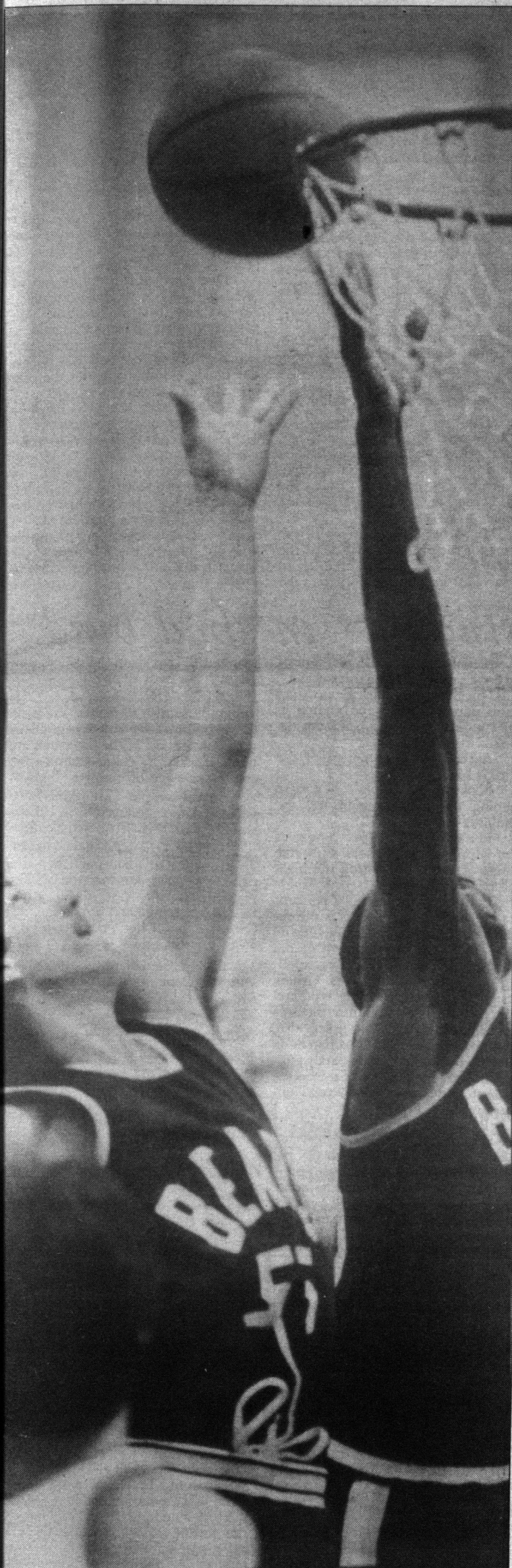


gateway

He that knows nothing...

...doubts nothing.
George Herbert



University of Alberta Golden Bears improved their preseason win-loss record to 4-1 this weekend, in the Bear Country Classic Tournament. Strong play by guards Fred Murrell, Willie Delas, and Shawn Izzard sparked the Bears offense in games against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies and the University of Lethbridge Bronchos. Leon Bynoe and rookie Mike Kornak (above) contributed by controlling the offensive and defensive boards. Unfortunately, the Bears lost the final game to Lewis and Clarke State College Warriors 81-69.

Academics dispute solutions

Seminar on Central America

by Jens Andersen

Dr. E. Radford Burns of the UCLA History Dept., described by Dr. David Johnson of the U of A History Dept. as "one of the most distinguished scholars in the Latin American field" gave a talk Friday on "The Origins of Crises in Central America." But at least one person knowledgeable in Latin American affairs who was present remained unimpressed.

In his speech Burns attributed the current political upheavals in the countries between Panama and Mexico to concentration of land ownership and economic underdevelopment, and U.S. fears that any sort of political or social change in the area would be "dangerous for world peace." Burns listed six reforms which he felt would bring political stability to Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica:

- Land reform to put agricultural land back in the hands of peasants.
- Tax reform to take the tax burden off the peasants, who can least afford to pay them.
- Toleration of some degree of political dissent.
- Bolstering industry by the revival of the Central American Common Market.
- The building of more public facilities like schools and hospitals.
- Re-establishing Central American cultural values, to lessen the area's "cultural dependency" on the outside world.

Burns stressed, "Any changes must be done with the co-operation of the United States," adding, "I wish I could be proved wrong about this."

After Burns' lecture there was a short question period. One audience



Dr. E. Radford Burns

member asked if it wasn't true that breaking large estates into smaller land-holding units decreased productivity. Burns replied that he had heard some "revisionist economists" who thought such a procedure actually increased efficiency.

