

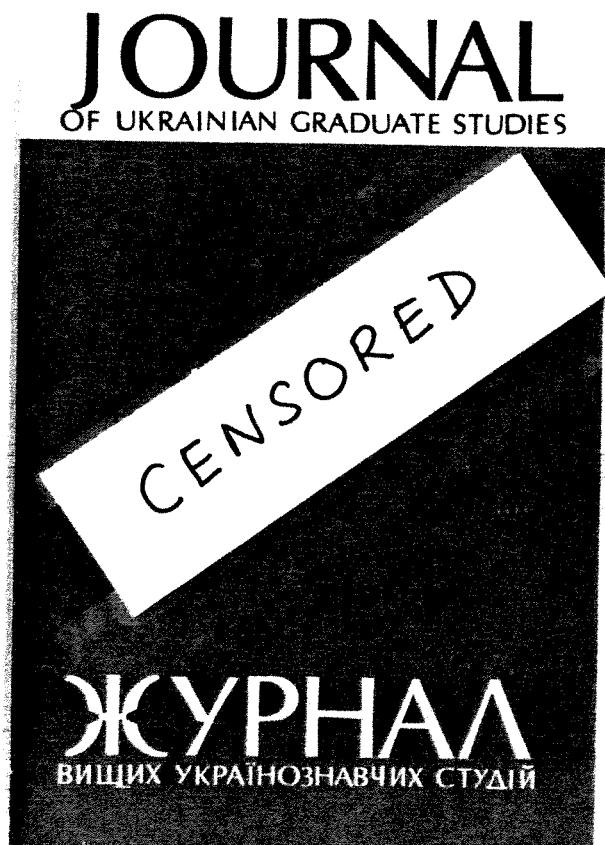
BEZTAKTIST

No. 11

November 1981

JOURNAL TURNS PORNO!!

STORY INSIDE



QUOTABLE QUOTES

COMPUTER TALK

I have not included him in any survey to this pint because it seems to me that he transcends any attempt to fit his work into any seat compartment.

David Arnason in Identifications

ECONOMICS 201

This means that the "optimal price is proportional to the partial derivative of the conditional minimum of the total final output with respect to the quantity of the given product."

Vsevolod Holubnychy, Selected Works

LETTERS TO THE JOURNAL

21 July 1979

Dear Editor:

It is with disgust that I read the review of Yurly Tarnawsky's Meningitis on p. 116 of the spring 1979 issue. You must really be desperate for material to stoop down to the level of newsstand porno products. Surely there must be better examples of Ukrainian literature than this !

I do not buy nor support such so-called avant-gard crap, so why should I support your journal ? I thought it was to be a publication of material on a high plane and of good literary and enlightening value.

I am returning the copy in question. Please cancel my subscription and refund the money. Thank you.

Yours truly,
J.W.E.
Kelowna, B.C.

21 August 1979

Dear Editor:

Time has come for me to renew my subscription. When I'm too busy, I glance over the major articles and put the Journal away. This time I began to read from cover to cover: lo and behold -- I came upon p. 116.

I am referring to Tarnawsky's Meningitis and the reviewer's pick of the quotation "Eventually George..." and so on. I felt downright embarrassed.

continued over

I maintain that it does not take a "graduate" to write "such" stuff (I'll leave the other adjectives out). In my many years of teaching high-school students, I could have collected a book of confiscated "juicier" materials.

Did the reviewer have to choose that particular paragraph to analyse the uselessness of the book ? If the book had been written by a non-graduate in pocket-book form, it would have hit all the newsstands in North America, and in some centres the morality squad would, no doubt, have confiscated it. Conscientious booksellers would not have placed such material on open display. In many centres we have committees to fight pornography---or does it give a "graduate" the special right to publish such junk ?

