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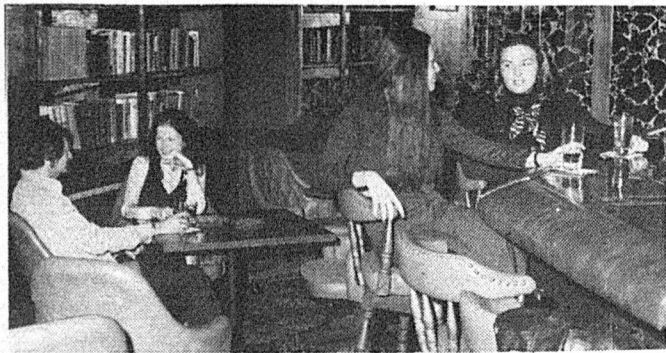
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**Reader Comment...****WUSC:**

During the week of Nov. 1-6, a series of activities by the World University Service of Canada culminated in what was billed as a "Guyanese Night." In its attempt to present an objective and non-partisan view, WUSC's "objectivity" was nothing short of a rationalization for the exploitation of Guyana, not simply however, by Guyana's "former" imperial relationships, but also by its own creole (both East Indian and African) middle class.

First of all, let me point out what might be considered a few honest mistakes or omissions in the recent Gateway article entitled "Guyana invites Canadian students over for non-academic research."

The author, Mr. R. deWinter, pointed out that "Bauxite earns about 60 per cent of Guyana's foreign exchange, but leaves behind the hideous scars of open-pit mining."

These "hideous scars" left by the extraction of bauxite are however, not those of "open-pit mining," but rather of the legacy of colonialism and underdevelopment. A brief look at the history of ALCAN will more than tell the tale.

In 1939, for example, 476,013 tons of bauxite valued at \$2,889,368 were exported by ALCAN. Total taxes and royalties to the colonial government was a pitiful \$32,748. At the same time it has been estimated that the price of

Guyana's bauxite remained the same price of \$6.85 per ton until the US price rose from \$5.30 to \$12.09 per ton between 1939 and 1960.

Even in 1963 Guyana was receiving far less for its bauxite than Jamaica, though Guyana's bauxite was of a higher aluminum content. Jamaica was receiving \$13.82 while Guyana was receiving \$8.98. In addition, a subsidiary of Reynolds Metals did not pay taxes in Guyana between 1953 and 1964 before it was granted "pioneer status" by the British colonial government. Lastly it has been estimated that of the sixty million tons of bauxite produced in Guyana between 1917 and 1969 at an approximate value of one billion dollars, the government of Guyana received \$21 in total taxes and royalties, a mere fraction of the total value. What "scar" can be compared to the permanent damage done to the Guyanese economy?

The fact that Guyana's main "racial groups seldom operate in cultural affairs" suggests that one of the reasons for Guyana's underdevelopment is the inability or unwillingness of the groups to racially co-operate. To leave it to a "textbook" rationalization for racism and underdevelopment. The "natives" can't operate.

Mr. De Winter's "confrontation" with Guyanese society should have enabled him to



**ratt\***

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