Fellowships policy change charged discriminatory

By STEPHEN OUTERBRIDGE

A smouldering dispute between the administration and the Graduate Students Union came to a head during the last week. The dispute centers around the granting of fellowships to spouses of Memorial faculty members.

Normally fellowships to conduct graduate studies are awarded on the basis of academic merit alone while scholarships and burseries are granted with financial need taken into account. However in the case of a graduate, who applied for a fellowship in the Psychology department, this policy was reversed.

The person involved a Harvard graduate and wife of a member of the psychology department at Memorial, applied for a grant of $3,000 to be paid over a period of two academic years. Her application was accepted by the head of the Psychology department, Professor G. Skanes who wrote in an inter department memo that "she obviously ehibitted sufficient academic merit" to qualify. However Dr. Machin the Dean of Science vetoed the application on the grounds her husband could support her research on his salary.

The Senate Committee of Graduate Studies, chaired by Dean Aldrich strongly opposed this action as they felt it showed prejudice towards the person involved. Machin brought the matter before Memorial president Morgan after he learned of the Senate Committee's disapproval. Morgan allegedly sided with Machin during this consultation.

GSU President Wayne Penney

M.O. Morgan

After Aldrich became aware of Morgan's decision he immediately changed his position, stating in an office memo that "I cannot completely regard his (Machin) wishes. He told the next meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee that from now on the financial need of the candidate would be taken into account when awarding fellowships. He also intimated that he would be responsible for assessing this need.

The Graduate Committee Mun faculty Association, and the GSU felt such a policy was descriminatory. Furthermore they felt future descrimination could also occur against faculty spouses. It was argued that a person could easily need the fellowship monies if he or she had several dependants or other family expenses. Furthermore it was also felt that judging a wife of a faculty member as a simple financially dependent appendage was blatently descriminatory. A member of MunFa noted that other academics of high standing could be discouraged from coming to Memorial if such a practise became policy.

At the Senate meeting on Monday night the Graduate Studies Committee tried to back the administration into a corner by proposing a motion which would end their responsibility in awarding fellowships. The motion was defeated and some Senate members expressed that the Graduate Studies Committee had acted in a puerile manner, by considering such a proposal.

President Morgan allegedly admitted his decision on the matter was political. Allegedly he said the Provincial Government would frown on the University if it gave funds to faculty spouses. He allegedly admitted that the person involved was being descriminated against, at the same time claiming this descrimination was necessary.

It was apparent that this matter was a political hot potato as all press and spectators were barred from the meeting.

Both the Graduate Student's Union and MUNFA have stated their intention to pursue the matter in spite of Morgan's heavy handed decision. The case is scheduled to be discussed at the next meeting of MUNFA and a full report of the case is slated for the next issue of the Association's publication. The GSU were not specific in their exact intentions however they suggested other bodies of authority might be consulted.

the muse

Friday, May 17, 1974 Vol. 24 No. 21

Beta Construction takes custody of Student Center

Student organizations disrupted by renovations

The Thompson Student Center has been temporarily handed over to BETA Construction Ltd. The company insisted that such a move was necessary if they were to guarantee the building will be ready for the upcoming Legion convention. The Legionaires will begin their convention on June first, and considerable construction must be completed.

The closing of the building has had a severe effect on the many student organizations and services, which had their offices inside the Center. The Student Affairs Department (SAD) has been particularly hard hit. Before the renovations Student Affairs could boast almost fifty full and part time members, offering many services including free legal aid and short term student loans. The constant disruption hurt the morale of some members and the noise and dirt in the Center discouraged many students from using their facilities. Members of SAD have requested alternate office space such as an unused classroom, however the administration has so far acted sluggishly on this request.

Mun Radio has also suffered during the construction as much of their day to day broadcasting was done for students in the Center. The constant noise and lack of heat has also hurt new member recruitment. Station Manager Mac Rowe is concerned about the lack of new staff as forthcoming plans for the setting up carrier current operations involve extra work.

The MUSE has also suffered with many students unable to find the paper's office amidst the rubble and debris. Camera MUN the Student's Union have experienced much the same problems.

The Administration has shown a very blase and condescending attitude when approached for assistance during the construction. None of the organizations were consulted before the disruption and no effort has been made to provide alternate facilities.

Cameramun

The Thomson Center Cafe was recently closed further reducing the number of places to eat on Campus. The administration claims the building and facilities will be in operation by September.

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dateline

Today

There will be a Marxist Leninist meeting tonight at the Basement Theatre, Arts and Culture Center at 8:00. Admission is free.

The psychology department will pay two dollars to anyone who will take time out to fill in a questionaire. Inquire at T2-25 before 5:00.

Next week

There will be a general meeting of all past and present members of the Canadian Youth Hostels Association, and anyone else interested in hosteling. The time is 8:30 p.m. May 28 in the Junior Common Room Prince Philip Drive. A slide show "Hostelling in the Maritimes" will be shown and a cash bar will be available.

Indian Classical dance at the Holy Heart of Mary auditorium Friday, May 24 8:00 p.m. Admission is $2.00 for students.

Coming up

Spring convocation will be held in the Arts and Culture Center May 23 to 25.

A SCUBA course will be offered at the beginning of June. For further details phone 368-7978 after 6:00 p.m.

The Breezeway bar will be closed on the 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of due, due to the legion convention being held at Memorial.

There will be a road hockey game at 1:00 p.m. this Sunday at the Arts and Culture Center parking lot.

