

# Racism in Canada its finally arrived

Reprinted from the University of Western Ontario Gazette, November 14, 1978.

The only way to eliminate racism in Canada is to fight it in the streets, according to Toronto civil rights lawyer, Charles Roach. "Sooner or later, fighting racism boils down to a personal, individual situation. The business then is to move out into the streets and not the courts," Roach told about 30 law students at Western Thursday.

Roach, a member of the Committee Against Racism, said racism is "a political process with a class aspect" that is entrenched in government policies and the criminal justice system.

"Whether color, nationality, religion or a height and weight regulation, it's all a form of racism that operates as an officially sanctioned policy. If you don't have money or social status you can be a victim of racism."

Paul Copeland, an immigration lawyer in Toronto, said the East Indian control program (a secret immigration department manual that became public last year, was an example of how the government has institutionalized racism.

According to the manual, all East Indians, at their point of entry into Canada, are to be referred for a secondary examination.

The document also stated the cash bonds all visitors are required to post upon entry into Canada, are to be referred for a secondary examination.

The document also stated the cash bonds all visitors are required to post upon entry into Canada were to be substantially increased for East Indians.

"The government adopted more rigorous, racist immigration policies (in 1972) when it discovered it was no longer getting the kind of immigrant population it wanted (European)," Copeland said.

The criminal justice system is also unfair and racist, Roach said.

"People who do not have economic or social opportunities to develop their talents will find themselves at odds with the rest of society and may resort to theft.

"The courts presume that an individual is responsible for his own actions but the fact that the person has no money isn't a justification for the crime."

The idea of equality before the law is a myth because people without education or money do not have an opportunity to defend

themselves, he said.

"The courtroom process, the jail term and the parole system just degrade people more. The system is more punitive than rehabilitative."

Roach said it is up to

organizations like the Legal Working Group to show people that the decisions of the courts are racist and empty.

"Canadians won't stand for oppression or unfairness so the fight has to be out in the streets and not in the courts."

Both lawyers were panelists at a

meeting of the Legal Working Group. The group was set up this year to give Western law students an opportunity to explore aspects of law outside the mainstream of normal legal practice.

## Discrimination hits even Gays

The first gay case to reach the Supreme Court has created widespread interest in Vancouver according to an article in the Simon Graser Publication, The Peak.

Four years ago the Vancouver Sun refused to carry a classified ad for Gay Tide, a gay liberation newspaper, which gave the price of a year's subscription and an address to contact.

When the Board of Human Rights was approached by GATE, it was ruled after a year of deliberation that this was a clear case of discrimination stemming from personal bias. The case was appealed and the three man panel of judges overturned the ruling in a 2-1 decision. The point was whether the discrimination stemmed from personal bias according

to Justice Branca who said that he questioned whether there was "reasonable cause" for bias. According to the Appeal Court's decision there was reasonable cause to refuse the ad on the grounds that homosexuals constituted a notorious segment of society.

The article stated that 150 people rallied in front of the Pacific Press building in Vancouver, October 5 to protest the decision. The decision made will set a precedent for future cases in terms of discrimination against

gays and other minority groups according to Peak reporter Michael McGarry. The strength of the rulings by the Human Rights board was also questioned as well as the interpretation of "reasonable cause".

When the Ottawa supreme court was listening to the case a small group of gay activists picketed the court. The 11 picketers said they were there in support of the case on behalf of the Canadian Lesbian and gay right coalition.

The Brunswickan would like to correct an article in its November 17, 1978 issue which reported that expenses incurred for the new Coffee Shop The Woodshed were as follows: SRC \$812.00, and STU \$1,400.00. The UNB SRC actually paid \$10,000 for the furniture.

Sorry about the mistake, the article was NOT supposed to go in and was put in to be typeset mistakeingly.

## Pittston oil controversy

cont from page 1

feelings of incredulity in contemplating the risks to the environment in the movement of supertankers through the water.

Dr. Anderson felt that a major accident would occur sooner or later and the "resulting mess" would disrupt the biological environment in ways which cannot be predicted in either their short or long term effects.

He said that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was released and one comment was that the potential of a larger, catastrophe spill due to a tanker grounding or collision is small but very difficult to actually qualify and it is equally difficult to determine when such an accident will actually occur.

Dr. Anderson said some of the ramifications of a possible spill include the possibility of wiping out the work of the Atlantic Salmon Research Centre plus it would mark the extinction of the Biological Station and Huntsman Marine Laboratory in St. Andrews. He said that even "unavoidable" spills that happen during loading and unloading in the waters of a confined area with strong currents like Passamaquaddy Bay constitute a serious potential threat to the ecology of the region.

