

Racism keeps girl from family in Edmonton

by Ann Grever

David Walker is a bitter man. For the last three months he has been trying to raise money to go to Thailand to find a fifteen year old girl whose family lives in Edmonton. All he has encountered is racism and hate.

The Dy family was sponsored by the Canadian government last September to come to Canada from the refugee camps on the Thai-Cambodian border. One daughter, Sary, was visiting with another family (across the border in Canada) and she became separated from the rest of the family.

Walker, who is a private investigator here in Edmonton, got to know the family through a friend of his. He helped them find an apartment and get their damage deposit back from a landlord.

When Walker heard about the family's lost daughter, he and his partner Chuck McBurney, believed

they could help. They enlisted support from the Order of St. Barnabas, the Bank of Credit and Commerce Canada, lawyers Hladun, and Blakerly, *Sun* column writer Wayne Crouse and combat photographer Al Rockoff (whose character was portrayed in the movie *Killing Fields*). They thought they could get the money, \$8500, to rescue this girl and draw attention to the plight of other refugees in the camps.

There are 30,000 - 500,000 refugees in Thai-Cambodian border camps who are victims of the Pol Pot regime and also of the present war in Cambodia between the Vietnamese, the Khmer Rouge and the Khmer Peoples National Liberation Front.

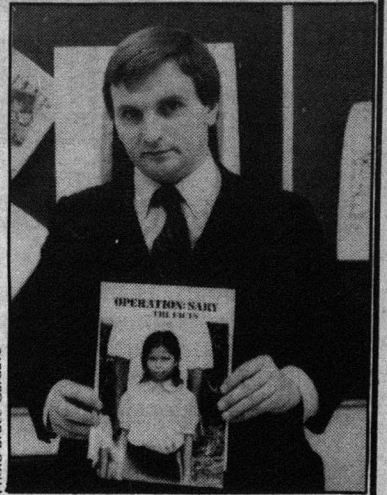
But right now the most important thing to Walker and McBurney is to get Sary out.

"She may be dead, or become an amputee by a bomb, or become a prostitute, sold on the black market," said Walker. Still he is hopeful. "We do have a chance."

The mission to find her, named Operation Sary, is ready to go. Both Walker and McBurney have travelled and worked extensively in South East Asia. They have contacts with natives, the CIA, the different resistance groups and with the Vietnamese all along the border. The Canadian consul in Bangkok has been notified of their search plan.

Their plan is to post pictures of the family and Sary around the U.N. food distribution points along the border where the refugees pick up their food. They hope that if Sary is still alive she will recognize herself and connect up with Walker or McBurney.

But the mission will probably have to be abandoned.



Walker holds Sary's picture. Despite his efforts, she remains in Thailand

Instead of contributions, letters of support or public interest, Walker has gotten "idiots phoning up and saying we don't want any more gooks coming here."

"We never expected the racism," said Walker. "We condemn South Africa but then I see what's going on in our own city," pointing to a recent article in the *Globe and Mail* about racism in Edmonton and other cities, and to a letter that appeared in the *Sun* on Tuesday.

Now Operation Sary is attempting to muster support in Ontario, but their efforts are probably too late for this year. The dry season starts in January, which is when the Vietnamese bomb the border where all the camps are located.

"Canadians are becoming spectators. It you would get them out of watching MTV and hockey maybe they would help this one girl to get home," said Walker. "My biggest fear is to go back to the family and say to them no one cares."

Acadia gives benefits to gays

by Samatha Brennan and Elizabeth Donovan of Canadian University Press

WOLFVILL, N.S. (CUP) — Acadia University will soon become the second university in Canada to extend spouse benefits to the partners of gay and lesbian professors.

After six months of debate, the financial benefits committee of the Acadia faculty association and the board of governors have agreed to a request by two faculty members that their lovers receive benefits, pending approval by the university's insurance company.

Faculty at Acadia University receive a three part benefits package — a 50 per cent tuition fee discount for spouses and children, pension and medical insurance.

The professors involved, who wish to remain anonymous, say the pension and tuition fee discount have already been resolved, while medical insurance is pending. Faculty and automatically will their pension benefits to whomever they choose and the tuition discount has been approved informally.

Both professor's partners are now taking classes at Acadia and paying only half regular tuition fees.

The professors say they had no particular axe to grind but are disturbed it took so long to resolve their request.

"If we have been a heterosexual couple, we wouldn't have had the same problem," said one.

He approached the university with his request in May when his lover decided he was interested in taking classes.

"He (the university president) was basically supportive. He put the question to the board of governors. There was no problem with the tuition discount but he thought there would be some problems with the medical benefits because of the third party involved — the insurance company," he said.

The two faculty members are confident the insurance company will approve the university's decision.

York was the first university in Canada to allow gay and lesbian faculty members to claim benefits for their lovers. In 1979 York's faculty association launched a grievance on behalf of a gay faculty member who wanted to claim benefits for their lover and won the case. Brenda Hart, an executive associate for the York faculty union, said since then the issue has been resolved informally between the university and individual faculty members. She did not say how many professors are now claiming benefits for lovers of the same sex.

The faculty association at Acadia, though, hopes to have the agree-

ment formally written into its collective agreement the next time it comes up for negotiation.

"The position of the association is that gay partners should get essentially the same benefits as husbands and wives," said its president Ralph Stewart. He said gay partners are now eligible for benefits if they have been co-habitation for more than a year.

A survey conducted last week by the Canadian Association of University Teachers showed only eight of 49 universities surveyed did not offer protection against discrimination to lesbian and gay professors in either their collective agreement or faculty handbook.

Most universities interpret the non-discrimination clauses to apply to promotion and tenure, but do not extend the policy to benefits.

According to Richard Belair, a professional official for CAUT, most universities use the legal definition of spouse, which excludes same sex partners.

Belair said this may change with proposed amendments to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The Parliamentary Committee on Equality Rights recommended in its Oct. 1985 *Equality For All* protection against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation be included in the Charter.



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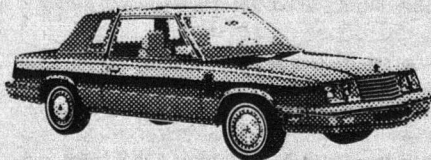
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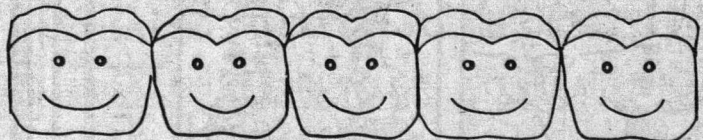
Congratulations to Richard Blackwell, Edmonton, Winner of the Incredible Capers Sweepstakes Contest at CAB Cafeteria.



Ken Toong, Food Services Manager and Larry Llewellyn, Food Services Officer, present Richard Blackwell with a Sony AM/FM Cassette Player.

Thank You For Your Continued Patronage We look forward to seeing you for our next contest.

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