

ZEITGEIST



The Spirit of the Times

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About the Club

In a matter of years, our generation will be the status quo. We will be running the businesses and casting the votes and contributing to the culture that will serve to identify our country for decades to come. As such, it is our duty to cultivate a devotion to political curiosity and vigilance so that we can shape this future in the most well-informed manner we possibly can. The Political Awareness Club is a part of that cultivation, providing an environment for students to discuss and debate what is going on in the world and develop their own unique perspective they can carry with them into the adult world. We meet on Thursday afternoons in Mr. Szabs's room (B407). All are welcome to attend.

Note: The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the contributors and are in no way intended to reflect those of Fairfield Prep as an institution.

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Sochi 2014: Do As I Say, Not As I Do Dan Donahue '14

On February 7th, 2014, The Winter Olympic Games will commence in Sochi, Russia. Vladimir Putin, President of Russia, is attempting to use these games as a means to boost Russia's image on a global scale. However, his actions leading up to the games have done quite the opposite, specifically in the region of Russia's anti-gay stance. Without even getting into the suicide bomber who struck a bus in Volgograd (located between Moscow and Sochi) killing at least 14 people, Russia has still had its hands full. In Russia, it is illegal to even reference homosexuality around minors, much less make open demonstrations of gay pride. The ban is actually against "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations", but nevertheless, the message to LGBT members in Russia remains the same. It is a message that leaves these people feeling ostracized, helpless,

and alone in a nation that is overwhelmingly anti-gay.

So who can take advantage of this global stage of the Olympics to stand up for LGBT members in Russia? Well, the United States, of course! With 17 states (plus Washington, D.C.) already having legalized same-sex marriage and other states that will undoubtedly follow, we should be the ones to speak up for what's right!

Not so fast. How can we expect Russia to listen to us if we are going to be hypocrites on such a major issue? Sure, we have 17 states and D.C. that have legalized same-sex marriage, but we also have 33 states that currently have a ban on same sex marriage. Also, as it pertains to the Olympics, the blanket culture in American sports right now is incredibly homophobic. Despite Jason Collins coming out as the first openly gay male professional athlete last year, true, significant progress has not been made in American sports. In the NFL, America's most distinctive, popular and unique sport, players

who are accused of being gay vehemently deny any and all accusations of homosexuality, regardless of whether they are or not. Chris Kluwe, the former Minnesota Vikings' punter, was released last year, allegedly for his outspoken tendencies and advocacy for gay marriage. He is now out of the NFL, having not found a job all season. To make matters even more complicated, Minnesota is often thought of as one of the most tolerant and open-minded states in the Union. They have recognized the validity of same-sex marriages since July 1st of last year.

With all of this homophobia in American sports, as well as difference of opinion regarding the topic among the American populace, we are in no position to ridicule the Russians for their stance on gay marriage. Although we are in a "better" place in terms of gay marriage acceptance, it isn't enough to target other nations because of their opinions. Although I wish we could be in a position to use this worldwide sporting event as a means to

promote the acceptance of all LGBT members, we simply can't. This leaves America in a classic state of "do as I say, not as I do."

The McDonnell's James Mangan '15

A mere 10 days after leaving office, former Governor Bob McDonnell of Virginia and his wife, Maureen McDonnell, were indicted on federal corruption charges. It was widely reported that McDonnell heavily lobbied Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney to become his running mate in the 2012 election, but it would appear, with these new charges, that any of Bob McDonnell's aspirations for higher office are over.

Governor McDonnell and his wife are charged with accepting over \$140,000 in gifts, including clothes, watches, paintings, vacations and even iPhones, from Jonnie Williams, CEO of dietary supplement company, Star Scientific.

McDonnell and his wife became friends with Williams after meeting him at events for his 2009 gubernatorial campaign. The couple was

frequently found in Williams' presence, even flying in his private jet.

The McDonnell's were hit hard by the subprime mortgage crisis. Real estate investments the Governor made on Virginia Beach proved to be infinitesimally less fruitful than the couple had hoped, and following their victorious 2009 gubernatorial campaign, they began racking up enormous debts. At this point the newly minted Governor and his wife turned towards Jonnie Williams, a friend that they made during the campaign as he lent them his private jet.

Maureen McDonnell approached Jonnie Williams soon after the Governor's victory in 2009. Complaining about the exorbitant prices for some gowns that she hoped to purchase, Williams offered to purchase her dress. Jonnie Williams' generosity, despite being declined by Maureen McDonnell this time, would soon be taken full advantage of. A relationship began in which Jonnie Williams would bestow upon the First Family of Virginia gifts ranging from shopping sprees in New York City to the

catering of their daughters wedding to a 50,000-dollar "loan".

