

Chairman Meeooww And His Gang



by Bill Krampe, Vendor and Editorial Contributor

My editor, Mr. JC has informed me that my articles are too long. So I have to get right to the point, not too much muckin' around . . .well, I can't avoid a little muckin' around, anyway. I like to start off with a small personal vignette whenever I can . . . and then use it as a jumping off point to tell my tale. So here goes.

Having been a veteran of several political communes over the past few decades, in places like Berkeley, California, and Seattle, Washington, as well as political *households*, more than communes in British Columbia, it should come as no surprise when I report that, sooner or later the titular and spiritual leader of our little group would be a cat. A cat named Chairman Meeooww. Chairman Meeooww and his gang were us: the revolutionaries in the house.

In Seattle the Chairman's "real" or given name was Oliver. I was always a little uncomfortable with the notion of Chairman Meeooww because Chairman Mao had such an important place in my heart and a profound influence on my thinking. While the cat was our spiritual leader, Chairman Mao was our first and foremost political leader. All this was inevitable. Chairman Meeooww and Chairman Mao. Like with the 60's and 70's revolutions around North America and Europe, where would we be without the crazy humour of someone like Abbie Hoffman and company? How could we survive without a sense of humour? The

cultural revolution meets the political struggle? Of course, especially in our youth revolution day and age: Woodstock meets Karl Marx.

Chairman Meeooww notwithstanding, Chairman Mao instructed us out of his little red book. Or his *Four Essays On Philosophy*, among other publications. But his little red book, that is the summarized, condensed version of his regular red book was always the main event, the most widely distributed and studied publication of the Chairman. It was always with me. Yes, I was a bit comical in those days. I'd sleep with the little red book, spout propaganda from it all the time, carry it with me to bathrooms, ball games, protests, weddings, you name it. I was politically smitten. I was especially smitten with the Chairman's ideas about *contradictions*.

Everywhere in his writings, the Chairman would bring up the concept of contradictions. Life and revolutions all contained contradictions. To be successful, he advised, we must prioritize contradictions. Find the primary, single most important contradiction and put all the emphasis on that one. The lesser or secondary contradictions were not to be neglected, but only a secondary effort was to be reserved for the secondary contradictions. The main contradiction was to compel the primary energies, passions, resources, etc.

On CBC-TV, on March 11, 2008, during a broadcast about families in Ontario responding to the consequences of global warming, Dr. Anthony Leiserowitz of Yale University's Project on Climate Change said: "Global warming is such a big issue, this runs to the very core, to the very foundation of our entire modern civilization. Our world has been built on the burning of oil, coal and natural gas. I mean, everything from the food we eat, to the clothes we wear, to the homes we live in, everything in our society has been rooted in this burning of fossil fuels at an ever exponentially growing rate. That is the challenge."

If this were back in the 60's and 70's I would probably think that the main contradiction is global warming. You don't have to be a Maoist, nor a rocket scientist, nor a Meeoowwist to understand this. Global

warming requires all of our resources, power, passion, etc. All the other issues in to the world are very important, obviously. But global warming is coming to get us big time. Bite us in the ass and throw us into the drink, rendering us defunct, to mix metaphors.

But not to end on a downbeat note, I suggest the reader look up something positive and hopeful in the way of a solution, maybe, to the woes brought on by global warming. Check out the spiritual progressives website on the computer: www.spiritualprogressives.org. Among the many ideas discussed on this site is a solution to world poverty and environmental meltdown. It is called *The Global Marshall Plan*. The Plan was initially inspired by the original Marshall Plan that was brought into effect right after the second world war. It was incredibly successful at rebuilding Europe and also it's secondary objective: to keep the commies from taking over Europe. Well, a lot of good it did. Now the industrial model of economics heralded by global capitalism is bringing us to the brink. Of catastrophe.

The Global Marshall Plan is discussed at great length, but there is also a user friendly, printer friendly five or six page summary of the Plan. It says, among other issues, that the USA should kick things off in starting up this global effort, and that the money needed to bring this Plan to life and to continue on with the agenda is huge. Eventually trillions of dollars. Starting with 1%-2% give or take of the GDP of the USA, and working up to 5% of the gross global product eventually (world GDP) over a 20 year period, or longer.

That the peoples of the world will have to decide, in really short order, if we all want to live or perish in the overwhelming floodwaters of increasing sea level rise, and of rivers out of control; in the freaky killer storms with winds of 500+ kilometres per hour, (like what was clocked recently in Manitoba) and maybe, eventually, reaching 1000 kilometres per hour; in the vast destruction of foodcrops by invading insects; in the rampant spread of virulent diseases; and in the burning fires of Armageddon.

Check out *The Global Marshall Plan*. It just might save us all?

Stepping Stone Annual General Meeting

Friends,
We are currently working out the details for this event, however we wanted to give you a 'heads up' to let you know that our 19th Annual General Meeting this year will be like no other...

We are excited to let you know that Valerie Scott will be joining us for an event to be held the evening of October 16, 2008, in Halifax.

Valerie Scott, is the former Executive Director of the Sex Professionals of Canada and is a retired sex worker and long time activist and advocate for the rights of sex workers.

Scott became an activist in 1986 when she joined the Canadian Organization for the Rights of Prostitutes.(now known as Sex Professionals of Canada). Since then Scott has been campaigning for the rights of sex workers and the full

decriminalization of prostitution.

In 2007 Scott became a plaintiff for a constitutional court challenge to remove the prostitution laws.

As mentioned we are in the process of finalizing the venue and we will be in touch shortly with more information.

We hope to see you on the evening of October 16, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Please spread the word and accept our apologies for any cross-postings.

Rene Ross, Executive Director

New Mailing Address:
(our house location remains the same)
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www.steppingstonens.ca
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Barry house holds fundraiser to recuperate from fire damage

Barry House is an emergency shelter for women and their children who are experiencing homelessness.

The house was destroyed in a devastating fire on May 16, 2008.

All proceeds from the Benefit will be to cover costs for the repairs and re-opening that were not addressed by Insurance.† We hope to re-open that site in late 2008.† Please help us make that happen by coming to groooooove the night away with us at the Fleet Club!!

To get your tickets now or donate an item to our Silent Auction or find out how you can help.....

Call: 463-6077or
Email: spookytickets@hotmail.com
Lottery Licence #AGA-220599-08



Getting Spooky with It"

Saint Leonard's Grovin' Goblins
Benefit Dance and Auction

When and Where??

Saturday, November 1, 2008.

Fleet Club, Barrington Street

(near MacDonald Bridge)

Halifax, NS

Who?

YOU and your friends/family/co-workers!
(this is an adult function)

Tickets: \$60

Door Prize:

\$500.00 Gasoline

PLUS

Prizes for best Male & Female Costumes

While the dance is going on, there is also a silent auction with awesome items on the block!!