Newcomer opposes old racist rule

South African opposition M.P. Harry Schwarz spoke in the Law Building on Thursday, Sept. 30, 1976. I was fortunate enough to be able to attend Mr. Schwarz's talk and believe that, for the sake of some of the people there who may have been deceived by this talk, I should make a comment.

First, and most important, is the nature of apartheid. Mr. Schwarz implies that it consists of "discrimination" and an infringement on black, Asian and coloured peoples' civil rights — that it is basically a collection of attitudes, which can be eliminated by reasoning with the South African whites. This corresponds to most white Canadians' experience of racism, and seems a plausible picture for most of us.

But apartheid is much more than a system of benighted attitudes and legal discrimination; it is a system which provides cheap, unorganized and mobile labour to the farms and factories of South Africa on a permanent basis. The attitudes of whites and legal disabilities of blacks are, in other words, only the visible part of a very modern and highly exploitative economic system, a system in which 13% of the people (white) own 87% of the land — and it is the best land — where whites have the highest standard of living in the world (not "one of the highest — the highest) and black miners are served their dinners of mealy mush with a shovel.

This is what apartheid is: a system of production in which one group of people has all the political power and the lions' share of the wealth, while the rest get what's left. To maintain such a system, needless to say, a great deal of organized violence is necessary.

Now, is it really likely that white South Africans will willingly change this system themselves? Is it "falling apart" (as Mr. Schwarz reported)? The answer seems quite clear: apartheid is a highly viable system, one which produces tremendous wealth and dis-

tributes it in a most uneven fashion. Why should the beneficiaries of such a system suddenly wish to change it?

There are currently two climates of opinion in South Africa. One group, which includes most of the ruling quasi-fascist National Party, is determined to stabilize its borders and then to slug it out with its internal opponents. This is the old South African way — to ignore the presence of the 20th century outside its borders and to maintain apartheid by ever more generous applications of violence inside.

The other tendency includes those whites (black people do not participate in politics at all — they are excluded from Mr. Schwarz's party just as completely as they are from the National Party) who are more cautious, more far-sighted, and understand the trends of the 20th century more fully. These people — and Mr. Schwarz represents their thinking very comprehensively — see that South Africa is going to have to accept some changes or the whole structure, and all of their privileges, will disappear. They see, in other words, that unless some concessions are made, that there is going to be a revolution similar to that which swept the Portuguese out of their African colonies (Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and most lately Angola).

"Moderate" South Africans have absorbed the lesson that to try to hold on to everything means that you lose everything; much better to make some political concessions while retaining economic power.

This is why people like Schwarz want desperately for the South West People's Organization (SWAPO) to "participate" in the discussions which will lead to Namibia's independence. This is why they are furious with Ian Smith for his hesitation in making a deal in Rhodesia. And they want concessions to be made in South Africa, too: political reforms which would make the ex-

ploitative labour system more acceptable to its victims and to the rest of the world.

The presence, and the acceptance, of people such as Harry Schwarz by Canadians encourages us all to accept a proposition which is as false in South Africa today as it has been in the world throughout its history: that exploitative ruling groups are anxious for social change. It is not going too far to say that his presence here legitimizes the existence of everything that goes on in South Africa ("See, they're trying hard

to change things. If only those violent black people would be more patient...").

It was quite clear from some of the comments from the audience that racial inequalities have not decreased of late — that apartheid is still alive and quite well. A person in the audience asked whether, in the event that a majority government in South Africa decided to equalize incomes across races, Mr. Schwarz would be willing to stay and work in his country. To this he replied "I am not a socialist." This is of course precisely the response

that thousands of Portuguese made in liberated Angola: they stayed as long as their power and their privileges lasted, but when they had to live and work like everyone else, they left as quickly as they could.

I thought of asking Mr. Schwarz how many household servants he employs, and what colour they are, but decided that he and his kind are in enough trouble already. But let's not invite them to our campus or our country to share their delusions with us anymore.

Peter Newcomer

Protest statistics protested

Student zeroes in, but still fails to hit target.

Re: The letters by Hoover and Caratozzolo which appeared in the Gateway on Oct. 20th.

I was somewhat amused by the two letters referred to and by their close proximity to each other on the page. It is very reassuring to one who went to school during the "Dark Ages" to be able to observe such mathematical wizardry on the part of a student in Arts.