The Department of Justice alleges that in exchange for the gifts, Governor McDonnell and his administration provided much needed validation for a new, unregulated dietary supplement made by Star-Scientific. This supplement is known as Anatabloc and the release of it was hosted at none other than the Governor's mansion. The Governor apparently had a very strong attachment to the Anatabloc and was intent on helping it pass clinical trials at Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Virginia. Both Maureen McDonnell and Bob McDonnell had sent e-mails regarding these trials to top policy advisers.

This quid pro quo between Williams and McDonnell is, for an elected official, utterly unacceptable. Maureen McDonnell's incessant requests for monetary and material goods in exchange for her husband's participation in the furthering of Star-Scientific's agenda are actions

toxic to this country's moral fabric.. Governor McDonnell was once a rising star not only in Virginia government, but also in American politics. The speed with which Governor Bob McDonnell fell from grace is a testament to the standards that American politicians should be held to and are held to in our country.

**Chris Christie
Phil Lynch '14**

Governor Chris Christie has been under serious scrutiny for the past few weeks as a result of the Fort Lee traffic scandal, otherwise known as "Bridgegate." This controversy couldn't come at a worse time for the Governor, on the brink of a potential push for candidacy for the 2016 presidential election. While many citizens have taken stances condemning Christie for his abuse of power, I believe that Christie simply played the common political game.

Christie has been accused of increasing traffic in the city of Fort Lee, New Jersey by closing lanes on the George Washington Bridge intentionally. The accusation is that Christie

created traffic in Fort Lee intentionally as retribution against Fort Lee's mayor, Mark Sokolich, for not endorsing Christie during his campaign. Christie's deputy chief of staff wrote to Port Authority officials, "Time for some traffic problems." While it is now clear that Christie, or at least his staff, is responsible for the lane closures on the George Washington Bridge, I don't blame the Governor. Governor Christie simply played the game that politicians play everywhere to get things done. Christie used his power to outduel or pressure his opponents into his corner. While the mode by which Christie pressured his opponent caused everyone crossing the George Washington Bridge a major inconvenience, this tactic shows that Christie and his aides are not afraid to flex their political muscle when they feel it is necessary.

I do not condone Christie's actions and his "bully-like" tactics to push Mayor Sokolich into the Governor's corner. Governor Christie managed to use his political power to

successfully maneuver through a heavily blue state and a Democratic legislature, adding 90,000 jobs as of 2012 (politifact.com). Governor Christie also showed his ability to work across partisan lines in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. A little bit of arm twisting is not a problem in politics, as the Governor showed in his reaction to Speaker Boehner and House Republicans withholding Sandy relief funds, nor is it anything new, but when the arm twisting has negative consequences for the general public, a line is crossed.

Christie's actions dealing with the George Washington Bridge closings were questionable, to say the least, in that they made life difficult for many people in New Jersey, but we cannot allow this instance to cloud our judgment of Christie's political record. As the 2016 elections approach, we must not let this "scandal" take away from Christie's political accomplishments and effectiveness as Governor, for this scandal only reflects that Christie is willing to play a political game that is necessary

if anything wants to be accomplished in Washington D.C. Christie's willingness to play this game has allowed for him to move legislation and achieve his legislative goals in a Democratic state with a Democratic legislature.

Senate Races to Watch Will Clyne '14

2014 Senate Races to Watch:
Alaska Senate Race: Mark Begich (D)
Kentucky Senate Race: Mitch McConnell (R)
North Carolina Senate Race: Kay Hagan (D)
Louisiana Senate Race: Mary Landrieu (D)
Texas Senate Race: John Cornyn (R)
Arkansas Senate Race: Mark Pryor (D)

The upcoming 2014 midterm elections will prove extremely important to many policy initiatives as well as President Obama's own legacy, the following races in the United States Senate have piqued the interest of many experts.

In Alaska, a state that Governor Mitt Romney (R) carried over President Obama (D) by a substantial 14 percent margin in 2012, Democratic Senator Mark Begich (D) is extremely vulnerable. As the Affordable Care Act's popularity flounders and President

Obama's poll numbers sink, Mark Begich's chances of reelection continue to fall and I predict a loss for Senator Begich come November.

