

INTERNATIONAL

Guatemala: A country without any justice says Canadian missionary

Mike Guy
When Pat Connaughton, a sister of St. Joseph, arrived in Guatemala nine years ago, she was shocked by the poverty and lack of justice she saw there.

In a lecture sponsored by the Student Christian Movement, given Tuesday in Vanier College, Connaughton, who is a member of the Inter-Church Committee for Human Rights in Latin America, gave a graphic depiction of life in the strife-ridden Central American country.

Connaughton opened her lecture by stating that Canadians are fortunate to live in a democratic society that cares for its poor and that allows diverse cultures to live together harmoniously. Because of these qualities, as well as Canada's relatively stable economy, Connaughton sees a sharp contrast between Canadian society and that of Guatemala.

Following her comparison of the two countries, Connaughton briefly reviewed Guatemalan history. In 1857, the country became independent from Spain, and since then it has had a number of military regimes. A new era began in 1954 when the country received its first civilian president, but as the tough right wing politicians gained control of the army, this era came to an end. In 1970 the army successfully ran General Carlos Arana in an election. According to Connaughton Arana was not a dictator in the sense that he did not rule the country for life.

"The President is given six years to make his life and wealth," says Connaughton. "Then he is required to step down for someone else. This gives the army a democratic appearance."

Connaughton arrived in Guatemala during the Arana reign. She was horrified to find that "it was not a country of injustice, but one of no justice." She added, "All around there were children dying of malnutrition, and others whose bodies were infested with worms. In some instances both the mother and father are paid \$1.50 per day."

Connaughton came to Guatemala with her faith in liberation theology. In her village, she tried to alleviate the poverty by helping the families build houses, clinics, schools, and by educating them as to the ways of the market. To accomplish her goals she relied on \$200,000 that the International Catholic Charities and different nations throughout the world provided. While working amongst the Guatemalans Connaughton developed a motto: "Don't walk behind me, I won't lead. Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow. Walk beside me, be my brother." Thus a tight bond grew between herself and the downtrodden Guatemalans.

With the advent of General Lucan Garcia's presidency, the Church and Connaughton's presence in Guatemala came to an end. In July of last year, Connaughton left Guatemala, because the situation had

worsened after the American presidential election.

Connaughton said missionaries like herself have been replaced by American evangelists, who teach the Mestizos that "God made them poor, and they should remain that way, for everything will be good in heaven." In her view, the Mestizos do not accept this evangelical notion and for this reason, they have formed guerilla groups that use violence in protest against the economic system. To lessen the power of the guerillas, the government has murdered professors or anyone else who sympathizes with the rebels. Connaughton said, "They would walk up to people on the streets, show them their name on a list, then tell to leave Guatemala within forty eight hours or face the consequences. Another method that they used was to place a dead animal on our doorsteps, which was to indicate that you had to leave the country immediately."

Connaughton said that the Mestizos will "not stop their fighting for they have lost so much already they can't possibly lose anymore." They do not want money from Canada or the United States. Instead they ask us to stop sending money to Garcia's regime. Without financial aid from Canada and arms from the U. S., the government will fall, "for the generals are stealing from them and they are spending too much money on weapons," said Connaughton.



Galley tribute is a look at ten countries

Paul O'Donnell

"When the city falls, art remains. Poetry and paintings will then be the only landmark in Canadian history."

The speaker is Hedi Bouraoui, master of Stong College and author of the exhibition, "Tales of Heritage — A Tribute to Multiculturalism." The exhibit at Stong's Samuel Zack's Gallery continues until Feb. 15. The show consists of legends from ten culturally different Canadian groups and original paintings by Saul Field to illustrate them.

Bouraoui hopes that this type of expression will promote mutual understanding, tolerance and pride about the past of Canada's peoples. He feels this can occur because Canada, as a

new country, is living harmoniously in a cultural mosaic. Also, claims Bouraoui, by expressing ourselves in this way we may take multiculturalism, or transculturalism, as he prefers to call it, more seriously than just looking at the culinary aspects of cultures.

The ten countries, Africa, China, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Poland and the Ukraine, were chosen because Bouraoui considers

them as representative of Canada, deserving of greater attention.

The pair are presently working on a second book with another ten groups that are representative of Canada.

Founders sponsors week long celebration of German heritage

Paul O'Donnell

This week Founder's College has been sponsoring a celebration which would have made Beethoven sit up and listen. Founder's Student Council has a tradition of sponsoring a week of heritage celebrations; a tradition started by a former student, Gerry Gilbert Gray, who was of Scottish descent and wanted to make people more aware of Scotland. B. Gormley, Founders Cultural Representative has decided to focus this year's festivities on Germany.

The celebration, which runs from February 1 to 7, examines many aspects of the German culture through the use of films, lectures, banquets, and art exhibits.

Manfred Hamm's photography exhibit, "Berlin Impressions of a City", is located in Founders College Art Gallery until February 5. Films to be shown include the 1922 classic, "Nosferatu", "EinKomischer Heiliger", and the 1920 thriller "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari". German music includes performances by the Schola Cantorum Choir and "The Passamezzo Players".

And not to abandon the stomach for the mind, German food will be served every day in the cafeteria. In addition, the Cock and Bull will be holding a German night on Saturday featuring beer, wine and employees dressed in traditional German clothing. On Sunday there will be an international dinner held in the cafeteria.

The most intriguing feature of German week will probably be the lecture planned for this afternoon by Vice Consul to German Consulate, Wolfgang Grams. Grams intends to introduce unknown facets of German traditions.

ROCK & ROLL

**SATURDAY
FEB. 6th 8:30 pm**

**BETHUNE
DINING ROOM**

**CASH BAR
\$2.00 COVER**

**CUW MEMBERS & STEWARDS
PARTICIPANTS FREE ADMISSION**

DANCE

CUW

NATIONAL STEWARDS WITH THE SCHOOL