

Subject:**Date:** Wed, 21 Apr 2004 10:13:56 -0700**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>**CC:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST

The Dalai Lama has been in town. He is an extremely pleasant and kind man with good manners. He even has a sense of humor. His message is "harmony" between all men and all living beings.


The natural state of the universe is struggle however. Struggle, between the old and moribund and the new, as the great German philosopher Hegel stated, is the essence of existence of all matter and all life. Struggle is the reason why mankind has progressed - struggle against slavery, struggle against feudal serfdom including in Tibet, struggle against disease, ignorance, injustice, exploitation, blind greed and just plain evil in general are the reasons why we have advanced and why we have at least a measure of democracy even at the local government level such as the District of North Vancouver despite the pathetic machinations of little would be dictators.

Accepting harmony has always been the favored tool of reactionaries throughout history. Exploiters, even those operating within the law have always supported harmony in their sphere of influence. What could suit a thief better than that his victims are reconciled to such a state of affairs and accept it as part of "universal harmony". The Dalai Lama does not officially condone exploitation and backwardness, of course, but the philosophy of "harmony" has been the perfect tool to morally disarm people and discourage them from struggling against injustice for eons, nonetheless.

It is no coincidence that the Dalai Lama received all kinds of honors from the same people who have cut welfare benefits and have cheated working people out of billions of dollars in insurance benefits by way of example. He even had an audience with Prime Minister Martin. And all this at a time when "honored" members of society continue to give billions of taxpayers dollars to their corporate friends and themselves have been accused of corruption, while their counterparts in the name of freedom and democracy are pushing mankind from one crisis and from one war into another.

The will to struggle against ignorance, reaction and exploitation is the most noble attribute of any human being. To give up struggling including against the evils of our latter day system of government in the name of "harmony" is the same as in the name of harmony inviting a thief into the house. The matter is of particular interest even in the District of North Vancouver where civic democracy including even the right to communicate with the public is under constant siege.

Ernie Crist

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