And the editors: I thought this was to be a prestigious journal publishing graduate work, not "de-graduate" junk--perhaps a "degradation" is considered the trend :

I shall withhold my subscription until there be some evidence that our editors shall kneel down, strike their chests firmly three times, and declare loudly in traditional Ukrainian style: "Bozhe mylostyvyi prosty nam hrishnym !"

Z poshanoiu--with reservations,
S.K.
Canora, Sask.

(Thanks to Roman Senkus for contributions)

BABA'S BIBLE

Why don't Ukrainians like the New Testament ? Because it says plenty about St. Paul but nothing about Vegreville.
(from A.H.)

BOURGEOIS REMNANTS

Vasily Sovronchuk is the senior Soviet adviser in the Afghan foreign ministry. He gives his opinions with great assurance. Although expressing a generally optimistic note, he said "terrorist activity is increasing" but he declared that there were "only a few tens of thousands of counter-revolutionaries..."
The Guardian, 15 November 1981

The Beztaktnist History of the USSR (An Ongoing Serial)

(as narrated by contemporaries)

Part 1. The Russian Revolution

Petrograd was in chaos. We poor peasants were starving and the tsar was nowhere to be seen. My friends and I had deserted the Romanov army and were wandering around the city looking for food. Only Lenin could save us now and little did we know that Vladimir Ilich was at this very moment sealed in an unmarked carriage of a train steaming through imperialist Germany. The fate of Russia hung between 36 millimetres of railway track. The bourgeois lackey Kerensky had been giving speeches all day to the Duma and was weary as he wandered home this April night. Suddenly at the Finland station a train screeched to a halt. The crowds milled round in anticipation. A beard got out followed by a large, bald head. "Vladimir Ilich !" yelled the crowd.

"Stop the war !" screamed Lenin, as he climbed out of the train, "Take the land. Take the factories." We knew we were saved. Vladimir Ilich had spoken. But at this very moment who should be walking by but Kerensky.

"Kerensky, you bourgeois vermin," shouted Lenin, "Give power to the workers immediately."

"By all means," replied Kerensky, "I'm sick of this bloody job anyway. Do you want it ?"

"No, I'm not quite ready yet," Lenin said reflectively.

"I'll take it," shouted Kornilov.

"You can't have it you harebrained idiot," said Lenin, "A fool like you couldn't run Russia."

"Well someone has to do it," said Kerensky, "We've got a war to finish and besides, I'm in the middle of a chess game, I haven't got time to run Russia as well. What shall we do ?"

"One moment. Stalin ?"

"Yes, Vladimir Ilich ?"

"Get us some tea."

"Yes, Vladimir Ilich."

"And don't call me Vladimir Ilich. You're supposed to be a communist. My name is Comrade Lenin."

"Yes Comrade Levin."

"Lenin."

"Stalin sir. My name is Stalin."

"Oh clear off !"

Lenin and Kerensky watched the retreating figure.

"Nincompoop" said Lenin, "We get all sorts in this life, don't we ?"

"One thing's for sure," replied Kerensky, "At least we know that he could never run this country."

"Perish the thought," said Lenin, "He can't even add up."

"Well, have you decided anything ?"

"Yes. Listen old boy. Do you think you can hang on for another month or two ?"

"Are you serious ?"

"Well we're not quite ready. I have to write a few speeches and talk to a few of those sailors who keep making silly remarks about democracy."

"What's wrong with democracy ?" asked Kerensky.

"Oh it's ok for a few oddballs like yourself. But we true Russians don't have much time for it. We leave it to the bourgeois West Europeans in their salons."

"What's a European ?" asked Stalin who had returned with a samovar.

"There you have it," said Lenin to Kerensky emphatically, "Now you know why we can't have a revolution for a few months. I'll call you in October, ok ?"

to be continued

PUTTING IT POLITELY



The response to last month's issue was not overwhelming, but was, nonetheless, sufficient to show that Beztahtnist should never be serious, or attempt to be serious. Point taken. Contributions welcomed for the December issue which should appear in about three weeks.