

Senator Keith Davey divulges innermost political secrets

Senator Keith Davey attentively tries to answer *Excalibur* reporter Tim O'Riordan queries while in the midst of signing copies of his recent book, *The Rainmaker*. Through constant interruptions, Davey still manages to produce some very articulate responses.

19.Nov.86.- (2:25 pm)

EXCAL: Senator Davey, is there any connection between the Liberal leadership convention and the publication of your book, *The Rainmaker* ... [interrupted] ...

KEITH DAVEY: None at all!

EXCAL: ... at this time ... ?

DAVEY: None at all—we published the book in time for Christmas and uh, when the book was at the printers I suddenly realized it [the book] would be around the same time as the, uh, leadership review. But there is no, uh, no uh, ... nothing intentionally ... [pause] ... [another, longer pause] ...

EXCAL: How do you feel about the current controversy that seems to be raging in the press about the Liberal leadership?

DAVEY: The controversy's going to die in about 10 days in Ottawa—whether or not John Turner will be our leader will be explained and we'll all work behind him or we'll have a convention in the first part of the year—so 10 days from now we'll know.

EXCAL: You've been a long-time Liberal Party worker and supporter, how

do you feel the party's chances are, given the existing situation, in terms of a majority?

DAVEY: Well, you know, the party was in this kind of shape in 1958 and, uh, we came back in '62 and forced them [the Progressive Conservatives] into a minority, and in '63 we became the government—I don't see why we couldn't do that again—I think it's quite possible.

EXCAL: How are your duties as Senator working out?

DAVEY: Well, I haven't been a particularly active Senator. I've uh, perhaps after the first of the year when I get through this book tour I'll be able to spend more time in the Senate, and be a better Senator—I'm hoping to.

EXCAL: How has your book tour been going?

DAVEY: I'm enjoying it very much—I've been in every corner of Canada, and I've had a particularly good reception everywhere, and I've particularly enjoyed working with student audiences as much as any because they're better-informed, and they're more switched on, and they're more into politics.

EXCAL: What has the student reaction to your book been like?



DON'T BOTHER ME NOW, PLEASE: Senator Keith Davey proudly parades his recent manifesto entitled *The Rainmaker* while avoiding interruptions so he can truly admire his great literary work

DAVEY: I think students are quite interested in the book and I think the response has been quite positive as a matter of fact ...

EXCAL: How would you rate the capability of John Turner in relation to other Liberal leaders you have worked with?

DAVEY: I think that Turner is a capable man, uh ... perhaps not as capable of leadership as certain other leaders—Mike Pearson was an outstanding leader ... [pause; replies to passerby] Hi, how are you? Good. I'm fine. Oh, I don't know, I think

they'll trust you—who do I sign it for? Merry Christmas. [then back to interviewer] Now, anything else?

EXCAL: Yes. What about Liberal funding to universities? Any promises?

DAVEY: That's the kind of thing that will await the uh, ... that's the kind of stuff we'll get into after the first of the year I think—not at the convention.

EXCAL: Switching quickly to the Provincial Liberals, and the Peterson government ... [interrupted again]

DAVEY: Yep!?

EXCAL: ... how do you feel about the conduct of the government thus far?

DAVEY: Well, I think it's a good government and I think that they'll go sometime soon and get their majority. I think Peterson is doing a fine job as Premier, and I expect he'll get a majority.

EXCAL: Uh-huh ... ? And?

DAVEY: O.K.?!? [rising from his seat]

EXCAL: Uh, O.K. Good stuff, sir ... I won't keep you any longer ...

DAVEY: [smiling] Thank-you.

'Nicaraguan revolution will work despite US intervention'

By STUART ROSS

"What kind of progress is it to watch *Bonanza* reruns on American colour TVs that cost poor families the equivalent of \$5,000?" asked Pastor Valle-Garay, Consul-General of Nicaragua. Valle-Garay, speaking to an audience of 80 at Stedman last Wednesday, was citing an example of what he feels the US government saw as "progress" prior to the 1979 Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua.

The talk, presented by the Third World Forum, was followed by a lengthy question and answer period, and covered topics ranging from the revolution's history to press censorship and the Hasenfus affair. Valle-Garay, a member of York's department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, described Nicaragua's plight as that of an extremely poor nation of three million which decides to respond to "decades of neglect by leaders and foreign powers" and in doing so incurs the anger of the US, "which is not difficult to do."

Calling the Nicaraguan revolution "a living experiment in development," Valle-Garay said the revolution is "the last hope" for the "300-500 million Latin Americans living in despair." According to Valle-Garay, the United States is "worried that this small country may be able to manage successfully on its own, without help from 'big daddy,' and maybe influence other countries, such as Canada, to follow the same pattern." This, Valle-Garay said, would hurt the American economy.

