WUSC SEMINAR

# REPORT ON PAKISTAN

by Peter Hayden

THE NATURE OF THE COUNTRY

This year the country chosen for the World University Service of Canada Summer Seminar, Pakistan, was a country as unlike our own country as any ever chosen. Pakistan is relatively poor while Canada is very rich. Pakistan is oriental in character while Canada is occidental. Pakistan is relatively much younger than Canada. Pakistan was born with oppressive economic social and political problems of which many have yet to be solved. Canada did not experience problems of such a nature. Pakistan is a tropical country while Canada is mainly a temperate country. Pakistanis live mainly in areas of water surplus or water sortage while most Canadians experience neither of these problems, Pakistani's food differs great-

ly from Canadian food. DIFFERENCES

These differences brought upon our group a kind of cultural shock which we had been warned about before leaving for Pakistan. After an exhausting 12 hour flight from London, where we had a week long orientation program, we found ourselves in the steamy 80 degree heat of Karachi. At the University of Karachi where we stayed during our first five days we found ourselves surrounded by a hazy grey sky and an arid brown desert. The trade winds blew steadily off the Arabian Sea, 24 hours a day and whistled through our living quarters. We ate strange food and slept on rope beds. We discussed Pakistan with students many of whom were still trying to justify the country's existence. These differences had a depressing effect upon us at first but soon we became fascinated with the strange new country and ways of life that surrounded us.

#### LEFTIST AGITATORS

Our first adventure in Pakistan was less exciting for us than was apparent in Canada. A group of pro-leftist students who were dissatisfied with the University of Karachi WUS Committee, perhaps justifiably, wrote a letter of their grievances addres-sed to the visiting Canadian students and the University administration. This letter accused the members of the Pakistan WUS Committee of being immoral, alcoholic, and subversive agents of foreign powers (this meant the United States although it wasn't stated). We paid little attention to the accusations which as far as we knew were untrue. Some days later the British Consul in Dacca, where we were at the time, contacted the leader of our group with an urgent mesfrom the Canadian Department of External Affairs. The Minister of External Affairs had

been questioned in the House of Commons concerning the attacks made upon us by a group of pro-leftist students. The Department wanted assurance that we were all right. Unfortunately the description in the House of Commons which was based on a News Agency dispatch was much more exciting than what actually happened. The attacks as explained above were only verbal and not directed against the Canadian WUS group. A Reuters reporter in Karachi had either by design or by accident created fairly exciting news story for Canadian consumption by misconstruing the accussations made against WUS Pakistani students as being made against the Can-

#### KENNEDY! KENNEDY!

The news dispatch was picked up by most Canadian news papers and the names of local students who were on the Seminar were used with pictures in some

As you can imagine these reports required some hurried explanations on our return to Can-

The ordinary people of Pakistan whom we had much contact with us we wandered through the cities were very enthusiastic about meeting us. When there was an interpreter available as there usually was (a surprising number of merchants and people whom we stopped to talk to in the streets could speak English. We carried on a rapid conversation about our respec-tive countries. The usual comments on Canada concerned our wealth and our weather.

Once in a small street shop in Dacca a group of Pakistanis had gathered round to talk to us and without an interpreter I was struggling through the Bengali version of "I am from Canada." One of the Pakistani, having observed our Bermuda shorts, cameras, and old haircuts and hav-

ing mistaken what I said excitedly replied "Kennedy. Kennedy." We quickly explained his mistake to him. Then someone said: "Maybe he wasn't so far from wrong."

#### THE NATURE OF THE PEOPLE

The nature of the people posed one of our first problems. As a naive Canadian I had an idea somewhere in the back of my mind that when finding out about another country, one merely asked for the infor-mation. The nature of the Pakistani and the nature of the more interesting questions to be asked about Pakistan are such that a degree of diplomacy is required in finding out anything; a degree of dimlomacy required in Canada when seeking similar types of information. Three aspects of the nature of the people which interested me were: NA-TIONALISM, ORIENTAL CHARACTER and the CLASS STRUC-

#### PAKISTAN VS INDIA

The Pakistani seems to still be reacting to assertions made in 1947 that a separate country established on the basis of religion was not possible. These assertions were often made by Indians and discussion of matters concerned with India brings out the Pakistani nationalism best. In one discussion, two Pakistanis ranged against each other on the question of whether a proposed street plant for West Pak-

### JAIL BAIT!!!

I am a 20 year old actor and I am planning to move to Los Angeles Recently I met this swinging musical chick who just announced that she proposes to follow me out west and she wants to share an apartment with me. Sound like a bachelor's dream? Not quite. The chick is only 15. Is this or is this not bad news?

#### L. H. INDIANA

Bad news? It's the worst news we've heard since our Aunt Matilda willed her millions to a siamese cat. You may be in the theatre now but you'll be in jail until you're old enough to play King Lear without make up if you don't act fast. Kiss Baby Doll goodby and fold this show before it gets on the road.

