

## More on Guyana

I read with great interest the articles by Mr. R. Thakur and G. Walrond on the problems facing Guyana. My first observation is that both authors have a tremendous and indigenous interest in the development of Guyana. In the light, it's fortunate that these gentlemen are able to publish their beliefs quite freely and without any fear, something which would be impossible in Guyana.

As an individual who also has great interest in the development of Guyana, I find it hard to disagree with either articles. This is not surprising because what actually happened is that all men are reporting what are, in all probability, factual events.

However, the main issue in the minds of Guyanese is the manner in which the present Guyana government has imposed itself on the electorate. Mr. Walrond has neglected to mention and he has good reasons for doing so. It has been conclusively shown by independent studies carried out by international organizations from both Guyana and Guyana that Burnham held false elections in Guyana during 1968 and 1973. These should be mentioned as post-colonial years.

It is from this basic issue that the hostile division of Guyana is created. To narrate the movements of the present government in terms of dollars and cents is immaterial. So long as the majority of Guyanese are denied the chance to elect their own representatives, there will be a division, which if continued, could only result in

is not that Guyanese are being and unable to cooperate racially, but it's the determination of the present minority government to hold on to power at all costs. Dr. Jagan and his opposition party have demonstrated in the past ten independent years that they are prepared to seek a peaceful solution. In so doing, Dr. Jagan has led his supporters to riot and create chaos as Burnham did in 1962-1964 era.

What Mr. Walrond has done

is analogous to the picture painted by Ian Smith of Rhodesia, and by the government of South Africa. Even Mr. Walrond cannot deny that these are indeed tremendous developments. The authorities of Rhodesia can show that they have built many houses, and instituted innumerable projects toward the development of the country. But to neglect the basic issues of election, job-hiring practices, and hostile actions against any criticism would be tantamount to suppression. A factor that is taking place in Guyana.

The issues in Guyana are:

- inability of the government to hold free elections
- taking the rice industry away from the farmers
- racism in the government circles
- hostile actions against any criticism which has resulted in the killing of several opposition members since 1966 by PNC thugs
- creating a national service without participation of the majority of Guyanese.

These above are not the basic facets of freedom and socialism which Mr. Walrond enjoys at the U of A.

N. Singh

## Out with a heavy date

We would like to bring to your attention an incident which occurred in MacKenzie Hall recently. It involved three people being fined for throwing a date square out of a residence window.

The original fine of five dollars was given to one member of our floor who appealed the fine to the Lister Disciplinary Committee. LDC, using their wisdom, posted a group fine involving three of the seven people in the room. These people were: 1) the owner of the date square; 2) the person who threatened to throw the date square out of the window; 3) the person who threw the date square out of the window.

The chairman of LDC stated: "Although one person admitted

to throwing the date square out of the window, this was insufficient evidence to prosecute him alone." Accepting this premise we believe the Lister Hall chef who produced the date square and the short jock from the main floor who ate the date square should also be fined. This incident was one of four which led to one of the many rowdy members of our floor being asked politely to move out of Residence within twenty-four hours, one week before his final exams.

To all those who accept the wisdom of this decision we say: "Oh baby, you ain't seen nothin' yet! Today, date squares, tomorrow strawberry shortcake."

T. McDiarmid  
P. Plotkins

## Free S. Africa Committee refused cabaret facilities

Mr. Jan Grude  
VP Services  
U of A Students' Union

Dear Sir,

Your decision, in a letter addressed to me sometime ago, refusing FSAC sponsorship of a Cabaret for one evening in Feb. 1977 is most incomprehensible. FSAC has carried on numerous kinds of activities on campus, i.e. political, social, cultural, etc.

However, I was given to understand that you have allocated priority to those fraternities who supported your campaign during the last executive elections. Since your decision was that FSAC could not have the cabaret for some (fictitious) reason — that all the nights were taken — I should remind you that when I applied for the Cabaret there were at least four nights vacant.

Sir, I am wondering on what basis you really made your decision. It seems to me, sir, that your decision was made on the grounds of political opportunism.

After your cowardly act of refusing to support the people who protested racist sport, the minimum you could have done to ease your liberal conscience (if you have one) was to allow us to

use your facilities (i.e. our facilities) to raise funds for the continuation of our work against Apartheid and racism.

Sir, in conclusion, we would hope that any future decision you make would not be based on political opportunism, but rather on the needs of human beings.

In Solidarity,  
Vidya Thakur (for FSAC)

## Response...

I am disappointed that Mr. Thakur finds a simple refusal for sponsorship of a cabaret as an indication of political opportunism, cowardice, a guilty conscience and misuse of facilities. Perhaps an answer to each one of the charges in his letter will serve to clear up any misconceptions.

I have no indication of the Free South Africa Committee's political, social, cultural, etc. activities on campus. On the cabaret application form under the title *State Group's Need for a Cabaret* you merely stated "need to raise funds for events on campus." The applications were judged very seriously upon how comprehensive a program of activities and projects the group is undertaking in a given year. Your group showed no activities listed.

Yes, we have allotted a total of five cabaret dates this year to the fraternities. Please keep in mind that there are 13 fraternities on campus, and that on their cabaret application forms these groups showed some of the most comprehensive and impressive lists of involvement both on the U of A and in the community. The individual fraternities which receive the sponsorship of

cabarets are chosen by the Inter-Fraternal Council and not by myself. I merely provide IFC with the dates.

Political opportunism is absurd. None of this year's executive plans to stand for office next year.

