

Card-players hold JCR

West German militant Reich raps on revolution

By MIKE SAVAGE
Excalibur Staff

A former president of the West German Students for a Democratic Society was forced to move into the Winters music room Thursday when he tried to speak in the junior common room.

Reimert Reich felt that he could not shout the card-players and students in the JCR. Students interested in what he had to say moved with him into the music room.

The tall, bespectacled Reich discoursed for the most part on worker-student alliances in Germany. He said that one aim of the movement was to try to destroy traditional middle-class values and replace them with a revolutionary consciousness.

Sitting on a piano stool, relaxed and confident, Reich explained the reaction the movement has had to overcome. He said that government and university boards of

directors were attempting to break up the student movement by emergency laws and termination of scholarships. The movement also faced a problem of re-organization, he said.

Students just went from action to action, he said, instead of building a far-ranging organizational base. He felt students and workers should advance area groups from isolated factories to integrated areas.

The aim of this increased organization is to build up stable communications, and also to organize wildcat strikes he said. The movement has been successful in two small cases, Reich said, proving that the right tactics are being applied.

Mike Blumenthal, a York student, pointed out for the benefit of the audience that "Germany is traditionally a non-striking country."

Reich agreed. He said the period from 1945-1948 was marked by a struggle for worker's control toward socialism and common ownership. But from 1948-1969 there were no wildcat strikes, with the exception of a few isolated cases in underdeveloped parts of Germany, he said.

Reich was asked if he had known any managers who were sympathetic to the aims of the student-worker alliance. He said many

managers and owners were sympathetic. He cited the example of one capitalist owner who had travelled widely and decided to return to Germany to socialize his factory. Reich said the movement has been given money by capitalists who sympathize with the students and workers.

Trade unions are forbidden by law to discuss student-worker alliances he said.

Reich said in the early days of

the SDS in Germany the group had tried to link up with East Germany. They exchanged visits, he said, but were always hassled by bureaucrats. They had no student-to-student relations with East Germany he said and these visits were finally ended.

Reich is on a speaking tour in Canada as part of the post-conference activities of the Glendon college international forum The Year of the Barricade.



Excalibur -- Tim Clarke



Excalibur -- Tim Clarke

Corridor plan: North's rape or pregnancy?

By GALE CAMPBELL
Excalibur Staff

"Leave it not to Caine", the Acres Corporation's film outlining their scheme for the development of a mid-Canada corridor was met with cynicism by the BOGS, the Brotherhood of Geographers last Wednesday night.

The project dubbed the "Rape of the north" in the first issue of the Vanier College newspaper, Vandoo, envisages a coast to coast corridor, from 200-500 miles in width, of new cities, harbors, railways, industries and roads to be built over the next century to

receive part of the population growth of 100 million expected in Canada by the year 2067.

Acres film, "Leave it not to Caine" describes the north as being pregnant with all this potential for development.

The Acres Corporation, research consultants, sends out public relation men upon request to outline the proposed project. Wayne Greenall was sent out to talk to the BOGS.

Greenall told the BOGS the "concept" began with Richard Rohmer of Toronto who com-

missioned a \$10,000 study by the research factory of the feasibility of a northern railway across Canada as a "means to political power."

As a centennial project, Acres provided additional capital and a geographer and engineer for three months to develop Rohmer's idea into the corridor concept.

The development, Greenall told the audience, was merely the production of several maps of things like climate, forest, muskeg and mineral resources placed one on top of another to discover an area with potential, "a simple

technique known as sifting."

It seems that while Rohmer was looking for political power, the Acres Corporation was interested in publicity only. Having outlined the various divisions of the Acres Corporation, Greenall began his discussion by defending the corridor "as only a concept and not necessarily the best concept."

The questions were raised why Greenall was at York with his "concept" and what was in the development of the corridor for Acres? Greenall admitted that so far Acres had gotten only publicity, but "that helps".

Acres depends to a large extent on government contracts and if by pushing this film the corridor idea catches on, then it is feasible that Acres would get a "piece of the action".

The fact is that nobody has to worry about the rape of the north or its pregnancy because Acres is not really concerned with getting the project off the ground.

Greenall suggested first that the government was the logical developer of the plan, but later admitted that the project was unfeasible from the government standpoint of view because it entirely ignores the Maritimes.

To the question, why develop the north at all, Greenall answered: "that's a good criticism. I don't know."

To the question of capitalization, Greenall said "it would take the

government only about \$4 or \$5 billion over the next 100 years, about \$200 million a year discounted, to establish the framework and to lay down guidelines."

On closer questioning as to the real cost of development, Greenall admitted that the bulk of capitalization would fall on private corporations.

For example the film suggested the technical feasibility of domed cities to avoid the excesses of climate. The cost approximately for erecting a polyethylene dome over four tennis courts is \$100,000. What would it cost over cities? Some people said that in reality the project seemed economically unfeasible.

To the question of the need of the development to cope with the population explosion in Canada, Greenall said "it is unlikely that the plan's projected 100 million population in Canada will ever be reached, thanks to the pill. The people would most likely be imported."

To the question of the ecological implications of the corridor, Greenall replied, "We had no ecologist on the staff because no one good was available. Besides there have been no ecological studies of the north and the cost of doing any made it prohibitive for Acres to attempt any."

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