Sinners beware! The world will end tomorrow in a holocaust of fire and brimstone that will wipe out all sinners and condem them to eternal dammnation. Make amends to all those you have wronged, have a kind word to those whom you formerly regarded as inferior. This message is brought to you through the courtesy of The Save a Sinner Foundation.

letters

Disgusted with Sullivan

Dear Editorial Co-operative:

This is a letter of disgust with the bureaucracy of the C.S.U. that Des Sullivan has neatly set up. Every bit of money (with the noted exception of the media) that the C.S.U. handles must go through the finance committee. Sullivan defends his reasoning for this because he says with the finance committee there is no fuss or bother about trying to find an elusive department chairman. What Crap!

The other day I went to the finance chairman, a pretty thing by the name of Gail Pearcey, desperately trying to get two cheques signed for two needy socieities on campus. One society has a plan which could easily relieve a large part of the financial burden that many out of town students encounter with long distance calls. However to my utter amazement I discovered, through Miss Pearcey, that the finance committee was made up almost entirely of graduating students, and as a result were almost impossible to contact. A couple had flown down to the Bahamas for a little vacation. Makes you sit up and think, doesn't it.

Because of the amount of money involved I was not able to obtain the money so badly needed by these two societies, due to the fact that the always attainable finance committee was not attainable.

This is not the only blunder Sullivan has made, there are quite a few others that "The Almighty" might care to explain. One such farce is the fact that Sullivan is going to deduct money, your money, from the various departments that help the student most., Sullivan says that this money must be deducted because of some flaw discovered by "the boys" due to decreased enrollment. This flaw was the fact that decreased enrollment meant decreased revenue for the C.S.U. Sullivan then deduces that because the finance committee made the flaw last August of assuming that there would be no drop in enrollment they mede a budget for a peak attendance. In other words they over-budgeted. This is also coupled with the fact that many students do not pay their tuition and union fees until the beginning of the fall semester. So now Sullivan says the union is in trouble and must make cutbacks of the monies allocated to the various departments. The total cutbacks would amount to $20,000 the exact amount of the deficit. Now, Sullivan's cutbacks are full of shit. Because if you care to look at the end page of the budget submitted by the finance committee back on April 31 of 1973 you will notice that there is $10,000 set aside for typing and duplicating and there is a further $10,000 set aside for athletics, a total of $20,000. However this amount was tabled, in other words this $20,000 was never budgeted, but it is still listed on the back page of the budget, which means that it was budgeted. How? Furthermore it is not a new practice for students to hold repayment of their union dues until September, we have been doint it for years, yet the union still managed. It seems strange to me that Sullivan says we can't now.

Sullivan never ceases to amaze me. His most recent piece of garbage is the granting of a large sum of money to one of the rowdier societies on campus as "shut up" money. To me, as director of societies this is very distressing for two reasons. First because no society should be granted money under such pretences, and secondly because this money would have gone to another society for a worthwhile project that would have helped all students.

Dear Sirs, I find this very distressing and unless steps are forthcoming to alleviate such actions, my resignation will be coming immediately.

Sincerely,
Bud Cowan

Wants good music

Muse SD Letters to the editor

Dear People,

I read in da Muse about getting some good live music here. I think you all agree its about time and congratulations to the Entertainment Committee if it goes over.

I would pay just about anything (maybe up to $30) to see a good artist (s) here. Hope the TSC is finished by then!

Love,
Whistle

P.S. I also hope it's a British artist (s).

Rumour has it the Union is bankrupt. Your damn right I got a contract. It would be great to see some new faces around here (right about now any faces old or new would do).

The Muse is a member of Canadian University Press (cup) The Muse was established in 1936 at the Memorial University College. The Muse is published bi-weekly in the summer and weekly during the rest of the year. It is supported by a CSU subsidy and ad revenue (if Univads would get off their asses) but is operated wholly by the staff. Authorized as second-class mail at the St. John's post office. Subscriptions four dollars per annum, make cheques payable to Puff care of the Muse, MUN, St. John's. The Muse is published by Robinson Blackmore, O'Leary Avenue.

Summer Editor for this term is Stephen Outerbridge along for the ride are Dennis O'Brien, Jeff Cuff, Mack and Fred Furlong, Rudy Gelderblom, Jill Penney, Rich Fuchs Madonna Bailey, Jane Goundry and Don Marcotte. Also others whose names I can't spell.

the muse

Join The Muse

Memorial diver completes record dive

The longest Arctic dive ever made was completed this week by an expedition headed by Dr. Joe MacInnis of Toronto, and including Jim English of Memorial's engineering department.

The saturation dive experiment under the five foot thick polar ice in Resolute Bay, North West Territories, lasted 24 hours. Dr. MacInnis said in a telephone interview from Resolute Bay. The divers were Mr. English and Robert Wicklund of the Bahamas. The two men spent about 18 hours in an underwater station heated to about 70 degrees.

The remaining six hours was spent swimming and performing underwater experiments outside the station which was just below the surface of the ice at a depth of about fifteen feet.

The experiments indicate that saturation diving, a technique used by divers to spend as much time as possible underwater, is successful in Arctic waters where the temperature ofter drops to 28 degrees.

The saturation diving principle is based on the fact that divers absorb their breathing gasses into their bloodstream and body tissues because of increased pressure.

A diver reaches the saturation point when his body will not absorb any more gasses. From this point on, a diver can remain underwater and will not require a long decompression period to return to the surface.

