

WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS

There are two basic ways of celebrating Christmas.

There is the noisy way. It involves wraps and ribbons, parties, fancy dolls, laughter, liquor and possibly some snarly words the morning after.

There is the quiet way. It involves candles, carols, family dinners, relaxation, and—just possibly—St. Matthew.

There is a third alternative: a "wonderful" way, for those folks who wonder how they might spend their holiday time and money to new advantage. It is essentially a process of widened interest. Celebrate Christmas by something you've never done before.

A few suggestions:

- Sit down and read a book—clear through—for the sheer enjoyment.
- Ask yourself why you drink—then give yourself an honest answer.
- Look around at a party for someone who isn't having a good time; talk to him.
- Work out a gift idea with someone special; instead of the regular exchange gifts, visit a hospital together and take a few goodies to distribute.
- Investigate CARE, UNICEF and Unitarian Service Committee.

What better Christmas gift than to inform a friend that in his name you have bought plain, ordinary food for a starving child?

WONDEROUS FIASCO

There will be no Inter-Faculty Drama Festival this year. A last-minute decision to cancel the maturing plans came as a rather disconcerting surprise, at least to the few who had invested weeks of effort in the productions they planned to enter.

Not that it will matter to most of the campus. Long before rehearsals began, students, by virtually ignoring the pleas for auditions posted on the various faculty boards, had indicated that the traditional competition couldn't matter less to them.

Commerce could not find a cast, and education—a faculty which even more than commerce one would expect to produce at least "number"—could not find even the six needed to fill the roles of the Canadian comedy they had chosen.

By last weekend only two of the directors who had managed to recruit casts still had their

plays on the entry list. The rest had withdrawn with excuses decreasing in legitimacy from exams and late scripts to merely "sagging interest."

Inter-Fac Festival, while it may not offer the height of dramatic achievement, gives students not otherwise involved in drama not only a chance to act, but the fun of friendly rivalry.

Why then the lack of interest that led to the collapse of this year's attempt? Perhaps U of A students, realizing that mid-terms are scarcely more than a month off, have dedicated themselves to more intellectual pursuits. Or perhaps, imbued with a rather sudden idealism, they decided that nothing but professional perfection will suffice.

We have talent on campus, as well as time for things which we feel are important. And amateur drama, a broadening and enjoyable thing, should be important to many more than it is.

WE WONDER WHERE YOU'RE HIDING

Has Social Credit on this campus gone defunct? Have they abdicated their claim to political defence of the individual? Have they turned everything right of center over to YCF?

Or are they just temporarily hiding in the bushes?

We wonder where our Sacred friends have gone. So far this year we've heard nary a whisper from them.

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Mr. Desmond Anthony, noted Zoology expert, appeared in FORUM December 7, challenging the authenticity of a recent two-part article on British Guiana that I wrote for the GATEWAY. Mr. Anthony's remarks were full of glaring mistatements and unprovoked insinuations, which I wish to deal with here.

Mr. Anthony says that my newspaper, the Georgetown CHRONICLE, is involved with "neo-fascists." The CHRONICLE, he claims, is "a newspaper whose influence among the Guianese public has waned considerably since the leader of a political party has acquired a controlling interest in it."

Well, the CHRONICLE now has the second largest circulation of any Guianese paper; its circulation has sky-rocketed since that "leader of a political party" bought it a short while back, and its influence increases every day. It is the most widely read paper amongst the members of the party that opposes the leadership of the man who owns the CHRONICLE. That man, incidentally, is Mr. Peter S. D'aguair, one of the foremost businessmen in the Southern Caribbean—a devout "neo-fascist" if there ever was one!

Mr. Anthony accuses me of having "ridiculed the people of Guiana" because I mentioned that the complex irrigation-drainage system there has been known to break down, with calamitous results. Well, I did not intend to convey the impression that I had any lack of respect for the patient and hard-working Guianese; quite the contrary, in fact.

That the Guianese have been able to maintain such a frustrating and exasperating agricultural system for so many years is a tribute to their ingenuity and perseverance. But Mr. Anthony refuses to understand me.

