

# Ambassador helps refugees then gets booted out of Chile

Harald Edelstam, the Swedish ambassador to Chile during and after the coup last September is coming to Toronto to speak this Friday.

Edelstam was expelled by the junta last December for the work he carried out in assisting refugees to escape and offering them protection.

Edelstam was personally involved in helping scores of refugees, using various diplomatic channels and other more clandestine ones as well. In this, he repeated his work during World War II when, as a consular agent in Nazi-occupied Norway, he assisted the Norwegian Resistance by helping Norwegian freedom fighters escape to Sweden.

### BLACK PIMPERNEL

He acquired a reputation for this, becoming known as the Black Carnation and the Black Pimpernel. For his efforts he was expelled by the Nazis in 1944, an act repeated by the Chilean junta in 1973.

Edelstam's expulsion from Chile was precipitated by his dramatic attempt to save the life of Martha Fernandez, the widow of a slain Tupamaro leader. When the cancer from which she suffers began bleeding, Edelstam escorted her from the Swedish Embassy where she

had sought asylum, to a clinic for treatment.

While there, several police and soldiers broke in and tried to take the woman away. Edelstam protested that this was a breach of safe conduct, which brought on an assault by soldiers. The international protests this incident stirred won the release of Fernandez and she is now receiving treatment in Sweden.

On the pretext of this episode, the Chilean junta declared Edelstam persona non grata and ordered him to leave the country December 4, 1973.

Since then, Edelstam has been touring Europe and North America, speaking about the problems of Chilean

refugees and the lack of attention and assistance they have received.

Edelstam will speak at OISE on Friday March 22 at 8 p.m.. Other guest speakers include: Dennis McDermott of the United Auto Workers (UAW), Andrew Brewin and noted church speakers.

The meeting is sponsored by the Canadian Committee for Justice to Latin American Political Prisoners, the Unite! Church, the Latin American Working Group and the Atkinson and Bethune Student councils.

## Take note

The Latin American Studies Group is sponsoring a talk by anthropology professor Vallee of the University of Montreal entitled "Chile Today." The talk will be held at 12 noon in Stedman "E" on Friday March 22.

Professor Vallee has recently returned from an inspection tour of Chile under the sponsorship of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Social Science Research Council. Admission is free.

### Artistic benefit

A benefit dance to raise money for those facing fines arising from the Artistic Woodwork strike, is being held this Friday night. The benefit, sponsored by the Revolutionary Marxist Group, features Thunderbird and The Abbreviated Sloth Band, and liquor will be served.

To help the fight against strikebreaking, and have a good time besides, come to this benefit dance, at St. Paul's United Church, 121 Avenue Road, at 8 p.m. Friday.

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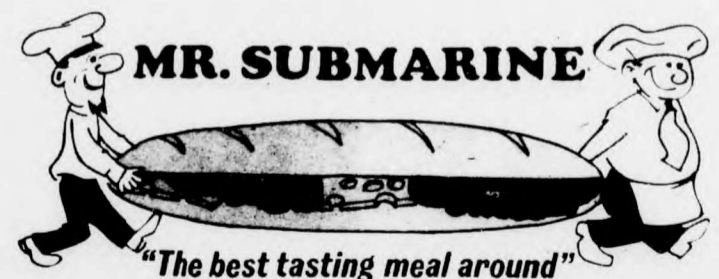
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