct. must be changed to favor students. Mind you, the university authorities will permit, even demand, that students have a say, but when it comes time to make concrete decisions suddenly the student are considered too immature or inexperienced to make such decisions. This was my experience on Senate. From my study of the Cadre these past two years and discussions with students this is still the case.

Students interests go beyond the campus. They are concerned about jobs, housing, taxes, as well as a thousand other things. Their union must represent them in these interests which is why the Student Union must organize a say in labor, farming, fishing, as well as invite these other sectors to a voice in the university. Students as well as workers and all other sectors must pay the same prices for commodities, the same rents, taxes, etc. They are all victims of inflationary prices, therefore since they have a common problem it is necessary for these different sectors to UNITE ON A BROAD ALLIANCE TO FIGHTBACK. The students union can no longer just concern itself with the students problems they're studying; it must look beyond the university so as to help lay the groundwork for "life after university".

Students constitute a minority, they are a transient group (4 year life span) and, thanks to administration policy, are segregated from the rest of the Society. This must be changed.

"Letters From Exile" will deal with these issues throughout the year and will articulate the alternative and the strategy and tactics for achieving it. We will be examining the nature of our class-divided society and how that give rises to your problems at UPEI as well as contrasting it with developments in the Socialist countries such as the U.S.S.R., Cuba, East German, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, etc.

What you have to say regarding this column is important, so please scrutinize it carefully and don't hesitate to criticize it.

upeii fight song

We got the team that's
dressed green and white,
We got the team that gonna
win tonight,
We got the Island fans
and all the luck,
Cause we got the team
that sure can fffffff
f
f
f
f
Fight for our honor
and preserve our tradition,
Scoring (baskets, goals, t.d.)
that's our ammunition,
We got the Panther hungries
and we'll never quit,
No team can touch us cause
they're full of sh-sh-sh
sh
sh
sh
sh
Sharp-shooters and they
think they can score,

But we've got the defense
that'll show-em the door,
The whistle is blown,
we're taking the rap,
A penalty on us?
The ref's full of cr-cr-cr
cr
cr
Crazy calls telling our
coach to sit down,
But our team's busy beating
them into the ground.
We explode into victory like
a big earthquake,
But always extended is
the Panther handshake.
Why oh why is the other
team's cry,
We simply answer with U.P.E.I.
U.P.E.I.
U.P.E.I.
(Faster and faster)

Mark Vickers