

LOOKING AT THE WORLD . . .

AS OTHERS SEE US

by JEAN CHEN

My first impressions, on the drive from Fredericton airport to the Maggie Jean, were of Christmas trees, doll's houses, and green, green grass. We were greeted by the matron and the dean, who have really been very kind to us. As we were a day early, meals were not being served, and so at suppertime, in the bitter cold of 50 degrees, we had to betake ourselves to "Club 252." I felt so terribly homesick and lost, just like a tiny speck on this huge continent. The juke-box was churning out all the tunes which brought back fond memories of my family and friends . . . everyone I had left behind in dear little Jamaica — of the blue skies, sun-kissed beaches, and the lush tropical vegetation.

I was alone in my room for two days, until one of my room-mates, a pretty, red-haired, die-hard Cape Bretoner arrived, with Cape Breton tartan slacks, Bermuda shorts, scarf, and blanket. I regretted that I had not brought my grass skirt! This reminds me of the numerous questions pelted at me . . . "You mean you speak English in Jamaica?", "Do you live in houses?", "Do you wear clothes?", I also kept hearing things like . . . "You think this is cold, wait 'til it gets to 40 degrees below!"

I just loved the autumn. The trees were so beautiful in their yellow and red dresses. But then, I was so sad to see these same trees naked. It gave me a strange, dismal feeling of desolation—



Jean Chen is shown here, second from left, with three other of her friends "up the hill" enjoying winter's first visit to our northern climate. They are, left to right: Hilma Thames, Jean, Lena Chung, and Eunice To.

these abandoned branches of loneliness silhouetted against a gray, foreboding sky.

It is so different, however, now that it has snowed. I love snow. Now I know what it means to be as white as snow. It makes me want to clean my saddle-shoes.

Most of the girls here are really "good-heads." The boys—well frankly, I don't know. They all appear very reserved, and, I think, very wary of foreigners. The ones that I have met, however, seem to be very nice.

I am still not accustomed to the Canadian way of dressing. I am so tired of hearing what colours are worn in winter, and what in summer. Why, in Jamaica, we wear the same things all year round. I can understand why one would wear warmer clothing in winter, but sometimes I think this is carried too far.

I also have an attractive room-mate from "Trono." I am told that this is how all true sons of Torontonians pronounce it. My room-mates are so very kind and understanding, and now I don't feel half as homesick as I used to.

I miss Jamaican food very much. It seems that potatoes are the national diet here.

All along the south coast of Jamaica, there are little spots, such as the Copacabana, Blue Marlin, and the Oasis. There is no prescribed dress, and the dance floor is under the surveillance of the moon and stars. There, one may dance to the beat of the pounding of the surf, and a juke-box; or, stroll along the beach with lights blinking on the horizon. There are also very elite night clubs where one may go for an elegant evening's entertainment. Jamaicans are a fun-loving people—we dance the cha-cha, calypso, and jive. We swim in the warm blue waters of the Caribbean. We play cricket, soccer and many other sports. But we also work hard. This is also not just a life of ease under the tropic sun.

Although I miss all this, I know that I have found a second home among kind and understanding friends.

reflections

by JEAN CHEN

McGill Conference Report

The McGill Conference was organized into a series of round table discussions. The discussion groups consist of Africans, Asians, Canadians, and Americans, thus making the groups thoroughly representative. The Chairman of the discussion groups consisted of McGill faculty members and representatives of the External Affairs Department.

Guest speakers were Lester B. Pearson, Sir Leslie Monroe, New Zealand's representative to the United Nations, and Dr. Arthur Smithie, Chairman of the Economics Department at Harvard University from 1950-1958, and now Professor of Political Economy at Harvard.

The discussion groups began with a general consideration of the aspirations of the people of the underdeveloped countries of Africa and Asia which provided a starting point for a more particular and more detailed discussion of the economic, social, and political problems confronting these countries.

It was emphasised by the Africans and Asians that the primary goal of their people was the quest for dignity and self-respect. The first and most important move in this direction was independence, a goal which some have achieved and for which the remainder are striving. Economic development is a vital part of the priority scheme, but secondary to the primary goal of independence. It was pointed out that the westerners take material development as primary, political autonomy as secondary because of the fact that we take political autonomy for granted. We have had independence for so long we are no longer familiar with the problem of dignity and self-respect. We do not recognize the significance of the issue.

One conclusion which was reached from the conference was that in the treatment in the problems of the underdeveloped countries of Asia and Africa it is impossible to generalize. The area is the epitome of diversity. We find different religions in different stages of development, with sets of problems which call for various solutions. It is possible to generalize on only one thing, the common need for economic development.

In the way of a general resolution arising out of all the questions discussed, it was concluded that an atmosphere of mutual understanding and partnership should be strived for in the relations between the West and the Afro-Asian states. While the Afro-Asian countries are justified in their appeal to the West to understand and sympathize with their problems, the West is equally justified in asking the Afro-Asian states to understand and sympathize with the problems they confront in dealing with them. An appeal was then made for mutual tolerance.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS CLUB IMPORTANT CAMPUS GROUP

by ART VANWART

"We are attempting to keep the members well informed, and to give them a chance to express their views," says David Crowther, president of the newly formed International Affairs Club. He then went on to explain, "We are stressing the fact that it is a club rather than a mere association or society. As a club it can provide a friendly and informal atmosphere which is conducive to free and frank discussion of international affairs."

With these objectives in mind, the club has made excellent progress. On Tuesday, Dec. 1, they are bringing Pakistan's High Commissioner to Canada to speak to the students of UNB. Later in the same day, he will address the members of the club. This will be followed by a question period.

A library of newspapers, periodicals, and books is being collected by the organization. The *New York Times* arrives daily, and the club secretary has asked all of the foreign embassies in Canada for literature.

Regular meetings are held on every second Monday. The executive runs these in such a manner as to give each and every member a chance to participate in the discussion. Topics are carefully chosen to comply with current issues.

The club is very fortunate in having for its faculty advisor Dr. K. B. Sayeed, assistant professor of Political Science. He has assisted the organization in countless ways, and it is through his efforts that Pakistan's High Commissioner to Canada is being brought to UNB.

In this quickly shrinking world, a knowledge of foreign affairs is becoming increasingly important. All who are interested in reaping the benefits of this essential organization are invited to attend the Tuesday meeting.

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