In the United States Senate race in Kentucky, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell is facing attacks from the left and right. Matt Bevin, a businessman, has launched a primary challenge against the powerful Minority Leader. From the left, well-connected Secretary of the State of Kentucky Alison Lundergan-Grimes, has begun campaigning. Lundergan-Grimes is considered a formidable challenger because of her connections with the Clinton family and many other forces in Kentucky politics. Despite this, I believe the untested Bevin and Lundergan-Grimes fall to the ruthless campaigner in Senator Mitch McConnell.

In a state that has experienced a drastic shift from 2008, North Carolina has gone from a purple state looking to move blue, to a state that is becoming a deeper red every day. Senator Kay Hagan has, like many Democratic

politicians in red-tinged purple states, suffered greatly from the rocky Affordable Care Act rollout. Senator Hagan's favorable rating has, since November, been about 43/49 approval to disapproval. In a poll taken in North Carolina, Senator Hagan is losing or within the margin of error to be losing to 5 presumptive GOP competitors. Considering there is no presidential election in 2014 and the lack of a 2008 Barack Obama, I predict Senator Kay Hagan will most likely fall to whoever her opponent is.

In the Louisiana United State Senate election Senator Mary Landrieu is up for reelection. Senator Landrieu's (D) situation looks about as bleak as Senator Kay Hagan's (D) except for two reasons: Senator Landrieu has many important connections in Louisiana state politics as her father was the former mayor of New Orleans and she was elected prior to 2008, unlike Senator Hagan, meaning that she did not simply ride the coattails of President Obama like it seems Senator Hagan did. Despite this, Louisiana is rapidly turning more red and

despite her reputation as a very conservative Democrat, she will fall because of the growing anger towards the Affordable Care Act rollout.

The United States Senate election in Texas is by far the most interesting in my mind. Senator John Cornyn (R) a man who was recently voted the second most conservative member of the United States Senate, is facing a primary challenge from Congressman Steve Stockman (R). Stockman stands out in Congress as a man who runs shamelessly campaigns based largely around misinformation and attack ads. Stockman has also made insensitive comments regarding illegal immigrants, and despite many members of his own party demanding his apology, his refusal. Steve Stockman has also, shockingly, labeled Senator John Cornyn a liberal. There are many things people have called John Cornyn, but liberal has never been one, and it never should be because of the simply false nature of that statement. I believe that John Cornyn will blow out Steve Stockman in the primary, if Stockman makes it

that far, which based on some campaign finance reports lead me to believe he will not. Senator Cornyn will go on to win an easy reelection in Texas.

In Arkansas, Senator Mark Pryor (D) is up for reelection. Senator Pryor will likely face Congressman Tom Cotton (R). Cotton is a rising star in the Republican Party and a graduate of Harvard Law School. These impressive credentials will definitely pose a challenge for Pryor. Senator Pryor faces rapidly declining poll numbers. Despite Arkansas' history as a blue state, it, like the rest of the South, has begun to turn red. President Bill Clinton is still quite popular in his home state, yet I still do not think that his popularity will be able to catapult Senator Pryor past Congressman Cotton. Senator Pryor will lose his reelection bid to Tom Cotton.

These Senate Races to Watch will be integral for the Democrats ability to hold onto the United State Senate. If Republicans take the Senate President Obama's legacy will forever be

tarnished by the political partisanship and gridlock that have consumed Washington for the past several years.

Federal Power in the Modern Age Chris Specht '15

America's federal government, in theory, is the master of the states, but a servant of the American people. The Constitution is meant to protect our liberties from encroachment of an all-powerful central government, and the federal government is supposed to respect its boundaries as defined by the Constitution. This balance of power results in the liberty Americans have been proud of for centuries.

It is this balance of power that is in danger today. Thanks to the NDAA, the president currently has the power to detain anyone in the world indefinitely without a trial for any reason. The NSA and other intelligence agencies have unprecedented access to our private information (the NSA will probably read this long before you do), and the whistleblowers

that revealed our government's spying are either in prison or wanted fugitives. Even foreign leaders are affected, and what we know about the government's spying is likely the tip of the iceberg. Does that sound very American or constitutional to you?

A well-armed citizenry has historically served as the best defense against such encroaching tyranny. As such, firearms are usually the first targets for those with tyrannical aspirations. The Founding Fathers recognized the importance of firearms, and the Second Amendment is part of our Bill of Rights for a reason. To contrast, let's take dictators such as Mao Zedong, Ferdinand Marcos, and Stalin for example. Each one required their citizens to relinquish their arms; regimes of tyranny, genocide, and suppression consequently followed. Is it not concerning then, that your right to bear arms has been significantly diminished in the past century, and the president and other personnel in the government are arguing so fiercely for gun control?

