

Professor ends decade of exile by revisiting Chile

By GRAHAM THOMPSON

Atkinson philosophy professor Claudio Duran has just returned from a six-week pilgrimage to his Chilean homeland, after 10 years in political exile.

Duran and thousands of other Chileans who have been in exile since the military coup of 1973 have been allowed to return as part of the authoritarian regime's move towards political liberalization.

Chile's military regime, headed by President Augusto Pinochet, is cautiously edging toward democracy for two reasons, says Duran. First, a severe economic crisis has roused growing civilian and political opposition towards the military regime. Second, U.S. president Ronald Reagan is pressing the junta in the direction of political liberalization because of domestic political pressure from the Democrats in this U.S. election year.

Duran emphasizes that the junta is in no real danger of losing political control in Chile at present. "The regime is firm. It is clearly in control of the situation. It is a liberalization within the scope of an authoritarian regime."

The economic crisis "is so big that it has meant the destruction of the productive economy—unemployment is over 30 percent," says Duran. Not only are the poor suffering hardship but so is the middle class which

comprises over 40 percent of Chile's population, says Duran.

Concerning U.S. political pressure, Duran says "Reagan is ambiguous about Pinochet. He has trouble, especially now that he is going to run, because he is advocating democracy in Central America. Argentina is democratic, Peru is democratic, Brazil is opening up, Uruguay has elections. So on what basis do you maintain a regime that is so unpopular?"

"Reagan knows there will be attacks by the Democrats so what he is doing is pressing Pinochet to open up more and more. But they know that Chile is not yet in the position to have a clear democratic alternative," he says.

The Pinochet regime is unwilling to step aside now because a coalition of five political parties, the Democratic Alliance (DA), is presently allied with the traditional Marxist left when the regime cannot tolerate, explains Duran. The DA parties "range from the democratic right to the Marxist left" but are controlled by the Christian Democratic Party, while the leftist group includes the "communist party and some sections of the socialist party," according to Duran.

Thus the junta is attempting to politically neutralize the Marxist left by directing an intense campaign of what Duran calls agitation propaganda against them. "The agitation of

the junta is very intelligent. It is addressed against the Marxist left to separate them from the DA. The regime knows that sooner or later they will have to give up, perhaps within two or three years," he says. "But they don't want to give up now when the Christian Democrats are allied with Marxists."

Duran himself was forced to flee from Chile after the 1973 military coup that toppled socialist president Salvador Allende. He was then a Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Education at the State Technical University in Santiago. "Other colleagues in the same position spent a year in a concentration camp—for being in a high office in a university."

"I was lucky because when they came for me, to our place, I was not there. With the amount of people being killed or tortured or imprisoned in the national stadium, it was evident that repression was going to be extremely harsh. So we sought refuge in the Canadian Embassy, through an American friend who helped us in getting there. After a few weeks in the Canadian Embassy we came to Canada."

Duran will discuss both the changing political environment in Chile and relay some of the preliminary findings of his recent Chilean propaganda studies tonight at the Fellows Lounge in Atkinson College at 7:30 p.m.

Other Campuses

How to be a student and eat well too

By ANDREW ZARNETT

There's money to be made in student politics—especially if you're a Ryerson politician. The winner of Ryerson's presidential race will earn a salary of \$17,500 a year, including benefits. The president will also get an expense account of \$1,600 for taking guests out to lunch.

The University of Toronto Student Administrative Council president receives \$8,000 a year while York University's Student Federation president Chris Summerhayes makes almost \$9,000.

The reason for the difference lies in the types of governments each union runs. While Ryerson has a centralized system of government, U of T and York have their main student unions as well as college councils.

Despite his high salary, Ryerson President Jamie Purdon said he is not paid enough. Purdon said he has a lot of responsibilities including control of a more than \$1-million budget and a large staff.

Summerhayes said that some student unions' budgets were getting out of hand as unions strive to offer more costly services to their members.

—Eyeopener, Ryerson

Canadian volunteers cotton-pickin' in Nicaragua

By GARY SYMONS

A 38-member volunteer work brigade, organized by Canadian Action for Nicaragua (CAN), will leave Toronto bound for Nicaragua next Wednesday.

The work brigade, made up of construction, factory, and health care workers, students, and two doctors, will spend 30 days helping harvest Nicaragua's valuable cotton crop.

"We plan to make a concrete contribution," said CAN executive member Ian Anderson, adding wryly, "This ain't no fact-finding tour. We're going down to work."

According to project coordinator Bob Curran, however, the work brigade is also a

powerful way for Canadians to show their support for Nicaragua.

"Our brigade will add its voice to the growing international cry for peace in Central America and for the U.S. to back off and leave the region's people and countries to settle their own affairs," Curran said.

According to a CAN press release, the volunteers will bring tools to be left behind to help in Nicaragua's massive reconstruction campaign. Medical aid will also be an important aspect of the brigade, and thousands of dollars worth of medical supplies will also make the trip.

After arrival in Nicaragua, the volunteers, who financed their own flights, will spend a few days of orientation in Managua and then move to cotton fields in western Nicaragua.

Answering concerns about the safety of the brigade, the CAN press release stated "the only danger to the brigade is that faced by the Nicaraguan people as a whole: A major U.S. sponsored attack on the country, already prefaced by border raids and aerial attacks on fuel facilities."

While unsure whether there would be more work brigades in future, Curran said there may be one in July and that anyone interested could call the CAN head office at 534-1352.

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(FINAL APPEARANCE AT YORK)

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Yeomen
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TAIT Gymnasium
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BREAKDANCE DEMONSTRATION DURING 1/2 time
OF THE WOMEN'S GAME BEGINNING AT 6:00 p.m.