Although the test indicates divers can remain underwater for long periods in the Arctic as well as in warmer waters, there are other hazards which make long polar dives dangerous. These include severe weather conditions, mental stress and equipment freezing as well as phenomona known as "White outs". This perception difficulty occurs when a diver loses all sense of depth and feeling due to the pure white background of the underwater ice.

During the experiment the underwater station was in constant voice and visual communication with the surface, and during the dive telephone calls were placed from the station to Newfoundland and the Bahamas.

The divers were disturbed by several black pools in the bay which are suspected to be oil pollution from supply ships which use Resolute during the summer. No sea life was observed in these pools and fish released in the area quickly died.

Council Briefs

Administration backs down

The Board of Regents has waived all charges for payment of courses dropped during last semester's extended drop and add period. The decision came after strong representation from the CSU. President M.O. Morgan stressed that this policy would be in effect for outstanding payments of last semester only. The CSU expressed dissatisfaction at this latter move, and the matter will be discussed at the next council meeting.

Student Union bankrupt ?

Concern has been expressed recently over the financial position of the CSU. The finance committee has apparently overbudgeted and now faces a deficit of $20,000. The committee formed their estimates on the assumption that enrollment would remain steady from last year. The subsequent drop in enrollment has led to this situation. CSU president Sullivan suggested that cuts would have to be made in the budgets of many departments of the Union to cancel the deficit.

CSU meets with Ottenheimer

The CSU is meeting with government representatives on the Student Aid issue. Council President Des Sullivan has been in contact with Minister of Education Gerry Ottenheimer, and Finance Minister John Crosbie and expects more extensive negotiations to begin shortly. Sullivan plans to prepare a brief, in conjunction with the Provincial Government, which would explore the possibility of enlisting Federal support for Student Aid. Such a proposal could be used as a lever for student support during the upcoming federal election campaign.

Food referendum held

A recent referendum was held on food services for residence students. The majority of students voted in favour of a "script" type of system. Under this type of plan students would be required to buy a certain amount of "funny money". This money would be used to pay for meals in both the dining hall and cafeterias.

Cameramun

One of the advantages of attending the summer semester is that you avoid the huge line ups at registration common to the other semesters.

Registration down, less flunk out

By DENIS O'BRIEN

Smaller class size accounted for the reduced failure rate in the winter semester, according to Glen Collins of the Registrars office.

Of the students who failed about a hundred students with good academic records will be re-admitted on condition. Besides these students, another group of students numbering over three hundred will be re-admitted on condition.

A comparison of registration figures show that the number of students registered was down from 6966 in the winter semester of last year to 6068 in the winter semester of this year. This April 419 students flunked out while last year almost 700 students met this fate.

Collins indicated that the reduced failure rate is not due to a laxness on the part of the university in order to set the drop in enrollment. He stated that in fact "last semester the academic regulations regarding re-admission were more stringently enforced than any semester since they were instituted."

In short the registrar's office feels that figures indicate that students are doing better academically. Generally it is felt that re-admission regulations have "weeded out the dead wood", Collins said.

One revelation that Collins made was that in the neighbourhood of 50 per cent of people re-admitted conditionally flunk out the next semester. Last semester was no exception with 200 of the possible 400 conditional students flunking out.

In regards to the number of students attending Memorial this semester, Collins indicated that, figures are down over the summer semester of last year. This summer less than two thousand full time and part time students will be taking courses compared to almost three thousand last summer. He also indicated that some students especially in education are having trouble getting into courses but that in the case of graduating students needing certain courses additional room will be provided.

Arts Council formed

BY JEFF CUFF

At a province-wide conference on the arts held at Queens College on February 22-24, delegates decided to approach the provincial government to get support for a permanent Newfoundland Arts Council. On May 2 a meeting took place between an interim Arts Council elected at the February conference and Premier Frank Moores, which will likely prove to be an important step for the province's arts. They discussed plans for the fomration of a permanent council.

It was agreed that the interim Arts Council should prepare, in consultation with resource personnel, a working structure for a permanent Arts Council whose responsibility would be the promotion, funding, administration and development of all facets of the arts in the province. The interim Council will present the proposed structure to a second conference on the arts in late summer. This conference will be funded by the provincial government.

Represented on the present interim council are all facets of the arts; music, writing, visual art, drama, film, dance, folk arts, crafts, art education, and art administration.

The premier expressed his strong support for the concept of an Arts Council and agreed with the interim body's opinion that the current piecemeal approach to the funding and development of the arts in the province was totally unsatisfactory in view of recent growth of the arts in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Aside from the arts getting government recognition and support for the first time in the history of the province, the council being formed will also be unique in Canada. For the first time the artists themselves have been given free rein by government to draw up a structure and to formulate a body which can continue to have direct representation by artists. In other Provincial Councils the function of an Arts Council as a bureaucratic government funding agency has proved much to the dissatisfaction of the artists it serves in many cases.

Thus a council of this type could give the Newfoundland artistic community an advantage which the arts rarely enjoy.

Oil profits rising

Two major United States oil companies with large holdings in Canada, recently announced first quarter profits more than seventy five per cent higher than a year earlier. Spokesmen for both companies said overseas operations were responsible for much of the increase.

Gulf Oil Corporation, one of the top five U.S. oil firms in terms of sales, said its earnings for the first three months of this year totalled $290 million, up 76 per cent from the $165 million reported for the same period of 1973, and 26 per cent above the $230 million in the final quarter of last year.

Standard Oil of Indiana (AMOCO), who are presently engaged in oil exploration off the Grand Banks, reported earnings of $219 million for the first quarter. This is up 81 per cent from both the $131.1 million in the first quarter of 1973 and the $121 million reported in the last three months of 1973.

