

"Too pristine to persist"

Blanche Blodgett — a political romance

By OAKLAND ROSS

What can you say about a girl with strawberry blonde hair, a few freckles, who stands five feet, six inches, dresses very conservatively, loves T.V. and Gary Lewis and the Playboys and who, now, won't be running for CYSF president after all?

That's Blanche Blodgett and, if her campaign workers are continuing to tack up her election posters, it's only because of their passionate loyalty to her — and not because she has any hope of winning. For, shortly after nominations closed last week, Blanche was summarily tossed from the

race. On a mere technicality.

Not to put too fine a point on it, Blanche doesn't, in the normal sense of the word, exist.

She's the dream of third-year film student Martin Waxman, now her campaign manager. The Blodgett campaign has already spent well over \$300,000. That may be money down the drain, but the Blodgett supporters are carrying on anyway, mindless of the expense, mindless, almost, of the pain.

For, although Blanche may not exactly exist, she nevertheless has her story—a story cloaked in mystery and wonder.

It all began three years ago, on a rainy autumn evening in Toronto. Soggy leaves clogged the gutters in the rain-slick streets as Martin Waxman, a freshman at York, and his two pals, Alan Shalon and Mike Newell, strolled toward the Davisville subway station on their way back to York from the cinema. Blanche was standing at the far end of the north bound platform. Quietly, alone.

She and Martin exchanged glances, then soft words. Being at opposite ends of the platform, they couldn't hear one another, so they moved closer, shyly, and exchanged gentle caresses.

From that moment on, Blanche and Martin were inseparable. They sat together at dinner in the Winters dining hall. They went out to movies. They leaned their heads upon each other's shoulder. They confided in each other. Before long, they were on a first name basis.

But their love for one another was too precariously balanced to endure. Last summer, Martin and Blanche kept a secret rendez-vous in London. For two madcap, devil-may-care weeks, they gorged themselves on their fragile illusions. James Stewart was



BLANCHE C.Y.S.F. PRES.

starring in a stage revival of *Harvey* in London's West End and never once during those 14 delirious days did Martin or Blanche set foot outside the theatre.

In the end, Blanche went her way and Martin went his. It was all too pristine to persist.

They met again this year while attending classes at York. Although their love was reduced to mere embers, they found they could still be friends.

Running Blanche for CYSF was Martin's idea. He enlisted some of his friends in the campaign. Their labours were inspired for, as Martin so often says, "Blanche is everybody's ideal."

Everybody, that is, but chief returning officer Alex Ahee who, with a flick of his Bic, tossed Blanche from the ballots.

Disappointment now reigns in the Blodgett headquarters in Winters college. Disappointment and fatigue. But they're carrying on.

Blanche spends most of her time now at the U. of T. studying for her engineering degree.

And Martin dreams.

Jagan's barbs turn to praise

By ROBERT KASHER

Former president of Guyana, Cheddi Jagan, described his mid 1960s fall from power to an audience of roughly 350 members at York last Friday.

Jagan was deposed just before Guyana became an independent state. Since then, he has continued to lead the People's Progressive Party, of which he was a founder.

In his speech last Friday, Jagan outlined some of the tactics used to topple him from power. Changes were made in the structure of the representative voting which attacked his bases of popular strength. Racial hatreds were incited to split people apart.

Finally, Jagan's long-time rival, Forbes Burnham, was elected president. It was an ironic victory, since Burnham had originally helped Jagan to organize the PPP to press for Guyanese independence.

Burnham left the party during a sectarian dispute in the 1950s and has since become a bitter and sometimes violent rival of Jagan.

Jagan has generally maintained a highly critical stance towards Burnham's policies and government. These policies have included, he said, attacks on bauxite workers, who were recently on strike in Guyana. Similarly, the past few years have seen a large increase in the nation's debt while salaries for the burgeoning government bureaucracy have taken a bigger and bigger cut of the budget.

Nevertheless, in his York speech, Jagan reversed his stand on Burnham's regime and, although still critical of it, he called on Guyanese to support Burnham.

Why the change? Jagan claimed it is a result of the Burnham regime's new anti-imperialist policy in domestic and foreign affairs.

Jagan has recently returned from Moscow, where he attended a party congress.

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