Equally alarming is our government's response to resistance to its expansion of power. Whistleblowers such as Bradley Manning and Edward Snowden have been targeted by the United States for supposed espionage, which is revealing classified secrets to the enemy. Since the evidence they uncovered was for the American people, would Manning's imprisonment and Snowden's indictment prove that the government views us, the American people, as the enemy?

This is not a left vs. right issue; both parties are at fault, and the American people must scrutinize our government's actions. This is both your responsibility and mine, as American citizens. Sure, America is known for protecting the liberty of its people, but only because average Americans have been willing to voice their mind and question the actions of the government.

Communism and Marx
Ryan Brickner '14

Communism and any other philosophy closely related to the teaching of Karl Marx will always fail. Although the modern idea of communism is relatively new, Karl Marx died in 1883 and the Bolshevik Revolution occurred in 1917, history is littered with examples of communist and communal societies failing to survive due to flaws both within the vanguard ushering it in and the idea of communism itself.

Without looking at any societies based on Marx's ideas, the very idea of communism seems so appealing and yet contains so many flaws. The first flaw is that Marx grossly miscalculates humans' core nature and what drives them. Communism revolves around the idea that a classless society in which everybody is equal is the best way to improve human life and make societies more just. "From each according to his ability, to each according to needs" is his main idea, which means that what each man produces belongs to the community, and that a man will receive due to another man's work. Here lies the central flaw; if what you get

is not based off of what you accomplish, why bother accomplishing anything? For many people, the answer is to not do anything. People are mainly driven by the idea of procuring more private property and capital, and without this incentive there is little reason to go out and work hard.

Before Marx, the community of Jamestown employed communal practices; the land and what every man plowed belonged to the settlement and the store of food would be distributed by who needs it the most. For the first six years, 1607-1613, there was a shocking casualty rate: about 80% at one point, 500 people in 1609 reduced to fewer than 100 in a matter of months, many of starvation! In 1613, the land was parceled out to individuals and thus private property was introduced to the colony. Each man was able to keep what he sowed and the productivity soared. Instead of taking food produced by others, people had to grow their own food in order to eat and as a result the fertile lands of Jamestown bore huge fruit for

the first time. If it wasn't for the evolution from communalism to private property, Jamestown would have failed and America may not have seen additional Europeans for a century.

The island of Cuba provides another example. Before Castro took over on New Year's Day 1959, Cuba was a typical capitalist country; high productivity, high average incomes, and huge inequality. Since then, Cuba has degraded from an affluent but flawed haven to a nation stuck in the past. The problem: the lack of capital. Without capital and motivation, Cuba froze. Today they drive makeshift cars 40 years old and live in conditions the American lower class wouldn't accept. They all lead a similar lifestyle, but that lifestyle is poor. Cubans today live in awful conditions. When my Mom returned to Cuba two years ago, the house that used to house her one family now held 3 or four separate families crowded into one little house. The people that live there have no hope of ever selling their old house to move into a newer and bigger house like Americans.

Everyone makes the same wage so there is no reason to excel. Without the thought of something better, society fails.

There are other examples of communism failing. In fact, I cannot think of one successful communist society that didn't convert to capitalism. Even "Red China" has started allowing the free market, and the effects have been magnificent. There is a rising gap between rich and poor but those poor are doing much better than they would have if everyone were equal. The idea of communism seems too good to be true, and it is. Utopia does not exist and there will always be pain and suffering. The best way to make sure that everyone has the chance for a good life is to accept that some people will not. North Korea, the USSR, China, Russia, etc., the failures of communism are there and now it is time to learn from our mistakes.

Sources: PBS, Cato Institute, Ten Theories of Human Nature by Leslie Stevenson

Bitcoin Wit Geffs '15

Recently in the news we heard of a insane increase of Bit Coin value due to the FBI shutting down a pirate website called the Silk Road and confiscating 144,000 bit coins worth a whopping 28.5 million at the time. After this raid the value of one Bit coin nearly quadrupled. Now one bit coin is worth over 810 U.S dollar, and 144,000 of them is now worth 116.6 million U.S dollars. But what is a bit coin and how does one obtain one?

