

Dear Editor

Letters from Readers

May Day Is Made For Poetry and Politics

MINNEAPOLIS

Dear Editor:

I hope it is not too late to report that for the first time a poet played a major role at a May Day celebration here. His name is Walter Lowenfels. The enclosed clipping tells the story as reported by the Minnesota Daily News. The celebration, at the University of Minnesota, was sponsored by the Socialist Club. The article said, in part:

"The future of America is too precious to leave in the hands of politicians, whatever their po-



litical beliefs, who disassociate politics from poetry," Communist and poet Walter Lowenfels said at the recent University May Day celebration.

In a speech to point out relationship between the movement of the working class and American poetry, Lowenfels said that May Day should be celebrated "with things like dancing and poetry."

Lowenfels, the first poet to speak for a May Day celebration on this campus, illustrated his speech with passages from Whitman, Sandburg, Lindsay and

others down to the present day. A STUDENT

No Blueprint Of Capitalism

Dear Editor:

The article by Nemmy Sparks' "How Capitalism Works" must be some sort of introduction to the heading It is the same sort of phrase flinging wordy wish-wash that you have been promising to eliminate. . . . It doesn't tell how capitalism works so that a person of average intelligence can understand it.

L. DINNERSTEIN.

Of Somersaults, Bach and Things

Dear Editor:

That the Communist Party has taken a few somersaults lately I was aware of though not too happy about. But time will tell. Smarter men than myself have made big mistakes during the past tragic, eventful years.

However, this is not my chief complaint. I was irked by my very favorite columnist, Ben Levine, lauding J. S. Bach. . . . That this composer was outstanding in his day, no one disputes. But who did he serve? Not the people, but the church, the saints. Hence of what interest is it to me who is surrounded by wolf packs threatening my life day in and day out?

J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion, great as it is as a musical masterpiece, tends to lull us into submission to the forces fighting to retain the old world with all its tragedy, rather than to arouse the masses of enslaved in struggle for a new social system. . . .

As an afterthought, may I add that modern medical science often advises to normalize circulation, a few somersaults now and then. Who knows but this practice might not have some

Submits Plan for Better Articles

BROOKLYN

Dear Editor:

For 25 years, in my experience, demands have been made that we learn to express our theory in everyday basic language, if we are to help people to a deeper understanding of how our society operates; why it is unsatisfactory and temporary; and what kind of social organization will supplant it.

I would suggest a committee of one teacher, three trade unionists, and one social worker to be established to review any theoretical articles before publication.

I submit that similar brief articles also appear in the Daily Worker, and that this educational effort be treated with the utmost seriousness, responsibility, and skill.

SAM.

Sportswriter In Auto Trap

NEW YORK

Dear Editor:

Lester Rodney on sports is excellent, although one might wish he could acquire some of the crispness, levity and sophistication of, say Red Smith. But Rodney on auto accidents is way off base. He falls for the classic trap, and fails completely to point up the real problem, and its cure. However, in this he is not alone. Paul Kearney in February HHarper's played the same hand, as does the National Safety Council and all the so-called automotive experts I have ever encountered who write for commercial publications.

PETE HARMON

(Ed. Note: Mr. Harmon's views on the causes of increasing auto accidents appear on Page 11 of this issue.)

Disagrees With Us On 'People's Capitalism'

NEW YORK

Dear Editor:

The number of individual shareholders of corporate stocks

of distribution. Millions of Americans, who are not individual shareholders have a direct and indirect interest not reflected in your account. (Articles on "People's Capitalism" by Jack Morrison).

The vast amount of mutual funds and investment trusts whose holders have a direct interest in their portfolios support this proposition, and the same can be said of millions of life insurance policyholders.

The issue of control is another question. Prof. Ripley of Harvard showed about 25 years ago that about ten percent or 15 percent of the stockholders control the average corporation.

I doubt whether this is due to the machinations of the Worker's stereotype capitalists—potbellied, cigar-smoking men of evil visages—but rather to the lack of interest displayed by the average stockholder. . . .

The American worker is in a position to become a proprietor through stock purchase. . . . It has been estimated that the workers for U. S. Steel over a period of 15 years could buy up its issued stock with modest monthly payments.

ROBERT S. LONG
Counsellor at Law

Reprint Appeal On Atom Bomb

NEW YORK

Dear Editor:

You should print your appeal every day urging everyone to protest further atom tests. The people need this guidance badly, as lots of them need to be shown they can do something about world conditions. Too many are apathetic because they do not know what to do. That is why they grew sick in heart and mind.

They think the tide of culture is stopped, so they stagnate. Make them see that the best medicine is doing something about their problems. . . .

