

At Machu Picchu

by Elizabeth Marion

It's winter in our hemisphere; brute dark
steals off with light at briefest intervals,
and bitter winds can blow out every spark
of passion heaped against inimical,
destructive forces which may separate,
propel us into chaos. If, dear, now
you must leave me in order to placate
a power we neither understand, may you
not be enticed beyond the limits of
curved orbit binding both, but soon return,
intense with quickening warmth, give back our love
its vernal strength.

For this, I'll gladly learn
to mimic priests at mountain altar here,
fling out toward you wide net of fervent prayer.

around braless and untidy and using drugs. It could be said that yachtsfolk, equally dirty and barefoot, offered the same spectacle, but one could add that the average West Indian didn't quite know how to deal with them sociologically, either. Them, too, hate themselves.

Now, however, the local cane cutter or banana grower is adjured to encourage this element, since tourism is vital to these islands. During the season, Barbados will get as many as 800 tourist arrivals a day, nearly all of them American. It would be bankrupt without tourism. So would Antigua, which regularly imports water from Dominica. I would not like to think what would happen to either of those islands if cut off by a war. For though the Caribbean has been called America's backyard, it is strategically more like its front door. Managua is closer to Washington than is California.

The alien manners system introduced by American tourism carries further pressures behind it. The first dishes have sprouted in the islands—the video-cassette finding a ready outlet in a world more or less devoid of cinemas or theaters—and U.S. TV shows the good life coming down from America. West Indians hardly had to be told this, so many of them having relatives in “the States.” Many Jamaicans are, in fact, on food stamps, and the other day I stood in line at my bank behind two locals cashing their Social Security checks (both larger than my own). TV's pressure, by being geared to the American way, is bound to change the balance of life in the islands. Already Trinidad has complained of saturation by U.S. programming, yet can substitute nothing in its place. Beside the glossy life-style on display, the British seem a drab and impoverished lot when those few who do come step off their cheapie cruise or airline tours (moreover, they're inferior at cricket). In fact, those English who build houses for themselves in the region tend to be very rich absentee landlords, which only exacerbates the situation (Lord Brownlow in Grenada).

Furthermore, to the emigrating West Indian middle class, England looks absurdly vulnerable to the latest American trend or fad. Even under Maurice Bishop, who

roared away about women's rights, feminism never got a foothold in Grenada. Also, the smaller islands must be the least homosexual places in the world (AIDS unknown). But no sooner have some Yale students dedicated a shanty to Winnie Mandela than some London borough, like Islington or Hackney, will leap-frog them with glorification of an even more extreme and bloodthirsty revolutionary.

Nevertheless, while evidently vulnerable to such trends, Thatcher's England has at least tried to stop some of the nonsense; immigration laws have been tightened and the Greater London Council abolished. The latter, incidentally, had no copyright on diversion of tax funds to support radical political advocacy and sexual deviation; the American taxpayers' pockets have been rifled, too, on the same scurvy errands.

This misled Yankee ingenuity could be summarized in the case of the feminist founder of Aplex Corp. who wants to persuade women to stand up while urinating and is even marketing a device (Le Funelle) for them to do so. One notes here the instant respectability accorded to the idiocy; the good lady has incorporated herself. A put-on? Not at all. Nothing succeeds like excess, as Wilde had it—and least of all in America, one could add. There is more than one congressman who has expressed satisfaction with the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Tim Wirth (now senator from Colorado): “In the long run, the Russian invasion of Afghanistan will turn out to be a stabilizing influence in the Middle East” (Boulder, Colorado, *Daily Camera*, January 18, 1980). America looks like a very permissive society, indeed, to the average West Indian native. He may not respect it, but he can get something out of it, the reverse of his attitude to England.

In Grenada, when the Communist Maurice Bishop seized power in 1979, the populace was subjected to nonstop vilification of America and/or capitalism (its Politburo code word), to say nothing of the filth hurled on Ronald Reagan (“eater of babies”). I listened to four and a half years of this at close hand. The schools and churches were attacked. But despite the introduction of Marxist educational lackeys, like the British Alan Searle, these elements remained remarkably resilient in the face of indoctrination. Children were made to chant revolutionary songs, attend the political rallies, paint slogans, so forth. It was a full-blooded attack on the vertical society.