(Reprinted from Playboy)

istan was an economic and worthwhile project or an uneconomic assertion of Pakistan's existence as a nation in reaction to the fact of India's having a steel plant. The question of whether the influence of religion will decline, is declining or has declined in Pakistan is more difficult to discuss because for many the dissappearance of religion would be the disappearance of the basis the establishment of the country. To discuss whether Pak-istan should have been formed, a thing illegal in itself as we found out was much more difficult than discussing with a Canadian whether the British Provinces now united as Canada would not have been better off joining the United States. The nationalism in relation to India springs naturally from the hatbetween the Hindus and Muslims of the two countries at the time of Partition in 1947 and the resultant slaughters.

#### DESIRE

I do not profess to understand the oriental side of the Pakistani character but below are a few of the ideas I heard or had about it. The Pakistani is less concerned with time than is the Western person. Perhaps because things must move more slowly and unpredictably in a country as underdeveloped as Pakistan.

The Pakistani seems more concerned with present than the fu-ture satisfaction of people with whom he has transactions. A description of this given to me Canadian who had lived in East Pakistan for a year was that if you ask a Pakistani to have a certain thing done whether the Pakistani agrees to have it done is affected more by how much you desire it done, than by how possible it is to get the thing done.

#### CLASS STRUCTURE

The class structure seems to be more rigid and visible than in our society. Canadian students felt that the Pakistani students and professors spoke and dealt curtly with lower-class service people who waited upon us during the trip, certainly more curtly than we would act to service people in our society. The per-sons in the lower positions such as waiters, bearers and sweepers seemed to accept their positions as something which they could never change. They did not seem in the least resentful of harsh words. Whatever, the class



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This is the first of a series of articles on Pakistan by Peter Hayden, a Dalhousie Law Student, who visited that country this summer as a par-ticipant in the in the Service of Canada Summer . Seminar The first article The first article deals with the nature of the country and the people.

structure was, our group of Canadian students was close to the top of the structure. We always received a great deal of respect from whomever we dealt with in that country. While being shown around a tea plantation in East Pakistan, a middleclass clerk explained to us that the workers on the tea plantation were very interested in us, because they thought of us as supreme beings. The problem of the relative poverty of Pakistan may explain a more rigid and pronounced class structure there since wealth has been historically necessary for the creation of a middle class and increased class mobility.

#### COMPLACENCY

A special point here is that the Pakistani university students who were our hosts throughout the trip were generally from upper-class or upper middle-class families, even more so than the average Pakistani university stu-Although, these students did not designedly attempt to justify the present condition and policies of Pakistan, there seemed to be a tendency for these students to agree with and generally accept conditions in Pakistan today. There were notable exceptions to this tendency among the Pakistani students. It might have been better to have had Pakistani students chosen for their academic superority rather than using W.U.S. members from the Pakistani local committees. This would have aided us in our search for information about Pakistan.

#### ILLITERACY

A problem that is not fully understood by Canadians is that of the high illiteracy rate. The rate of illiteracy in Pakistan is somewhere around 85%. This means that, excepting the few radios available, news must travel by word of mouth. This accounts for some of the people we met having a very sparse knowledge of what has happened in their country since it came into existence. One boat driver who lived in Dacca, the capital city of East Pakistan, did not know who the political head of his country was, nor of his province. This low level of political awareness is a very important result of a high illiteracy rate and inadequate means of com-

## ATTENTIO

ALL MEMBERS OF THE FAIR SEX

#### **DELTA GAMMA**

Delta Gamma is a general organization for all women students on the Dal campus.

The organization, itself, has been in existence at Dal since 1899. The "D" in Delta stands for Dalhousie and the "G" in Gamma for girls. Both the name and the purpose of the organization are exclusive to Dal.

The purpose of Delta Gamma is to unite the women in the different faculties and give the girls living at the Hall and in the City a chance to get acquainted.

Delta Gamma is not a fraternity - it does not have any dues. Its only qualifications are that you be a Dal co-ed, and that you have an interest in what the organization is and does. Delta Gamma has various

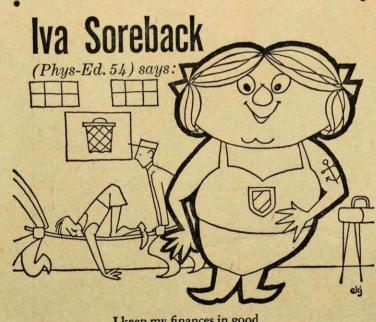
activities throughout the year. It supervises inter-collegiate debating, organizes the blood drive on campus and plans to enter a play in the Connolly

Last but not least Delta Gamma runs "Sadie Hawkins" week when the girls invite the boys on dates - this involves dances, seranading the fraternities, and generally showing our appreciation of the opposite sex.

Does Delta Gamma deserve your support?

The executive is looking for girls who would be willing to head up committees if anyone is interested in any of the aforementioned activities please contact Janet Young, 422-2174, and please attend up-coming

Foiled by our printers, last week, Gazette apologises to: Ken Clark - Ex-Director (DGDS); Hamilton Mc-Clymont - President, (DGDS) and Ken Clark again, who said "Music Man' has 16 minor roles, SOME of which are very good."



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