The coal conspiracy

potential causes of explosion present to be a degree worse than any other coal development in the world.

This quote can be found in a book Library, one floor above Premier Cameron's office.

But Mr. Cameron need not do the "research" which he urged members of the audience gathered for law hour on Nov. 19-to do in response to their various questions. This quote was Halifax Herald in a story entitled "Caution Urged in Working Coal Mine". The date was August 18, 1989 -three years before the Westray mine explosion that killed 26 men.

Premier Cameron, on the other hand, says it's just "rumour" that the Westray Coal Mine was built in one of the most dangerous underground locations in the world.

PREMIER A PROMOTER

Mr. Cameron remains a big promoter of the company that owns the mine - Curragh Resources. When asked about their inexperience in digging an underground coal mine. and dealing with all the ensuing dangers, he replied that several of the executive members of the company had extensive experience. That is true. The company's former mine manager - now under criminal investigation - and the company president do have extensive experience in underground mining, but when the same mine manager was asked by the Halifax Herald whether the company itself had ever dug an underground coal mine, he answered: "Not to my knowledge." (See the above Herald story.)

Most of Curragh's experience is in above-ground strip mining - the kind of mine the company is now asking the provincial environment department to Okay.

CAMERON KNEW

Premier Cameron said that he does not know whether the president of Curragh Resources, Clifford Frame, was ever fired from his management

Between 1838 and 1952, 246 men position of a government-subsidized died in the local pits from explosions, a coal mine in B.C. It seems rather odd figure increased by death from asphyxi- that he doesn't know Mr. Frame's ation unrelated to explosion; there were employment history when you conmany deaths caused by crushing from sider the fact that the Conservative falls of stone and coal. In the Stellarton government lent Mr. Frame \$12 seams...mining engineers considered the million, at Mr. Cameron's urging That aside, Mr. Frame's history is a matter of public record, and Mr. Cameron knows about it.

The last coal mine Clifford Frame of local history, sitting among the was involved in before Westray was a stacks in the Nova Scotia Legislative disaster too, but only a financial disaster. The Quintette Mine in B.C. was heavily subsidized by the B.C. Social Credit government to the tune of \$1.5 billion. The coal cost \$100 a tonne to produce. The major buyer, Japan, would pay only \$60 a tonne. By 1988 the mine was \$700 million also printed on the front page of the in debt. This story was elaborated upon by The Financial Post in March, 1988, and the Report of Business Magazine in November of the same year. (I guess Mr. Cameron's "research" missed those stories. If he wants to look at something more recent, he could look at the December 1992 issue of Report on Business Magazine released the day after his talk at the Law School.)

> After B.C., Mr. Frame went to the Yukon where he made a deal with another government - this time an NDP government - to reactivate an old zinc mine. The Yukon needed jobs. Frame needed government subsidies. Votes for jobs. Some mutual back scratching. This time Frame lucked out. The market for zinc was good and resulted in a lucrative op-

> On August 17, 1989 the Halifax Herald told the stories of Clifford Frame's exploits in B.C. and the Yukon. Premier Cameron, then Industry Minister, was questioned about Mr. Frame and he preferred to focus on Frame's success-the Yukon mine. But, since 1988, the Canadian Press wire service has reported several industrial accidents and safety infractions at that mine. (The Yukon miners warned Westray miners about the company's poor health and safety record, even before Westray opened.)

THE POLITICS

The political angle of the Westray mine diaster was investigated extensively by the CBC's Fifth Estate. A long-time, Pictou County MP steppeddown for a short period when

BLACKS ON BLACK

STANDING AT THE CROSSROADS

I took the title of my article from Tracy Chapman's album. This is a small way to acknowledge and thank a woman I will probably never meet. for aptly capturing the complex experience of being black and female in a white and male dominated world. Those of us who are of African descent in this university setting know the pain of white supremacy that has been legitimized in our educational system. As an African woman I have had to understand how male and white supremacy are systematically entrenched to limit my difference and to exploit my womanhood.

I am standing at a cross-road divided up by the poverty of my people, my race, my gender and in the vari-

Brian Mulroney was elected Conservative leader, in order that Mulroney might obtain a seat in the House of Commons. When federal funding was not forthcoming for Westray - the Fifth Estate postulated - the MP called in his political debt. (Incidentally, Pictou County includes the Westray mine and also Premier Cameron's riding.)

ous struggles in which I am usually asked to make a choice between . I recently attended a conference where women of colour spoke out against struggles that ask them as non-white women to make a choice between their gender, sexual orientation, class, race and other experiences that they deem as central to their lives. received some bold energy from these women which I would like to utilize before it runs out.

I would like to publicly speak out on the racism and sexism (being the two I personally have experienced) that exist in and out of the classroom and in some cases, is taught by professors at St. Mary's and Dalhousie. I think it is time we had the courage to

The federal civil servants, who Premier Cameron criticized for being reluctant to support Westray, knew about Mr. Frame's history through their past dealings with him. They stalled the deal and ultimately the mine's development for several months. Mr. Frame asked for \$60 million in federal funding, and an 85% loan guarantee on a \$100 mil-

publicly condemn professors that exclude whole cultures and peoples from their discourse. I think too many white students and some non-white students are complacent and thus must be condemned for supporting injustices through their convenient silence. I, like some other students fighting against the evil-isms on campus, am sick and tired of cosmetic solutions and the apparent general lack of commitment. If students are not at the fore-front of organizing, then who will do this work? It is certainly unrealistic to expect those who benefit from these systems to somehow relinquish the power that

To those already organizing tirelessly for change, I give my thanks, support and solidarity. I would advocate that our organizing is inclusive of people as a whole person rather than parts of who they are. To all my Black sisters on and off campus, take courage to stand and be counted. Our silence will never protect us.

Ivy Kusinga

lion loan. Instead, the feds gave him only \$8.75 million and the loan guar-

Federal taxpayers are now responsible for paying off the \$80 million dollar loan guarantee. Perhaps the bureaucratic apprehension which Mr. Cameron spoke of was warranted.

CONT'D ON PG 13