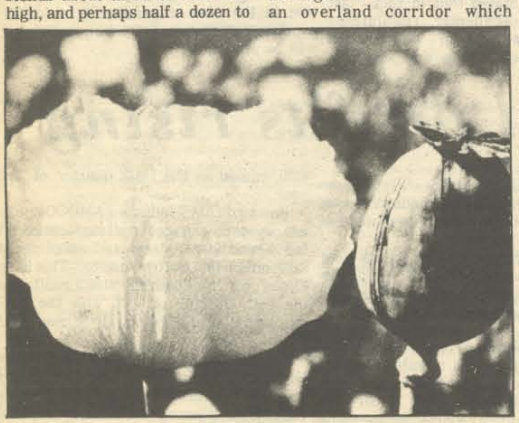
The federal government, acting under NDP and rising public pressure, proposed stricter laws for oil companies However with the forthcoming election this proposal could die in Parliament.

Heroin, politics and corruption go

Heroin addiction is a well publicised problem in North America, with virtually every facet of the media devoting considerable time to documentation of its causes and effects. Little is known, however, about the root of this problem, namely the production of heroin in Southeast Asia, and the incredible corruption which accompanies it.

Almost three quarters of the world's heroin originates from an area commonly known as the "Golden Triangle," a name which obviously alludes to the vast amount of money made from the heroin trade. This region is situated around the northern borders of Laos, Thailand and Burma, and is extremely rugged with thick jungle, and steep mountain ranges. The triangle is inhabited by various mountain dwelling tribes, the most important of which are the Shans of Burma and the Meo of Laos. The Meo are the principle cultivators of opium, the raw material for heroin, and depend on the poppy as their only cash crop.

Despite countless variations, all of Asia's poppy farmers use the same basic techniques when they cultivate the opium poppy. The annual crop cycle begins in late summer or early fall as the farmers scatter handfulls of tiny poppy seeds across the surface of their plowed fields. At maturity the greenish-colored poppy plant has one main tubuler stem, which stands about three or four feet high, and perhaps half a dozen to a dozen smaller stems. About three months after planting, each stem produces a brightly colored flower. Gradually the petals drop to the ground, exposing a green seed pod about the size and shape of a bird's egg. For reasons still unexplained by botanists, the seed pod synthesises a milky white sap after the petals have dropped. This sap is opium, and the farmers harvest it by cutting incisions across the seed pod's surface with special curved knives. As the white sap seeps out of the incisions and congeals on the bulb's surface, it changes to a brownish black color. The farmer scrapes the opium off the plant and wraps it into balls with banana leaves, to preserve its potency.



The sap from the opium poppy is used to manufacture heroin.

Around this time of year opium traders, most of whom are of Chinese descent, load up their mules with trade goods and travel from village to village buying the opium. The traders offer items such as guns, farming tools and medicines, the amount of merchandise depending on the quality of the opium. The traders then bring the raw narcotic to various towns designated as gathering places throughout the Golden Triangle.

If the opium is from the area of the Triangle nearest Thailand it is arranged in caravans with armed riders and up to a hundred mules. These caravans are for the most part controlled by Nationalist Chinese Army elements. These armies, commonly known as the Koumintang (KMT), were originally involved in the Chinese civil war. When the Communists took control several Nationalist regiments fled across the border into neighbouring Burma and Thailand, where they have lived by gun running, fighting the Communists for the CIA, and managing the opium trade.

Even in this age of supersonic transports, the raw opium must be transported in these caravans, due to the extreme ruggedness of the region. The caravans follow an overland corridor which begins as a maze of mule trails in the Shan hills, and ends on a four lane highway in Bangkok, the capital of Thailand.

If the opium is gathered near the Laotian border it follows an aerial route to market. Various private bush pilots, many of them Frenchmen with experience dating back the French occupation of Indochina fly the opium out from rough dirt runways.

The opium is flown to either Long Tiene or Vientiane in Laos and from their to Pakse, near the Thailand Laotian border. The opium is processed into heroin in one of several factories in the area. The refined heroin is then transported to Saigon for use by American soldiers or for export to Europe and the United States. The suprising aspect of this operation is that the Royal Lao Air Force, and the Vietnamese National Air Force, handle the transportation to Saigon. Both these air forces are backed by the U.S. government, a cruel joke indeed when one considers the number of G.I.s addicted to heroin.

The heroin destined for export is packaged in plastic envelopes before it begins its journey. An infinite variety of couriers and schemes are used to smuggle the heroin-stewardesses, Filipino diplomats, businessmen, Marseille pimps, and even Playboy playmates. But regardless of the means used to smuggle, almost all of the shipments are financed and organized by one of the American Mafia's twenty-four regional groups, or "families." The top bosses usually deal in bulk shipments of twenty kilos or more, for which they have to advance up to $27,000 per kilo. After a shipment arrives, the bosses divide it into wholesale lots of from one to ten kilos for sale to their underlings in the organized crime families. A lower ranking mafioso, known as a "kilo connection" in the trade, dilutes the heroin by 50 per cent and breaks it into smaller lots, which he turns over to two or three distributors. From there the process of dilution and profit making continues downward through another three levels in the distribution network until it finally reaches the street. By this time the heroin's value has increased tenfold to $225,000 a kilo, and is so heavily diluted that the average street packet sold is less than 5 per cent pure.

The heroin trade described in these terms seems relatively simple and straightforward. However this is only the tip of the iceberg. For the corruption and profiteering which permeates those Asian governments involved with the trade are astounding.