The birth of the Bit Coin is very mysterious; in 2009 a programmer under the pseudo name Satoshi Nakamoto launched a software program that created the first bit coin. Bit coins are basically a new kind of currency, one that is mined and used exclusively on the Internet. What's great about the bit coin is that there is no central authority. There is no bank creating and managing its interface, it is 100% user based. It is also next to impossible to tract a Bit coin transaction because you can instantly

send money to anyone in the world with no paper trail. No one bit coin can be spent twice and all bit coins are created or mined by the individual. Because of the bit coins sketchy rules and ability's mobs and crime organization are naturally drawn to it. It is now the most common use of currency on the black market.

The way you obtain a bit coin is by dedicating a computers CPU to search for a block of them on the software provided by Satoshi Nakamoto. This CPU power would be completely focused on these blocks and when one is detected your computer would proceed to mine it. The faster and better your processing power is, the faster you are able to detect and mine these coins. The first person to successfully mine a block is given 50 bit coins, and later miners are given a smaller fraction. The program is set on a timer, making Bit coins more rare and more difficult to mine as time passes and as more miners are added. The whole system is scheduled to reach a block limit and self implode in the year 2140.

The bit coin is a fascinating piece of currency that will no doubt continue to be used in underground markets around the world. It presents is dangerous and allows for illegal unmonitored transactions to occur. Jamie Dimon, the CEO of JP Morgan Chase said that bit coins are a "terrible store of value," in part because international governments, bankers, and other officials are unsure whether they can trust the digital currency. Which is true but yet the Bit coin is impossible to stop, although the FBI was able to confiscate some and put a huge hole in the market, bit coins, until 2140, will always be able to be mined and sent anywhere in the world with a click of a button.

Sexual Assault Jack O'Connell '14

The White House Council on Women and Girls recently published a report on Rape and Sexual Assault entitled "A Renewed Call to Action." The stats (though we've all seen them before in some way, shape, or form) are

still mind-boggling. Reading them, I am kind of appalled at the male gender. "98% of female and 93% of male rape survivors report that their assailants were men."

Something that stood out to me even more was basically the only paragraph not based on a statistics.

"And in order to put an end to this violence, we as a nation must see it for what it is: a crime. Not a misunderstanding, not a private matter, not anyone's right or any woman's fault. And bystanders must be taught and emboldened to step in to stop it. We can only stem the tide of violence if we all do our part."

This, of course, sounds wonderful in theory. Every citizen does his or her part to heal an evil in this country. I think the majority of the problem, however, is lack of awareness and discussion. I would imagine--or at least hope--all sane Americans agree that forcible sex (or rape) is an abominable crime. Sexual

assault, on the other hand, enters a very grey area, one many are truly afraid to dwell on.

I encourage everyone to inquire: aside from rape, what is sexually immoral? What is sexually illegal? It is easy to just "blame the culture" that supposedly condones rape. Increased counseling, criminal action, and general awareness are paramount. All victims need to be mindful of the breadth of help available. I believe convincing victims of that is the most important step in the Obama Administration's crusade to combat rape.

This campaign is honing in on the college campus. I believe this is a very touchy angle.

The college campus is a bastion of consensual--but often wreckless--transgressions. Many students, often under the influence of alcohol, entertain their libidos and perhaps regret it the next morning. All of a sudden, the situation gets equivocal. The presence of alcohol on campus

raises such questions as: what is consensual sex? Should there be a double gender standard? If a drunk girl consents to sex and is accusatory the next day, is she in the right? Surely, if she is unconscious, then she is the victim of the crime. What if she is in an ambiguous state between drunk and unconscious? This raises--in my opinion pressing--questions about consent that are at the heart of the issue. Entities like the White House Council must begin to draw a fine line between what is immoral and illegal. College campuses, of course, should inform students of the law. Should they inform students of what is right?

In my opinion, the most important nugget to take away is from what President Obama stressed, "I've got your back." For every criminal sexual act, there is a network of legal, professional, and personal support. Citizens of this country, at least I think, are lucky enough to live in a country progressive

enough to see sexual assault for the horror that it is and be surrounded by a stringent justice system. Public officials are clearly motivated to only better our preventative measures. In order to do this, however, I believe knowledge of the law must be furthered by clear and direct discussion--especially in the context of the college campus.