I grant that it is right and proper to ask the question (take note readers, Mutton is lying, questions are allowed), "Did the police discriminate against blacks in releasing them in a certain order?" Also very proper is the question, taken in isolation, "Given a set of 39, a sub-set of 7 and a sub-set of 9 what is the probability that the sub-set of 7 is also contained in the sub-set of 9?" What is not proper, however, is the combination of these two questions into a single one which begs the question!

Even assuming that there were only 7 blacks and all 7 were in the last 9 released, which is not in evidence and certainly is not being conceded in any way, one tends to ask if the question would not have been, "What is the probability that 7 of the last 8 ...?", if this were indeed so. Note that it would still be true that 7 of the last 9 were black and it would also be true of 7 of the last 10 or 7 of the last 15(; these last two questions would give rise to replies of 1 in 128174 and 1 in 2390 respectively. Note that there is almost a 2% chance that half the whites would

be released before a single black was released.

One can picture the scene vividly, imagine that the first 5 released were whites and someone says "They are releasing the whites first" when this would be expected to occur 35% of the time, five more whites are released as would be expected 10% of the time, that is to say, there is a 10% chance that the first 10 released would all be white, but imagine the outcry by now! It is easy to see how such rumors as no black was released until "most" of the whites had gone originate.

It seems to me that the very act of arbitrarily taking sub-sets of the original 61 in the form of 39 men and 22 women (in these

enlightened times) is wrong, but perhaps the data for the women was rejected as non-typical.

Perhaps your mathematical wizard would consider the calculation of a similar set of statistics based on times of release of Canadian and non-Canadian (and in zis context I do not count landed immigrants as Canadian) protestors.

Please bear in mind zat vhen you apply for citizenship the police are asked if they know of any reason why it should not be granted, naturally the police need to keep an extra file on landed immigrants and those on student visas for just this reason.
Colonel Wilhelm Wormsbacker
Public Relations Officer
Faculty of Science

Is .00000234056 a lie?

In a recent letter to the Gateway (Re. the "Edmonton 61"), Germain Caratozzolo stated that the probability of "7 blacks (out of 39 people) being among the last 9 processed is .00000234056." Unfortunately the Gateway saw fit to give credibility to this figure by publishing the letter. The very impressive eleven digit number is useless because it represents an ideal situation devoid of the complications which arise when we try to fit people into statistics.
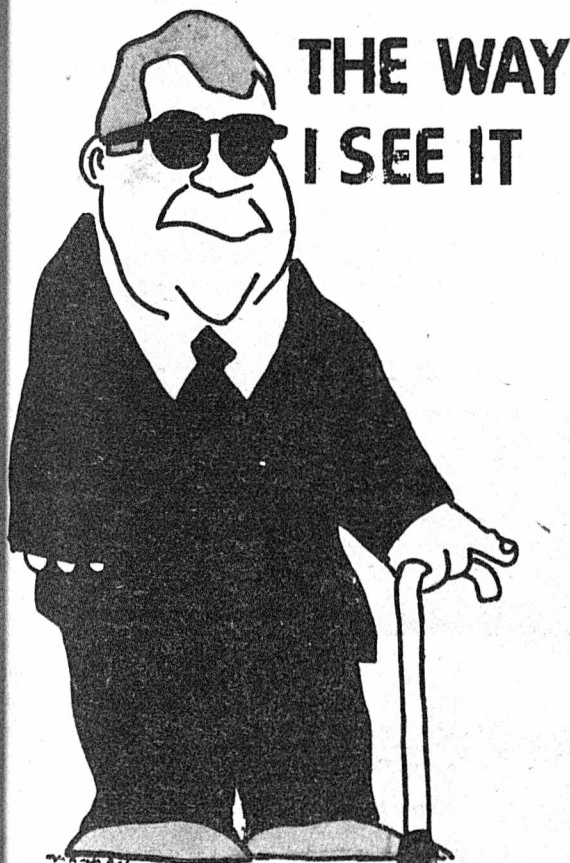
From what I have read, someone has offered some non-racial explanation for the order of processing (perhaps the order of arrest). Miss Caratozzolo

neglects a possibility I find not inconceivable; that several black chums attending the rally together and finding strength in togetherness attempted to remain together in the arrest, transportation and booking. This means Miss Caratozzolo's figures could be in error by a factor or 22,487!

To the editor of Gateway and anyone else who would like to avoid being duped by loaded or biased statistics, I recommend How to Lie With Statistics by Darrel Huff or Flaws and Fallacies in Statistical Thinking by Stephen Campbell.
James M. Babaugh
Graduate Studies in
Statistical Analysis

Well never you Mutton!!