Who did he see initiating such reforms? asked another.

"Many parties," replied Burns, "some of them illegal. There is no lack of parties."

A third party stated he was disappointed that Burns underestimated the problems of population growth (Burns had stated that in reality Central America was a labor-short area, and that unemployment was artificially produced by the large landowners who deliberately leave land fallow to control the labor pool).

Burns replied by pointing out that there was also poverty in Central America before its population burgeoned to present levels.

The third party apparently had further questions, but at this time the seminar hour elapsed and the meeting broke up. The questioner, however, Dr. John Bergmann of the U of A Geography Dept., later talked to *Gateway* and elaborated on his objections to Burns' ideas.

Bergmann said, for instance that in Guatemala, where Burns said 50 per cent of the land was unused, the unused land was simply tropical lowland unsuitable for agriculture, which is why it is left fallow. In Chile or Peru Burns would be correct in proposing the use of unproductive land, stated Bergmann, but not in Central America.

As to his proposal about lightening the tax load on peasants, Bergmann pointed out that peasants, say in Guatemala, are scarcely taxed at all, and the government revenues come from export taxes on coffee, and import taxes on things like tires and wine.

As to land reform, Bergmann said Burns' proposal was simply "motherhood" (Every country in Latin America has some sort of land reform laws on the books). Personally, he would have to look at the specific details of any such proposal before accepting or rejecting it. But Burns provided no details.

Commenting on Burns' description of the Central America social and political situation, which took up half of his lecture, Bergmann said, "It revealed nothing you couldn't learn from reading a newspaper."

A whole town needs help

As we are all beginning to realize, Christmas is not that far off. While busy Edmonton residents write gift buying lists and venture out on their first shopping trips of the season, *the Gateway* reminds everyone that some Albertans are unable to shop for Christmas presents.

The residents of Grande Cache, Alberta are too busy trying to survive to take such luxuries into consideration. McIntyre Coal Mine, the town's largest employer was shut down last summer, leaving many of the people in Grande Cache jobless.

The economic strength of the entire town has suffered as a result. That is why concerned parents in Grande Cache have taken it upon themselves to try and keep Christmas from being a painful disappointment for their children.

These parents contacted the *Gateway* to support their cause. The colorful caricatures of jolly Saint Nick that we have been running for several issues now have all been in an attempt to enlist the support of our readers.

Donations for the Grande Cache Christmas Fund can be delivered care of *the Gateway* either in person or by mail. Receipts are available, and the organization is listed federally as a legal charitable organization. Cheques should be made out to the Grande Cache Christmas Centre.

Thus far the response has been very good. *The Gateway* would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have already opened their hearts to the unfortunate plight of the small mining town residents.

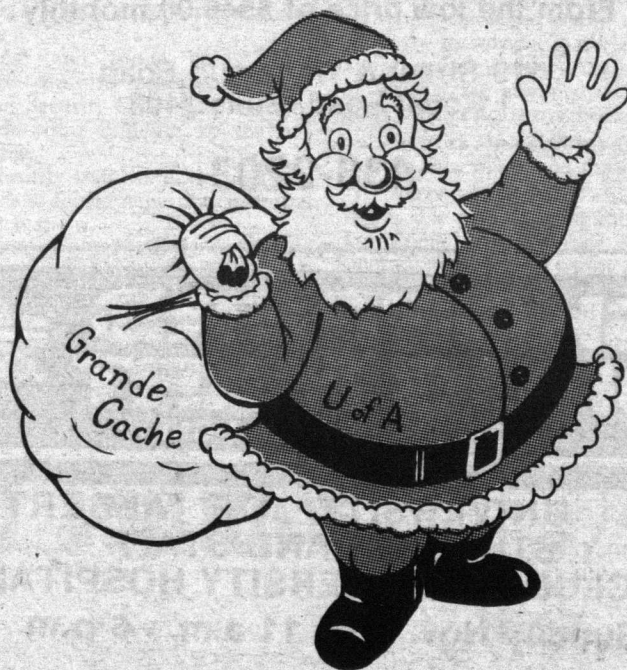
We have even received one large donation collected by the students of an occupational therapy class who wanted to help out.

The children who receive the gifts your donations have paid for

won't have the chance to thank you for your concern. But you will know.

If you haven't made a donation yet though - hurry. The deadline is

November 26. This is so that toys can be bought wholesale. Once again, many thanks to all those who have already shown they care.



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