Yet despite the lure of unpunished truancy, schoolchildren deserted the rallies, until they eventually petered out. Their parents left the island in droves, not for Africa, but America, or Babylon. For in a curious way the anti-American rhetoric rebounded on itself; it drew unusual attention to the United States—I had more requests to bring down a motorbike from the States than at any other time, and I doubt if a Russian model would have been appreciated. Later, after Bishop's deposition and murder, the drift to America was intensified. In October 1985 the Queen paid Grenada a visit in order to open the first democratically elected parliament since the 1979 coup. Admittedly it was raining, but her visit did not, frankly, arouse much interest, certainly not as much as had her first visit in 1966, when friends put her up. On this occasion she went on to New Zealand, where eggs were thrown at her. In Grenada there was the usual smattering of Anglophile civil

servants about to receive the OBE (Obey Brass Eagerly), but I saw more Stars and Stripes displayed by shopkeepers in the capital than the Union Jacks issued them. One sign read: England Forsaked Us; America Saved Us. On February 20, 1986, Reagan paid a similar visit and was met with rapturous applause by nearly half the island at the Queen's Park cricket ground. The turn from a Europocentric way of life was clear.

Still, if these islands God made from de rainbow (as the saying goes) are today inhabited by young people looking to America as a model, we may expect the worst as well as the best of the horizontal American freedom to infect them. Grenada's brief embrace of Maurice Bishop was, apart from fatigue with the incumbent (Gairy), less hatred of capitalism than infatuation with imported '60ish American socialism. When this was run on to its end in dictatorship, the island reneged on its enthusiasm, and considerable satisfaction was felt in 1986, when 14 (including a woman) were sentenced to be hanged for the murder of Bishop and his

Ministers.

Does, then, this sociological shift make for political volatility? It certainly does. After the Grenada intervention, "Fast Eddie" Seaga took Jamaica from the Marxist Manley by 51 votes out of 60. Were there a Jamaican election tomorrow, this count could be reversed (as it was in recent municipal elections). The Caribbean Basin Initiative was confidently predicated on the hope that local governments would remain stable, given a strong free economy. Certainly "Tom" Adams provided as much in Barbados and carried all before him during intervention; however, when he subsequently died, his successor lost to the anti-American Errol Barrow, who took 23 seats out of 25. Regionally oil-rich Trinidad went to the polls in December 1986, and incumbent George Chambers, successor to Sir Eric Williams, did not merely lose, he also went down to virtually unknown A.N.R. Robinson by 33 seats to three! All this, to say the least, makes any sort of rational interpretive diplomacy in the region very difficult.

THE SILENT INVASION *by Wayne Lutton*

"It is surely arguable that during the third century of American existence the main problem of this nation will be—it already is—that of immigration and migration, mostly from the so-called Third World."

—John Lukacs

Last year the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) apprehended 1.8 million illegal aliens along our southern border—less than half the number who tried to enter. This was in addition to approximately 500,000 legal immigrants, a number greater than the number of immigrants accepted by the other 150-odd nations combined.

Last fall, the Simpson-Rodino Immigration Reform Act passed into law. While it does attempt to discourage illegal immigration by providing penalties for employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens, the law also grants amnesty for aliens who can document that they have resided in our country since before January 1, 1982. Given the easy availability of forged records and the generous attitude of volunteer organizations enlisted by the federal government to assist with amnesty processing (some of which have a record of sympathy with the sanctuary movement), the public's demand for immigration control may have been subverted by the very legislation that has been enacted to cope with the problem.

Indeed, after a brief slowdown in border apprehensions from late fall through early February of this year, it is now clear that aliens are still coming in larger and larger numbers. Though the United States is a part of the Western

world, only 5 percent of the legal immigrants last year came from Europe. The rest of the legal immigrants—and the overwhelming percentage of the illegals—came from the Third World. Many are from Mexico and Central America. But other people from India, China, the Middle East, and Africa are using Mexico as a trampoline to enter the United States. The San Diego border patrol office intercepted illegal aliens from 67 countries along its sector last year. This experience is true for stations in Texas. In Florida, in addition to increasing numbers of Cubans, Colombians, and Haitians, Sikhs and Bangladeshi have been among the foreign nationals caught trying to enter.

Twelve years ago, General Leonard Chapman, then Commissioner of the INS, warned: "Illegal immigration is out of control." More recently, President Ronald Reagan testified that "This country has lost control of its own borders and no country can sustain that kind of position." Yet, massive immigration continues and may be surpassing the all-time highs recorded at the turn of the 20th century. Nor has there been much public attention given to the question of how large-scale immigration will affect the future of the United States. As sociologists Glaister and Evelyn Elmer of Indiana University note, it is highly debatable "whether a population diversity unprecedented in a democratic country will lead to the great and tranquil society we all desire or to divisiveness and eventual disintegration." Eric Severeid, the veteran CBS newsman and one of the first journalists labeled a "neoconservative," expressed his concern for the future of our country. In an interview with the *Christian Science Monitor* (January 28, 1987), he remarked that one of the "truly major issues" that must be dealt with is what he calls "the vast tidal wave of human beings" moving from the Third World into the Western nations. "There is fragmentation going on in this

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