I would like to sincerely applaud the "Frank Mutton, The Way I See It" column. More solid sarcasm/humor in this sort and less commie propaganda regarding wage and price controls

would be greatly appreciated and far more successful in elevating this paper's standards to a level of supreme journalism.
Dinsdail Piranha
Arts 2

Frank Mutton

THE WAY
I SEE IT

The big news at the Journal today is the sniper incident we had this morning — some crazed homicidal looney holed himself up in La Ronde, the revolving restaurant atop the Chateau Lacombe, and managed to terrorize all of us fourth estaters across the street.

The boys in the newsroom had just sat down for their daily discussion of the letters in this month's Penthouse when a shot rang out and our CP wire service teletype blew up. The excitement nearly killed Jim Davies, but we managed to drag him down to Circulation and revive him.

Meanwhile the sniper, who turned out to be a demented proof-reader for the Uni's Gateway, had threatened to shoot all the bell-hops in the hotel unless his demands were met — $50,000 in unmarked tens and twenties to be delivered to the Olivia Butti Eats Gravel for Lunch Committee; a plane-load of hard chipped beef for starving Saltspring Islanders; and a meeting with Presidential hopefuls Jimmy Carter and Walter Mondale to discuss the fate of the B-1 bomber.

Well, we took up a collection down on the corner of First and Jasper, and came up with fifteen bucks in loose change. The chipped beef was a little easier to find —Bus Fuller of Controlled Foods graciously donated a day's

supply of Fuller's Delicious Deep Dish Beef Dip.

Our biggest problem, however, was getting a hold of Carter and Mondale — Jimmy was in Plains holding an intimate family fish-fry for fifty thousand, and Mondale was at the DeBakey Clinic trying to have his nose flattened out. Needless to say, neither of them were willing to risk being seen in what Jimmy once called "a goddamn lustful nearly Communist country."

The sniper finally agreed to a conference with Solicitor General Roy Farran on Edmonton Police Chevy Novas, but insisted that Farran cross the street in front of the Chateau bare naked and unarmed. At this point Mrs. Farran made some remark about Roy having never been armed anyway, but he threatened to give her a job as head guard at the new pen. That certainly shut her up.

To make a long story short, we finally got the nut down by promising to dress the entire provincial cabinet in drag and parade them through Edmonton Centre. I asked one of the shoppers there what he thought of the spectacle and he replied that it was nothing new — he'd been at the Provincial Premier's Conference last month, and what they did behind closed doors was certainly more exciting.

Incidentally, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Don Getty denies having ever done the "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" scene from Gentlemen Prefer Blondes — he says he doesn't even own a blond wig.

Here's an interesting item from the University — Dr. S. S. Partridge of the Department of Educational Psychology has announced that he is borrowing five toothless Rhesus Monkeys from the department of Zoology and will begin tests next week to determine whether or not there are any similarities between monkeys and the average Education student.

Dr. Partridge hopes to find five Education students with approximately the same intelligence as his monkeys, but adds that this may not be possible — the monkeys have taken a battery of Form Recognition Tests and really have a grasp of basic concepts. It if sould turn out that they are ahead of the B.Eds. they will be given frontal lobotomies and forced to student teach at a local high school.

There is some opposition to the good doctor's plans, however — the Education Students' Society has issued a press release condemning the tests and calling them "grossly unfair."

They feel that the monkeys have an overwhelming advantage in the test because their cages are cleaned twice a day. I wonder what they meant by that? ...

Rene Levesque will be in town on Tuesday to speak before the Overbearing Left-Wingers Club. He has tentatively titled his talk "Ha Ha Ha Bourassa, you Son of a Bitch, I Won That Debate and I'll Wipe Your Ass in November". Mr. Levesque will be, as usual, low-key and well-dressed .... Harvey Kirk and Lloyd Robertson of CTV have announced that they are incompatible and will be splitting up next month — Harvey gets custody of most of the set, but Lloyd wants his high chair and name plate. It is rumoured that the team will be replaced by Bruno Gerussi and Max Ferguson .... The History Department at the Uni will be holding a special Anschluss of Austria Festival to commemorate the 1937 takeover by Hitler. They are looking for 147 blonde, blue-eyed German immigrants to storm the Arts Building and stage the murder of Engelbert Dollfuss (played by Dean Baldwin). Disgruntled first-year students need not apply — Baldwin will wear special bullet-proof clothing during rehearsals. Sign up in Dr. Szell's office in the Department of German and Argentinian History.