THAILAND

Government corruption is not just a problem in Thailand, it is a way of life. The country's bureaucracy seems to work like any other on the surface, however behind the scenes are powerful military cliques who are always trying to raise enough money and support to form a government. While graft within the military provides a certain amount of money, the most important source of income is the opium trade.

From 1947 to 1948 the struggle for opium graft centered around two military factions. One was headed by Marshall Sarit Thanarat and the other by General Phao Sriyanonada. Both these leaders were made powerful as a result of a coup in 1947 which restored a popular soldier, Marshall Phibun Songhram, as leader. Too politically naive to pull off the coup himself he enlisted the support of Sarit and Phao, and these men quickly became the power behind the scenes. Military power was divided equally between the two factions however they could not decide on a division of the lucrative opium graft.

A bitter struggle broke out with Phao gradually gaining the upper hand. Although the clandestine nature of this "opium war makes detailed analysis difficult, several intriguing theories have been offered. One of these conjectured by the author of **Politics of Heroin in Southeast Asia**, Alfred McCoy suggests the CIA had a hand in Phao's success. Apparently Phao was supplied with arms and sophisticated machinery in return for an anti-Communist stance.

Pnao quickly gained control over the drug trade after this rise to power, and built up strong ties with the Chinese Nationalist Army elements. His army protected the Nationalist's opium caravans and marketed the opium in return for a percentage of the profits. The pact became so cosy that elaborate theatrics became necessary to disguise dealings from Phao's political rivals. He often posed as an anti-opium savior liberating the Thailand populace from the deadly narcotic. He would arrange mock battles with the carvans and triumphantly bring the captured opium to Bangkok.

The opium would then mysteriously disappear, only to resurface in Phao's pocket, in the form of cash.

Ironically, an opium scandal spelled Phao's demise. A particularly large haul of twenty tons of raw opium disappeared after being "captured" from the KMT. Phao bungled the payoff and the Thai press and several politicians including his old enemy Sarit jumped on the opportunity. A major scandal ensued with Phao finally being relieved of all authority.

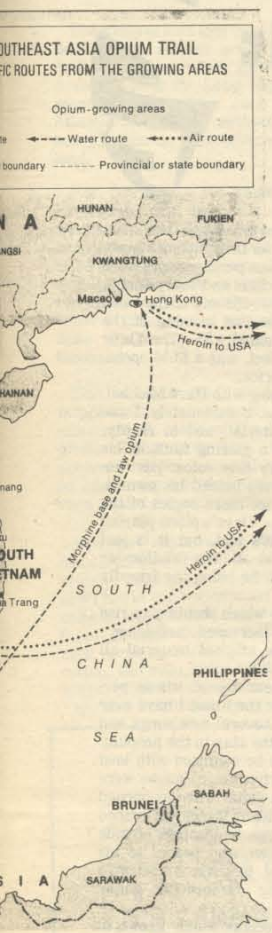
The new government tried to purge all the opium graft however the lure of money and power proved too great. Threatened by a counter coup this government decided the only course of action was to buy off the conspirators The only way this money could be gathered was to reinstitute the drug trade. The army conveniently staged "war games," in the opium producing areas, so that the soldiers could be put to work gathering opium. The money was raised in jig time, and the coup was averted.

In the early 1960's the government severed its ties with the opium smugglers, as some officials were concerned about Thailand world image. However little has actually changed since General Phao's heyday. Today rather than being directly involved, a government officials are content to simply collect large retainers from large Bangkok based syndicates, which manage the traffic.

SOUTH VIET NAM

Since South Viet Nam does not grow any opium her involvement in the narcotics trade is centered on distribution and export to world markets. Since the opium supplies lie across the rugged Annamite mountains, every Vietnamese group that wants to break into the trade must first have connections in Laos, and secondly be assured of a reliable source of air transportation.

hand in hand in Southeast Asia



While almost any ranking official can establish the Laotian connection the problem of securing air transport has limited narcotics smuggling to the most powerful elites. These are the factions most talked about the world press and supported by the United States government.

Premier Ky controls one of these factions using the Air Force as his power base. The civil Bureaucracy which includes the police, port authorities, and customs officials are controlled by Prime Minister Khiem, while the Army answers to President Thieu.

All these factions are involved with the narcotics trade either by directly importing heroin, or collecting graft and turning a blind eye to smuggling syndicates. The leaders of the factions are not directly involved themselves, but have "power brokers" who do all the dirty work.

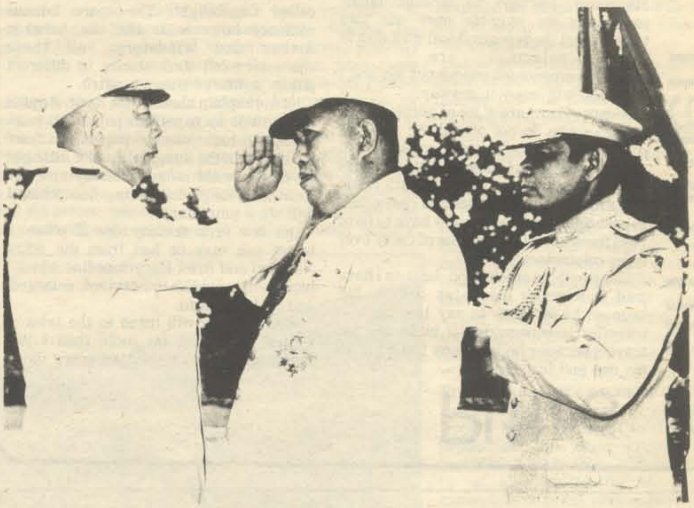
Ky has the most sophisticated apparatus set up. Although he has lost the internal distribution of narcotics to Thieu, his system of couriers continues to import the bulk of heroin into South Viet Nam. Virtually every "top secret" Air Force flight from Laos contains a packet of heroin destined for the black market in Saigon.