Another statement from the EIS said that "chronic oil spills at Eastport from all sources except unusual or severe incidents will probably be between 20 and 86 barrels per year. "It suggested that "booms should control much of this spillage so there would be very little effect on the environment resulting from dockside spills."

The efficiency of the containment and cleanup methods was questioned by several people in

view of the tide rises and falls which are an average of 18 feet twice a day with currents often in excess of five knots, in addition to the water temperature which is barely above freezing most of the year.

Research scientist David J. Scarratt said the damaging assault would affect the entire Bay of Fundy Area. He said that the oil would spread quickly in the event of a major spill with endangered areas affecting the coast stretching for Cape Cod in Massachusetts to Sable Island in Nova Scotia.

In addition small spills cause systemic damage to the environment according to the expert who is with the Fisheries Service at the St. Andrews Biological Station.

Another potential hazard would be the high sulfur content of the crude oil to be processed at the refinery, one by-product of which will be a large discharge of 50 tons a day of sulfur-dioxide into the atmosphere. Sulfur-dioxide when mixed with water becomes sulfuric acid, thus there is a good chance of acid rain and acid mist over the areas downwind of the refinery which includes Canada.

This mist will act as a defoliate when it falls on forests, raises the level of acidification of inland lakes and streams to the detriment of fish and increases the acidity of soil among normal levels. According to a report from the Main Times the soil is already so acid from Northeastern industrial air pollution that it is necessary to lime fields regularly to produce minimum yield.

Atlantic herring Frishermans Marketing Co-op Ltd. manager said that one of the aims of the co-op is to insure the best quality fish delivered to the processor. The economic potential of the

herring fishery was realized in 1976 and according to Dr. Iles can be established as an important sector in the world herring market. Therefore an oil spill of the nature which Dr. Anderson discussed could be disastrous.

He said he was concerned with the hazardous situation that would exist if tankers were allowed to use Head Harbor Passage, with the immediate physical effects being very "serious" and the sequential effects "catastrophic". Pittston first came up with its proposal in 1971 and since then amount of paperwork and millenia of hearing time have been accumulated.

The July issue of the Maine Times has an interview with a man who will be speaking here, Monday, Room 143 Head Hall at 8:00 P.M.

Doc Hodgins has conducted a one-man campaign to find out the facts behind both the Pittston proposal and the stand of the American Environmental Protection Agency. For two years he has spent a considerable amount of time writing volumes of literature to EPA, Pittston, magazines and newspapers to expose what he sees as "severe weaknesses in the Pittston proposals".

Hodgins declared that he had not wanted to be involved with the fight and had thought the EPA would veto the plan by a company with no experience in the refining business and a "horrendous environmental record" in the coal industry (several years ago a slag heap from the Pittston plant fell and killed a large number of the workers, little compensation was forthcoming).

In his investigations into the matter Hodgins discovered that the assumptions and data fed into

the computer to predict the refineries impact on the regions air quality was not accurate. He said that Eastport spends an average of 30 days blanketed in fog which limit visibility to less than half a mile. In addition to heavy winter snows and spring rains. But according to Hodgins the report on the refinery barely mentioned those factors and the computer had been fed with information from the Brunswick and Portland airports. He said the EPA said the data had been used because it was readily available in computer form.

In addition there was no analysis of the extent to which sulphur dioxide emissions from the plant would increase the acidity of the regions rain and fog.

Another factor which Hodgins commented on was the fact that EPA did not consider the

Northeast industrial pollutants which already exist, which had been recorded at one point as having 49 violations of the federal zone standards for the previous month of July. He said the state was also ranked as fourth in the country in incidents of lung disorder.

Another highlights of Pittstons inadequate coverage of the situation was their failure to take into account how they would deal with refinery breakdown. Hodgins said according to research, existing refineries upsets are frequent, yet Pittston has not plan to deal with this.

Education professor Gary Whiteford said that he believes people would be concerned with this issue as it can ultimately affect the whole coast, and urges students, faculty and other interested persons to turn up for the Save The Bay Discussion.

A recommendation will be made at this coming Tuesday's Board of Governors meeting to grant Dr. John Anderson sabbatical leave for the year, beginning July 1, 1979. The recommendation was made by The Joint Nominating Committee. Sabbatical leave will mean a salary of \$60,000 (or 2/3 of the salary) will be paid to Dr. Anderson, despite the fact that Dr. Anderson has stated his intention to resign at the end of his term, June 30th, 1979. Sabbatical leave is usually given to professors who intend to return to the institution with something to show for their absence.

Further information will be forthcoming.