MINERALS NOT WEALTH

I am accused of having underrated the "wealth" of Guiana by having neglected to mention the existence there of "gold, diamond, columbite, and manganese." Really, Mr. Anthony; any first-year economics student can tell you that "wealth" is measurable only in developed, marketable products. At present, the only marketable products that Guiana is able to produce and sell in any quantity are Sugar, Rice, and Bauxite.

Sugar and rice do not make Guiana an affluent nation (Guianese sugar could not even be economically grown, were it not for a special Commonwealth Sugar agreement). And Guiana is hardly the world's only source of Bauxite! Until Gold, Manganese, Columbite, and Diamond become developed, salable resources, Guiana will remain economically underdeveloped—hence, backward. And this casts no aspersions whatever on the character of the Guianese people.

INVESTMENT WELL-RECEIVED

Mr. Anthony claims that foreign investment in Guiana is well-received; "for this, every responsible Guianese is undoubtedly thankful." There must be very many irresponsible Guianese then; for seldom, if ever, did I hear the role of foreign investment in Guiana lauded by anyone, isolated members of the white community in Georgetown excepted. It is a hard economic fact of life that the main reason that Guiana is so underdeveloped is that Cheddi Jagan, with his pro-Communist pronouncements, has scared away all potential foreign investors.

Not one nickel of previously uncommitted foreign capital is being invested in Guiana today, thanks to Jagan; in fact, money is flowing out of the country at a prodigious rate. Until Cheddi leaves, it will not re-

turn. And, oh yes: Peter D'aguair is the only man in Guiana responsible enough to have applauded the role that foreign capital plays in development!

RACE EXAGGERATED

I am accused of having exaggerated the incidence of the racial problems in Guiana. But I was not exaggerating, Mr. Anthony. Talk to your fellow-Guianese Dr. Lynton, in the Political Science Department, and see if he agrees that "racialism" is not a nagging nuisance!

Examples? Riots over the selection of Rice Marketing Board personnel (charges of discrimination); the PPP propaganda campaign, which puts the blame for the burning and looting of shops of Indian merchants during the February riots on the Africans; a riot last November 12, in which the Whites of the UF Party youth and the Africans and Indians of Jagan's Party youth battled with bottles, bricks, and clubs—29 were injured, 8 arrested, Molotov cocktails were confiscated, and one truck wound up upside down in an irrigation canal.

These are the marks of a racially pacific society? Read the accounts of the Wynn-Parry Commission again, and you will read that it "found no evidence that the disturbances were a direct result of racial conflict, though a certain measure of tension between the East Indian and African population acted as contributory factors."

POLITICALLY SOPHISTICATED

Yes, the Guianese people are exceptionally sophisticated politically. The danger as I saw it was not that they would be unable to recognize a Communist, but that the British Colonial authorities might not; for, as Lord Malcolm Douglas-Hamilton wrote the LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH last August 16, for a long while it appeared as if the British authorities were determined to give Guiana over to Jagan on a silver platter, no matter what the consequences for the Guianese people. This is what the Guianese people thought. Since my article was written, however, the London Independence talks have broken down, and it now appears as if Guianese Independence will not come for some time yet. For a while, though, it looked very bad, indeed.

"Does Mr. Barr know what percentage of the industries . . . of Canada are owned by foreign concerns?" Anthony asks. Yes, I know very well that a large proportion of Canadian industries are so owned; this notwithstanding, I am grateful for the high standard of living that foreign capital has brought to my country.

Without it, Canada would become the Siberia of North America. If Guiana wants to grow and prosper, she will do everything in her power to attract similar foreign investment—and reject those demagogic politicians who view foreign investment as crass, exploitative, foreign economic imperialism.

Mr. Anthony does not appear to be aware of the complexity of the political, economic, and social problems confronting his country. These problems will not be solved by irresponsible polemics directed against those who, like myself, try to calmly assess the tangled issues at hand.

I never posed as a "weekend expert" on Guiana, and I never will. Mr. Anthony will do well to cultivate a similar awareness of his own shortcomings as a socio-political analyst.

JOHN JAY BARR