Thieu, who inherited the internal distribution monoply from Ky, appears lily white on the surface. However his power broker and chief intelligence advisor General Dang Van Quang has been called the "biggest pusher" in South Vietnam. Quang controls the Vietnamese navy, which protects Chinese Smugglers and occasionally smuggles some itself. The army handles the actual distribution to American soldiers, with a select group of junior officers coordinating this operation.

In addition a bloc of proThieu Parlimentary deputies are suspected of being actively engaged in heroin smuggling using their diplomatic immunity to escape detection.

Kheim's faction does little smuggling, being concerned with collecting a percentage for the heroin his custom's officials let into the country.

It seems paradoxical that these politicians engage in an activity which could spell their downfall. For heroin addiction among American soldiers is certainly one of the reaons the United States is pulling out of Southeast Asia. The answer lies in the millions of dollars gleaned annually from the trade. Money is essential for power in Vietnamese politics with bribery a grim reality. On several occasions the Saigon press has published the "going price" for government members before crucial votes.



General Ouane Rattikine, the kingpin of the Laotian narcotics trade.

LAOS

Laos is somewhat of an oddity in Southeast Asia lacking virtually any criteria for nationhood. For one thing there are only one and a half million Lao living in Laos as compared to eight million living in Thailand. Lacking natural resources and commercial development, the Lao'ian government has chosen to fil its coffers by condoning and even encouraging the opium and heroin trade.

In 1970 the Laotian Minister of Finance Sisouk na Champassak told a BBC reporter, "The only export we can develop here is opium, and we should increase our production of it."

This attitude is fairly representative of the whole government's approach to opium however in deference to the Americans, who supply vast foreign aid to Laos, it is usually better concealed.

Laos is the center for all refining of opium to heroin. Several laboratories, each equipped with its own master chemist imported from Hong Kong, are situated along the Laotian Thailand border. One Chinese entrepreneur, Tim Heng, built one of these labs with U.S. aid. Heng constructed the lab as as a "Pepsi Cola bottling plant" and placed the Prime Minister's son on the board of directors to add an air of legitimacy. Needless to say the plant has not bottled a single Pepsi in five years.

The kingpin of the Laotian narcotics scene is General Quane Rattikine. Quane has monopolized the trade and treats any intruders on his lucrative enterprise harshly. In 1965 he drove the Corsican bush pilots, who up to that time had brought the opium into Laos, out of the country. Quane figured the Royal Laotian Air Force could take over the transportation, his calculations failed take into account the escalation of the war against the communists. Virtually all available aircraft were needed for the war effort, and for a time it seemed the heroin trade would dry up. This was a tense situation as far as the Americans were concerned. For several years the CIA had trained a group of Meo tribesmen to fight against the Communist Pathet Lao and help stranded American aviators. The Meo, who depended on opium as a cash crop, threatened to stop this support unless their crop was delivered to market. Although impossible to prove, all evidence points to the CIA's charter airline, Air America taking up this transportation slack. The CIA have been accused of flying Meo opium as late as 1972.

This summary serves to show what a complex and deep rooted problem the heroin trade really is. Unfortunately no easy solution offers itself. The corruption is too widespread and the potential profits too great for this trade to disappear overnight.

A large mule caravan transporting raw opium to heroin manufacturing labs. These caravans are protected by armed mercenaries, and may consist of up to two hundred mules carrying twenty tons of opium.

an omen Pfftro...

BY JEFF CUFF

this is a column which appears in the Muse more or less weekly during the regular term. in it jonathon pig and myself try to combine literary and visual form with the philosophical observations which Jonathon, a world traveller, has made in his many journeys to strange lands. sometimes we stumble over our own tongues and the typographical mistakes in this column are phenomenomenomenomenol but jon and i hope you will enjoy it anyway.

because there are a lot of people in the universe who do not attend the summer sessions and also because an umbra of people in summer session do not otherwise attend the universe, i will do a quick revue of the major events themes and characters in past columns, as you really have to have read them all as there is a lot of carry over from columntocolumn.

The small pig is jonathon. he is as i have said a traveller. his eyes are so big because he is blind. to say that he is a traveller is euphenizing a bittle lit; jon travels because he has been Exiled from his one and truly home.

this brings us to the theme of the exile. we are all exiles. you are an exile. the world around us is not sane or real. but exiles like jon and yourself and me do have the pleasure of exchanging tales in bars.

Exiles also fall in love. jon is looking for marie, a fellow exile he met in a land called Candlelight. The more famous romance however is the one between Arthur and Windstorm. all these characters tell their stories in different places scattered through plftro.

let me explain about plftro itself. it is the noise made by paperfall. paper fall is an event in which coloured paper falls from the clouds in the imagination of a little girl seven years old (who incidently invented jonathon's magic bubble machine which I will show you later)

this is a very sketchy idea of plftro. a better one may be had from the plftro Nautical and Ariel Encyclopediae which i hope soon to publish in a revised, enlarged, and updated form.

We hope you will listen to the tales of Exiles. There are far more than I just mentioned and more happen every day...

