

SWITCHBOARD

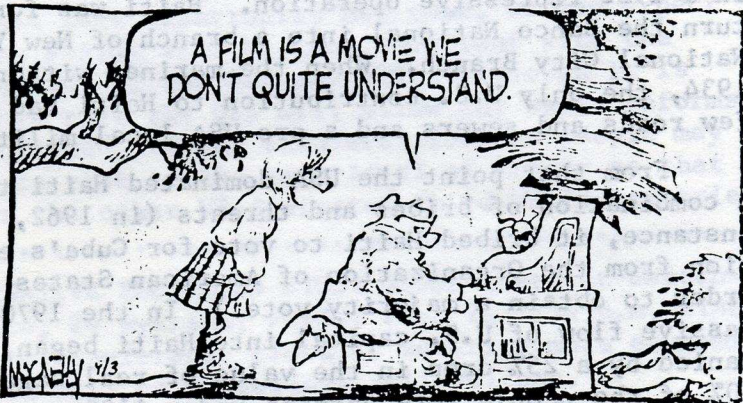
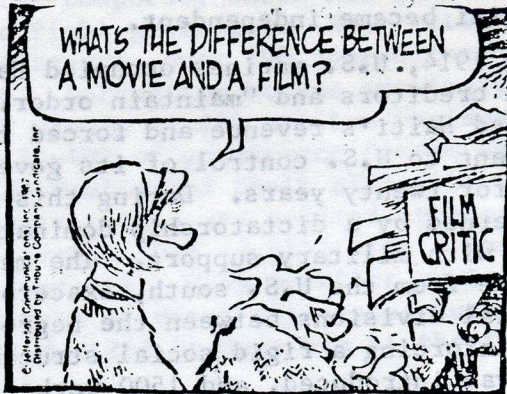
FREE

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COMMUNITY SWITCHBOARD
24 Ryerson #309, 868-0113
one block north of Queen, one block east of Bathurst

Community Switchboard offers a forum and research facilities to those concerned with analyzing the need for basic social change and establishing an alternative social system, economically and ecologically sound, whose principles of small-scale technology, self and co-operative employment and human-scaled social units will contrast with those of the corporate state. Anyone who shares these goals is invited to contact the Switchboard to discuss means of working together towards achieving them.

OFFICE HOURS: The Switchboard is usually open Tuesday thru Saturday afternoons. Spontaneous visits are always welcome, but visitors wishing to verify the office being open are invited to phone in advance.



UPCOMING AT THE FREE UNIVERSITY (519 CHURCH 7:30 P.M.)

Monday February 24 (Pine Room): A Community Gardening Workshop with Glenn Monroe, co-author of metro community gardening handbook. Purpose is to organize a co-operative community garden in the Annex or local neighbourhoods; no experience required.

Wednesday February 26 (2nd floor auditorium): Male Sexuality, a workshop for men and women presented by General Male, a local anti-sexist men's group. For more information, call 532-3430.

U.S. INTERVENTION IN HAITI

Since the USA is trying to take credit for the long overdue collapse of the Duvalier regime in Haiti it seems relevant to trace the history of U.S. involvement in that unfortunate country. It goes back to 1799, when fearing that Haiti's successful slave revolution might spread to the USA the Americans joined Britain in forcing Haiti to sign a pact which stipulated that no other power might trade with Haiti and no black on the island except an official government representative could leave the island. In 1804 Haiti became independent.

In 1914, U.S. marines occupied Haiti to protect foreign creditors and "maintain order." The troops impounded Haiti's revenue and forced the government to consent to U.S. control of its government and finances for twenty years. During this period, Haiti was governed by a dictatorship dominated by U.S. officials with military support. The marines, most of whom came from the U.S. south, exacerbated racial and social divisions between the negroes and mulattos, reinforcing a rigid social structure. Forced labour was introduced, and 1500 workers were killed in a 1922 repressive operation. Haiti was forced to turn the Banco National into a branch of New York's National City Branch. When the marines withdrew in 1934, the only U.S. contribution to Haiti had been a few roads and sewers and a pro-USA local militia.