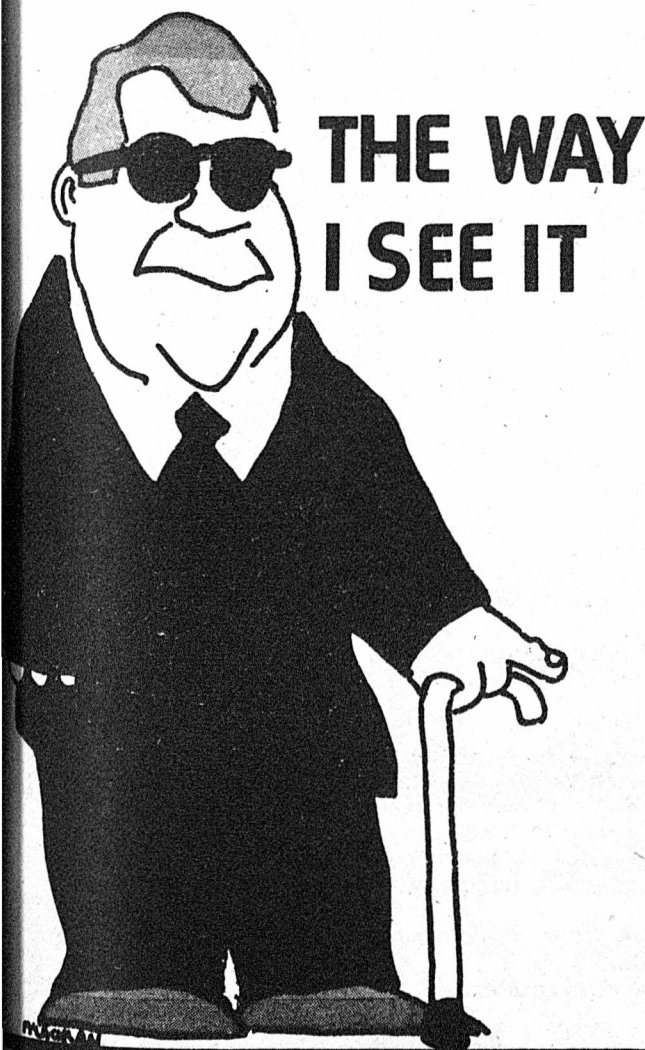
As for Student Council's refusal to support the illegal action of the "Edmonton 61" which you have termed a "cowardly act," that is something which will have to be taken up by the Council itself. The actions of Council in this matter play no part in the weekly administration of Dinwoodie Cabarets.

May I invite you to use one of the Students' Union Building's other facilities (i.e. rm. 142) for a cabaret type function which you may wish to hold. Smaller functions have proved to be very successful there.

In closing let me say, Mr. Thakur, that many of these misconceptions could have been cleared up by a simple conversation between us rather than by public debate. I invite you to meet with me at your earliest convenience.

Jan Grude  
SU VP Services

## Frank Mutton



It looks like **Old Man Winter** is finally here to stay. You ~~wasn't~~ that time of year has come when you drive off without unplugging the block heater and end up pulling the wiring out of the garage.

The radio ads for **Trans-Canada Telephones** certainly don't add to the Christmas spirit — some old coot with a very depressing voice moans and groans about "The dark days of early December when even the dog hates your guts," then goes on to urge listeners to phone someone long distance and brighten up their lives.

Well, I was stupid enough to take him up on it — I phoned my brother **Joe Mutton** out in the Okanogan yesterday, hoping to hear a little Christmas cheer. Somehow the prehistoric equipment of the B.C. Telephone System got the lines crossed, and I found myself talking to **Myrtle Schwartz** out in **Upper Musquidobit Harbour, Nova Scotia**.

Although Myrtle had some great shortbread recipes she shared with me, I was rather perturbed at the \$49 phone bill for the two hour call. A.G.T. says there's nothing they can do, since I obviously **wanted** to talk to Myrtle for such a long time.

I can't seem to convince them that she threatened to throw herself in the cod masher

at the fish plant if I hung up. What could I do?

**Old Dutch Foods Ltd.** has come under some heavy criticism in recent days for the poor quality of the food that they manufacture. It has been said that Old Dutch Ripple Chips are more hazardous to your health than Pacific Western Airlines, but the president of the company says that just isn't the case.

**Hugh Sobernik** told me today that there have been a lot of changes in the fast foods that Old Dutch puts out — he claims that **Tasty Bacon Bites** now contain more bone meal than **Gaines Meal**, and in fact are safer for young children than the leading brands of **drain cleaner** (and they're easier on the little tots' teeth, too!).

In fact, the **Edmonton Public School Board** will be eliminating all that untested yogurt and cheese and milk from high school lunch programs, and replacing it with healthy, nutritious **Corn Puffs, Pepsi** and **Milky Way bars**.

My little **Lose a Pound a Week** club is going great guns — already **23** fatties have registered. Their goal is to shed a pound a week until they're back to what they weighed when they were 30.

Steve Paproski will never succeed in his lifetime, so he

withdrew. **Chuck Chandler** wouldn't finish until well into the 23rd century, so he gave up too. **Premier Lougheed** should be down to 250 by 1978, and **Wes Montgomery** will finish next month (he only has two pounds to lose to get him back to that svelte 275.)

There's <sup>now</sup> still time left to register before the **December 8th** deadline. If you're tired of looking like a **Sarah Lee Cream Cheese Cake**, join me and my chums in our **fat fight**.

Rumour has it that federal Agriculture Minister **Eugene Whelan** may be asked to resign his post after an incident in **Saskatchewan** last week.

It seems that the minister was on a Greyhound just out of **Estevan** when a reporter overheard him making a slanderous remark about the residents of Saskatchewan.

Although the remark is extremely crude and disgusting, as the "tough" newspaper that prints the facts, here it is anyway — "All farmers want is a loose moose, tight long-johns and a warm place to stir maple syrup!"

Tsk, tsk, Mr. Whelan — we had you figured to be much more intelligent than that! Western farmers don't even use maple syrup.