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music

by Mack Furlong

A flurry of musical entertainment fell on St. John's last week with Theatre Canada in town for their annual sewing circle and bonfire meeting. Afternoon performances were arranged with solo artists Dave Michael and Terry Rielly, and the Center Group performing at the end of the week long T.C. affair. And then on the last evening of the festival, we the public were confronted with "The Three penny Opera," which in point of fact, was a $3.50 opera. And dicy entertainment for the price.

But let's start at the very beginning with Dave Michael, who accompanied himself on piano. Unfortunately, Dave relies heavily on Elton John material, and in reality, performed no original material, a glaring fault in his performance, as Dave has a very fine voice. His renditions of other people's works were indeed his own interpretations of the pieces and not mere copies of the originals - a nice touch for a change. Dave's piano playing is a bit suspect also. Not that it's bad, but it is just adequate. There's no flair there at all. His relationship with the audience was quite good, he being the friendly open type anyway.

Altogether, a good performance which should give rise to more public appearances and increased confidence - hopefully enough to bring out the original material all singers harbor somewhere.

Next up is Terry Rielly, a dear friend whose performance that afternoon has to be the finest I have ever seen him give. Terry introduced several new songs and seemed in fine shape after a lengthy stay in the hospital. As usual, his strong voice (not to be confused with loud voice) was the highlight of his performance, but we were given a glimpse of his prowess on guitar when he opened his set with an instrumental number. Terry performed songs that ranged from odes to dogs, to glimpses of wide beach expanses, enigmatic women, and peace, to his superb musical accompaniement to John Masefield's "Sea Fever," again employing resourceful guitar technique.

Hopefully, Terry's songs will become widely known in the coming months and years. A talent like his deserves such notoriety.

As bad luck would have it, I missed the Center Group. Sorry.

But I did catch the Victoria Guild's presentation of Bertolt Brecht's "The Threepenny Opera" with music by Kurt Weil in its characterization. MacHeath should have been much more the scoundrel than he was. Although the part was taken by an obviously experienced actor, he came across more as an engineer or a doctor and not the head of a large crime syndicate. Nattily dressed with a neat, full moustache, he looked to much the part of the people he was supposedly victimizing.

Another bone to be picked was the tempo at which the show was taken. It was an extremely ardous first act, the solos taking unexplainable lengths of time. That along with the poor enunciation of some of the performers, and the obvious ethnic backgrounds, and their accompanying foreign (to Newfoundland audiences, at least) accents, of others, were enough to leave some of us in the dark as to what was going on.

While there were no poor performers, I thought there were only three standouts - J.J. Peachum, his wife, and the street-singer, who in particular handled himself well on stage.

Also worth a word or two of praise were Jenny, the whore, and the musicians - piano, trumpet, bass, and flute - although the instruments did seem to have a moment's trouble once or twice in the second act, with pitch.

The second and third acts were a little livelier, but could still have done with either some speed or some judicious editing.

Some of the spoken lines, to get away from the musical side for an instant, were also fired with machine gun rapidity.

One thing which seemed to endear this company to some of our local reviewers - their sneaking in of the Ode to Nfld. at the end of the performance seemed to me a jive piece of trickery, akin somewhat to CBC's invasion of the applause given to Mike Cook's 'Jacob's Wake' on the first night of the week, only served to "turn me off," if I be allowed the use of the vernacular.

Affluent West ignores Sahelian drought

The strips of land that border the Sahara desert, and stretch across Africa are called the Sahel which means border in Arabic. Life in the Sahel depends on the seasonal rains. From June to October, Atlantic air pushes northward dropping heavy rains on this otherwise parched land.

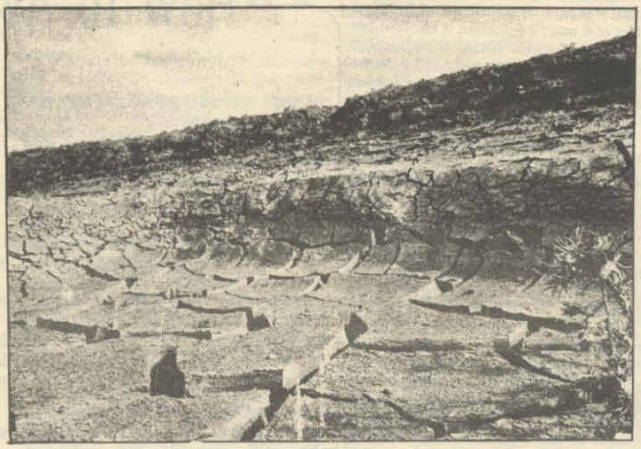
For five years the rains have been inadequate and last year they failed. Pasturage and croplands were singed before the plants matured. Rivers failed to flood the floodplains where the best crops usually grow. Now at the end of this terrible drought virtually every source of water is dried up and animals and people alike are dying of starvation by the thousand.

This drought was predictable long before the dire consequences we see today materialized. Many of the local governments of this area have just recently achieved independence and were too proud to inform the world of their inability to even feed their own people.

However, much of the blame must be placed on the Western world A primary reason for the conditions which now exist in this region is the effect the old colonial empires had on the economies of these nations. During their domination cash crops such as coffee, sugar, cocoa, cotton, and sisal, were established as the major crops for the area.

In this overflow from the hungry nations, the US alone consumes one quarter of all the beef, canned meat and raw fish; imported from sixty different countries.