ESTA PERPETUA (Latin for "May it last forever")

Letters to the Editor

College Student Objects To Mike Gold Column

Dear Editor:

As a college student I would like to take serious exception to a recent Mike Gold's column in the Sunday Worker.

It is almost inconceivable that an intelligent man should repeat the same dogmatic, McCarthy-like labelings of anyone who refuses to accept his gospel. That Ezra Pound was and is a fascist, no one denies. That Eliot has expressed anti-Semitic, anti-democratic views and that he had the fascist sympathies at one time no one denies either. That Eliot's poetry or criticism is neo-fascist is another story (one that Mr. Gold significantly and dangerously ignores). Eliot's criticism is largely responsible for a revival of interest in John Donne and Dante Alighieri.

If Mr. Gold feels these are also neo-fascists let him say so. Eliot's chief poems are perceptive, and socially conscious and if Mr. Gold finds any of his poetry neo-fascist I should like to hear it. As for the "New Criticism" it is a sign of impotence to label every member of the school by what may be true of some of its proponents.

But the greatest ignorance that Mr. Gold indulges in is manifested in the following analysis: "The English departments of most American colleges are now occupied by such types of creeping fascism.. With a captive audience to work on, they are well equipped to bring up a new generation that will despise democracy and loathe social realism in literature."

It is a characteristic of Gold's whole piece that he never cites specific examples of this "creeping fascism." The English departments of our universities publish books every day. Yet, Mr. Gold, apparently working on a thesis developed in the thirties never mentions a single specific example of this current trend except Eliot and Pound who have been around for 30 years and whose influence is definitely on the decline.

The tragedy as far as the left is concerned of this relapse into medieval dogmatism is that the universities at present, English departments included, are the articulate strongholds of democracy and the democratic tradition. Oppenheimer, C. Wright Mills, Urey, these are the forces which hold the strongest influence in our greatest universities. I should like to hear Mr. Gold deny this, deny if he will that institutions like—Harvard are fighting and have fought every attack on democracy from McCarthy.

—IVY LEAGUE STUDENT

But Nobody Swims That Fast!

BOLIVAR, N. Y.

Dear Editor:

In the Worker, May 26, was an article headed, "Mao swims the Yangtze; 12 miles in two hours." I told this to my son, who is 53 years of age and a very good swimmer. He was not slow to contradict, for a man is only supposed to walk four miles an hour, and here you tell of Mao swimming one and a half times



"Gee, Honey, Honest! I got nuffin' to do with them two guys, my intentions are strictly honorable."
Vicky, in the London *New Statesman and Nation*

faster than a man can walk. We believe Mao or someone else was prevaricating.

If you can explain this, I'd like to have it corrected.

R. A. STOHR

[Ed. Note: We quite agree that neither Mao nor anyone else swam 12 miles in two hours. But the story (released by the New China News Agency) noted, without explanation, that this feat was accomplished in the fast flowing Yangtse river, the swimmers were apparently aided by the swift current.]

Recommends Reading Chinese Document

Dear Editor:

I recently had the good fortune to read what I consider a tremendously important historical document which was issued by the Communist Party of China.

This document is entitled "Once More About the Historical Experience of the Dictatorship of the Proletariat."

It impresses me for many reasons. Two of which I would like to mention here.

First, the manner in which this document deals with the Hungarian situation and Stalin's mistakes. The Chinese Communists deal with these two questions in a manner which answers all the fundamental questions involved in a scientific-Marxist-Leninist way.

Secondly, a classic phrase of Marxism "Communist Modesty" has been a fundamental goal generally accepted by most Communists—easily forgotten by some—but at least fought for and achieved by a few who usually set an example which keeps others aware of the goal.

I believe this Chinese document emphasizes the need for an additional term—the impor-

tance of being humble—humble in a Communist manner and how to achieve it.

It is in this spirit that the Chinese Communists deal with the historic significance of the Soviet Union, its Communist Party and its achievements and mistakes.

The Chinese Communists deal with these mistakes and make some sharp criticisms but their starting point is that the Soviet Union is the backbone, the main source of strength and the principal leader and teacher of world Marxism and the camp of socialism.

I believe that all those who are interested in the strengthening of our movement and advancing its political growth would make a great contribution by seeing to it that this pamphlet gets the widest possible circulation.

AL LANNON

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Sends The Worker To Pen Pals

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Dear Editor:

After I read the Worker, I send some articles to my "pen pals" in People's Poland, Hungary, and the German Democratic Republic.

I have read the paper since the Rosenberg - Sobell frameup of 1953. I have found much information not found in the capitalist press. However, I feel the Worker could use some improvements.

I would like to see more articles devoted to youth. I would like to see an article on stamps and chess. I enjoyed the articles dealing with atomic and hydrogen bomb fallout and got lots of information from the four pages on this important subject to humanity.

WILLIAM FINKELSTEIN