The self-described "shit-disturbing Nicaraguan diplomat" also discussed the recent World Court ruling that the US government must cease its illegal war against

to stop mining Nicaraguan ports and to cease funding and encouraging acts of terrorism against Nicaraguan civilians and civilian targets. Valle-Garay said the US government's refusal to abide by what it calls "political decisions" by the World Court is inconsistent, in that the United States does accept other World Court rulings, such as matters of Canada-US fishing rights. The US itself charges people such as peace activists with "political crimes," Valle-Garay added.

The US has also put Contadora "on its deathbed," said Valle-Garay, referring to the peace proposal put forth by a group of Latin American countries. The US has "interfered in and sabotaged every effort toward peace." Valle-Garay said that Nicaragua has proved it can get along with its neighbours when the US doesn't interfere. "We object to situations occurring in El Salvador and Honduras—a country that is occupied and doesn't even realize it yet—but these are problems we can work out among ourselves," he added. Valle-Garay called the contras (CIA-supported anti-Sandinista guerrillas) a "creation of the Reagan administration ... We have no intention of talking to them—they are bound and determined to destroy our nation."

"If tomorrow the United States invades us," said Valle-Garay, "the message will be very clear to other Latin American countries what will happen to anyone" who challenges the US will. "We have the right to have relations with any country we want," Valle-Garay said. "We will go to hell if we have to get weapons."

weapons.

In response to a question from the audience, Valle-Garay discussed the difficulties the Sandinista government has in getting coverage in the US media: "The only way for us to get press coverage would be to hire some more Hasenfuses to drop out of the sky." (Eugene Hasenfus, an American mercenary who was captured while attempting to deliver arms to the contras, was recently convicted by a Nicaraguan tribunal.)

Speaking about the government-church conflict, Valle-Garay said the hierarchy of the Catholic church in Nicaragua "has always been very arrogant—thinking it's above the law." He said that the church would never again remain complacent about starving Nicaraguan children as it did in the Somoza era (the dictatorship the Sandinistas overthrew). However, said Valle-Garay, the government and the church hierarchy have begun talks.

Valle-Garay said that the controversy exists within the church itself. He cited that a large representation of the church has worked—since before the revolution—integrally with the poor people, and that this contingent was one stimulus for the revolution.

In response to a question about the Sandinista government's closing down of the main opposition newspaper, *La Prensa*, Valle-Garay said this paper was "nothing but a propaganda organ for the church and the wealthy," which systematically tried to undermine the economy. According to Valle-Garay, *La Prensa* is the only newspaper in the world that has never acknowledged that Nicaraguans have died as a result of

contra attacks, and has admitted receiving funding from pro-Reagan groups such as the Heritage Foundation. "Freedom of the press is a privilege that must be earned," he said.

Valle-Garay also spoke of American support of President Reagan's Central American policies. "If someone is called 'un-American' in the US," he said, "it is the kiss of death. There is a paranoia about being labelled a Communist sympathizer, so politicians support Reagan ... The Americans back their president whenever he sends troops anywhere, whether he's right or wrong—even though he's a jackass."

Valle-Garay lauded what he called Canada's "enormous support for Nicaragua. We have a knowledge of what Canada can do as a people and as a mediatory power." However, he added, "we would like to see the Canadian government go a little further" than just making statements. "The government of Canada is in a difficult position because of its proximity to, and economic ties with, the US. But we wish to hell that

precisely because of these ties with the US, the PM should speak up directly in support of Nicaragua. It'll be too late to protest once the US has invaded—we need the protest now."

Asked what Nicaragua could achieve if it didn't have to spend half of its Gross National Product on the war effort, Garay cited many of the achievements of the revolutionary government, including the eradication of polio, the immensely successful Literacy Crusade, and the self-sufficiency in basic goods reached within two years of the revolution. "We would be, perhaps, the most developed country in this hemisphere—bar none."

Throughout his talk, Valle-Garay stressed the importance of retaining Nicaragua's independence. "We're going to make damn sure that whatever mistakes we make or whatever we do right, we'll do it on our own ... We have a commitment that this revolution is going to work, whether the US wants it or not. We are not an appendage of the United States."

Lawsuit to attract media

cont'd from p. 1
settle out of court. "We were just in the process of telling (the Athletics Committee) to stop selling the shirts," explained Tiwari. "As it turned out, we got served with a statement of claim."

Tiwari feels that Beaver Canoe's lawsuit against Osgoode was strictly for media attention. "They recognized the glamour and publicity involved in suing a law school. They're more concerned in warning the underground producers."

Tod agreed, explaining that Osgoode is just one of Beaver Canoe's first targets in clamping down on copiers. "It's an award-winning logo, and it's our client's intention to put a stop to all this copying," he said.

According to Tiwari, unless the council and the Athletics Committee find a way to raise the required funds before the first week of February, perspective law athletes will have to pay more if they want to attend the Law Games.