From that point the USA dominated Haiti through a combination of bribes and threats (in 1962, for instance, it bribed Haiti to vote for Cuba's expulsion from the Organization of American States in order to obtain a majority vote.) In the 1970s a massive flow of U.S. capital into Haiti began, accompanied by a 25% drop in the value of real wages. Over 80% of the people were earning under \$100 a year while .4% absorbed 43.7% of the national income. The USA controlled four of the five main exports--sugar, bauxite, sisal and light manufactures (coffee was locally owned but remained dependent on the U.S. market.) At least 70% of the country was unemployed, with half the children dying before the age of five; life expectancy for the remainder was 53 years. Each year Duvalier exported 15,000 Haitians to harvest

sugar under slave labour conditions on Dominican Republic plantations. Haiti became the chief world producer of baseballs although nobody plays ball in Haiti. Children destroyed their health assembling cassettes and electronic parts in workshops for \$1 a day.

When Papa Doc Duvalier died, the US ambassador arranged his son's succession while an American aircraft carrier anchored off Port-au-Prince. Much publicity was given the diminished role of Papa Doc's personal police force the tonton macoutes; we heard less about the new elite army corps, the Leapords, which had been trained at U.S. instigation to fight guerillas. Repression continued; in 1980, for instance, over 100 journalists were jailed and tortured. Corruption became growingly rampant; at one point an IMF credit of \$20 million vanished without a trace, while 20-40% of government income was pocketed by the Duvalier family and their officials. At the same time, an economic crisis was created by hurricane destruction of the coffee crop coupled with a declining market for bauxite and oil. When Duvalier resisted efforts to have control of Haiti's finances turned over to the IMF, the USA decided to dump him at the first opportunity.

Now that that opportunity has come, we can expect that the new regime will be more compliant with the imperial demands of the USA and IMF. Although it is inconceivable that the USA will allow any basic reforms to be established, living standards for the people may be allowed to rise to the same level of misery as that existing in the other US-dominated Third World countries.

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ALTERNATIVE ECONOMICS STUDY GROUP meets at Switchboard office, 24 Ryerson, Friday Feb. 21 7:30 p.m. Plans for a general conference aimed at securing more economic co-operation will be discussed. All welcome.

GESTEFAX JUNIOR PRINTING MACHINE: does anyone know how to repair one of of one that is for sale cheap? The machine is the basis of a small alternative printing operation in northeastern Ontario. Contact Stu Vickers Dragonfly Farm, 613-338-2709, Lake St. Peter Ontario KOL 2K0. (editor's note: the reluctance of the Gestetner Company to help Dragonfly repair this machine is a typical example of planned obsolescence.)

USA TODAY: Are drugs a big problem in the USA's schools?

JACKSON: Yes. Whether it's in San Diego or Phoenix or Albuquerque or Washington, D.C., drugs may be the most universal phenomenon in our schools today. The combination of drugs and alcohol and access to guns has made our schools the most dangerous places in the country to be between 9 and 3 during the day. We're raising the drug, the violence, and the sex issue. If we just deal with a given black issue or a given Hispanic issue, the media says it really is bad but they got a problem. But if it's in a suburban school, then it's we got a problem.

USA TODAY: What happens when you visit our high schools and ask the students about drugs?

JACKSON: I recently visited a school in San Diego and asked, "How many of you know someone in your age group who is dead because of drugs?" Almost every hand in the room went up. "How many of you know someone who is in jail because of drugs in your age group?" Hands went up, and they started laughing.

USA TODAY: Then what happened?

JACKSON: I kept asking questions: "How many of you know someone in the school who takes drugs?" Every hand went up. "How many of you know someone in the school who drinks liquor?" All hands went up. "Aw, Reverend, you can't be serious." When I asked, "How many of you have known someone who has brought a gun or a knife to school?" about three-fourths of the hands went up.

USA TODAY: You have children in high school and college. Are young people dying from drugs and violence?

JACKSON: My son, Jonathan, went to high school in Chicago. In grades 10, 11, and 12, he was a pallbearer in 12 funerals in three years, of kids he knew — not all from his school. It's a war zone.

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TODAY ANNOUNCED THE ARREST OF AN INTERNATIONAL DRUG RING HEADED BY THE INFAMOUS SNOW WHITE AND THE FIVE DWARFS

OFFICIALS CREDITED THE ARRESTS TO THE BRAVERY OF TWO UNDERCOVER FBI MEN ... MR. DOPEY AND MR. SNEEZY



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Jesse
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NEWS