Year 3000: A Communist Future? Part II John Clark '14

The movement to revive communism has been lead by intellectuals from throughout the west. They have met in conferences to discuss how this movement is going to gain steam and how communism will be reached. The most prominent intellectuals are Alain Badiou and Slavoj Žižek, men of fame among contemporary philosophers. Born in France on the eve of WWII, the Kantian thinker Alain Badiou came to political maturity in the 1960s during the French Maoist movement. He was deeply

involved in the tumultuous events of May 1968, which he uses now as a model for the future of communism. Slavoj Žižek, a Hegelian thinker, is a baby boomer from behind the iron curtain, Yugoslavia, to be exact. He too came of political maturity in the late 1960s while studying philosophy in the liberalizing Yugoslavia. By 2000, Slavoj had garnered worldwide fame for his different philosophical, Marxist, and cultural theories. He is widely regarded as the authority for contemporary Marxism. He was responsible for editing “The Idea of Communism” and “The Idea of Communism 2,” which were compilations of the essays written by the major speakers.

We must, in Alain Badiou’s words, “subjectivate ourselves to the idea of communism,” in indignation with exploitation. This contemporary communist intellectual redesigned this method of “recruitment.” In his review of the failures of the twentieth century, they paid particular attention to the tumultuous events in France collectively known as

“May ’68.” Three major resistance movements took place in that month. The first was the largest general strike in French history, the second was the student protest that could be found around the world and the last was a social movement for civil rights for women and other minority groups. Each of these movements, even the strike, began from the grassroots and eventually they all united under the red flag. Similarly, a new global communist party will have no hierarchy and will recruit protesters and thereby unite various movements. With each protest movement, the communist party will grow, as will its collective will.

Slavoj Žižek has analyzed the arising protest movements and pinpointed the three most popular, all of which are the product of neoliberalism, making them fertile soil for harvesting new communists. These three social antagonisms consist of the struggles against the privatization of information, nature’s resources and our own genes. All three of these can be considered commons, rather than property.

These movements, he argues are examples of existing premises from which communism naturally arises. The most powerful element of struggles against privatization is the solidarity of the excluded. Within this solidarity, the poor, the middle class and the wealthy will stand together in opposition against privatization by companies. This is the kind of setting in which the latter two groups will realize that, like the poor, they too are proletarians. This step is the most difficult part of a full transition to communism. It will lead to a loosening of tensions between classes and a more cooperative society, gaining experience for a potential communist future. By standing together to protect the common, they protect the essence of communism itself! Each time this happens, humanity will take a step closer to realizing that it is the proletariat and that it must destroy the wretched bourgeoisie, which is made up of the world's corporations.

Instead of working one country at a time, many Marxists today agree that communism must be

reached by converting one person at a time. This method is called the full transition to communism. It is called this because is a sudden global voluntary transition. It is, put simply, the process of convincing every human on earth that communism is a good idea. This is achieved by demonstrating to them that they are exploited, then convincing them to vow to do something about it by subjecting themselves to the idea of communism. The simplicity of the plan is flawless, and its achievability is possible. The entire plan functions from the outside of the state. When everybody is a communist, we abandon capitalism. It will not be forced upon anybody.

This may seem like yet another deviation from Marx's plan for a dictatorship of the proletariat, but the nature of the proletariat has evolved in a direction not even Marx could predict. The evolution is simply that, I reiterate, every human is a proletarian, so no reeducation of the people must be suffered through. If you take one thing from this article, it should be a

realization that you are a proletarian, socially oppressed through the state and economically exploited by capitalism, as I explained earlier.

I think that the keys to achievement of a transition to full communism lay in slowly working within capitalism but from outside the state. I do not think that calling yourself a communist neither necessitates that you go out and protest nor that you vote for certain candidates in elections. You do not need to leave your job; you do not have to change what party you vote for in elections and you do not even have to try to spread the word, except to your children. In my opinion, this hereditary vow to abandon capitalism and give communism a chance when called upon to do so is the only way a full transition to communism will ever be possible. There will always be adventurous people that are willing to spend their lives in efforts to convert and recruit people, either by diving into some protest movement or going door to door. The latter

worked for the Jehovah's witnesses, so it can work for us.

You, proletarian reader, have a choice now. Will you go on living a happy life in our democratic capitalist system with no hope of any possible end to exploitation? Or, will you go on living a happy life in our democratic capitalist system and spice it up with a rebellious internal promise to take the better offer when it comes to push out capitalism? Although neither you, nor I, nor my children, nor my children's children will ever see this day, we must begin this process now! We must pass on the legacy of a promise to take the adventure, that is, to test our hypothesis! We call communism an experiment because it is precisely that: we are not sure what life will be like in such an egalitarian system. How exciting it is imagining the life humanity may be living in a millennium! In the words of Slavoj Žižek, "Do not be afraid, join us! You've had your anti-communist fun and you are pardoned for it – time to get serious once again