When the old colonies achieved independence they had neither the capital nor the technology to re-direct their economies to agricultural production for the local people. Even if the money and knowhow were available it is unlikely the situation would change. Much of the prime agricultural land in this region is owned by foreigners, who are more interested in lining their pockets, than feeding the people. The Western countries, who buy the cash crops of the region, have made sure that the farmers of the Sahel receive as little as possible for their crops, by instituting price controls. For example. In 1954 Nigeria produced 89,000 pounds of cocoa, and received 39.25 million pounds sterling in return. Eleven years later the production figure had increased almost 400 per cent to 310,000 tons but the money they received was 40 million pounds sterling, virtually the same as 1954. Little wonder the per capita income in these countries in less than $100 a year.



Government officials try to soothe the public conscience by reminding us of the $3 million tons of grain exported to underdeveloped countries. Yet this hardly makes up for the yearly outflow of 4 million tons of high protein foods from the poor to the rich countries.

Economics seem to be more important in some companies' eyes than the welfare of people. In Upper Volta local grain farmers had stored their grain collectively rather than dumping their crokp on the market during harvest when the price is low. It was largely because of this fact that Upper Volta fared comparitively well in the drought of 1973. Yet despite the obvious good sense of this system, and the rampant starvation in the area, a French textiles firm, backed by the economic might of the world bank, is trying to persuade the Upper Volta farmers to leave farm production and begin growing cotton. Incidently, cotton along with being useless to eat, also depletes the soil, making it impossible to farm after a few years.

It is a sad state of affairs when Canadians can waste millions of dollars on such frivolity as Olympic Games, and Federal elections, when millions of our brothers are starving to death. Try to tell a starving child that democracy and athletic achievement are great things. The situation is simply Nero fiddling while Rome burns.

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Rape — A many sided myth exploded

By JANE GOUNDREY

The Myth

Rape is probably the most frequently committed crime of violence in America today. Some criminologists believe that between 50 per cent and 90 per cent of all rape cases are never reported. In a study of 646 rape cases in Philadelphia The City of Brotherly Love 90 per cent of group rapes, 83 per cent of pair rapes and 58 per cent of single rapes were planned.

Such are the kinds of statistics on rape that are being talked about today. And yet the commonly held ideas about rape date back to Neanderthal man. Some hairy brute (with club) comes upon beautiful young cave-girl, is overcome by animal lust, grabs her by the hair and carries her off to his cave where they both live happily ever after. Unfortunately the real situation is not that humorous.

The first fallacy is that not all (if any) men are primarily motivated by sex. To quote a self-confessed attempted rapist - "I've heard that rape, rather than exclusively an act of intercourse, is a sadistic act. You don't so much want to rape someone just for the orgasm; you want to rape someone to hurt a woman."

The idea that men commit rape because they are 'overcome; by their sexual desires is just part of the myth that our society has built up around rape. (The notion that men can't control themselves when sexually aroused is of course another ridiculous facet of the many-sided myth.)

An yet another commonly held notion is that only 'bad' women get raped, because "no woman gets raped that didn't want to be." Not only does this say something about society's view of female sexuality - "bad" women are women who want sex - but it reveals a dismaying ignorance of female sexual response. The plain truth is that it is biologically impossible for a woman to experience anything but pain under the conditions in which most rapes take place.

The convenience of the rape myth to the male world is obvious, but it is about time people woke up to reality.

The Law

The legal definition of an act of rape, as set out under section 143 of the Canadian Criminal Code, is when a male person has sexual intercourse with a female person without her consent. If the woman's consent is extorted by threats, impersonation of her husband, or by "false and fraudulent representations as to the nature and quality of the act," then this too constitutes rape. Because one of the legal duties of a married woman is to allow her husband reasonable sexual access to her body, Section 143 specifically states that a man may not be charged with raping his wife.

Police Procedure

St. John's police recommend reporting a rape or attempted rape to them as soon as possible after the incident takes place. They will immediately interview the victim to try to establish exactly what happened - where and when, if the woman was actually penetrated, if she gave her consent at any time, if she encouraged the attacker etc.

The police are given no set list of questions to ask, so the nature of the interview depends very much on the policemen involved. The officers will inevitably be male as there are no female police officers in St. John's. A friend or member of the woman's family may be present during the interview if she wishes.

If the police are satisfied that an offense has occurred, they will contact a doctor to examine the woman or she may contact her own doctor if she prefers.

If the police find a suspect and the case comes to court, a woman must be prepared to have her reliability and credibility as a witness attacked by the defense. The latter will normally try to prove that the victim does not conform to the accepted standards of sexual behaviour, i.e. virginity before marriage and fidelity after it, and therefore (the defense will argue) must be dishonest and untrustworthy. Or the defense may try to argue that the man was not really responsible for his actions because the woman encouraged him.

If the woman is in obvious distress when giving testimony, and if she requests it, the magistrate or judge may move the trial into a private room, but she or he is under no obligation to do so.

Perhaps because of the traumatic procedure involved in reporting an incident and giving testimony, and because certain sections of our society still attach shame to the victim rather than to the rapist, the number of rapes which are reported remains low (four in the St. John's are last year'. City police agree that a number of rapes in St. John's are probably never reported.

How to Avoid Rape

Don't go out without clothes - that encourages men.

Don't go out with clothes - any clothes encourages some men.

Don't go out alone at night - that encourages men.

Don't go out alone at any time - any situation encourages some men.

Don't go out with a female friend - some men are encouraged by numbers.

Don't go out with a male friend - some male friends are capable of rape - or you may meet a rapist who will assault your friend before starting on you.

Don't stay at home - intruders and relatives are both potential rapists.

Avoid childhood - some rapists are turned on by the very young.

Avoid old age - some rapists inflict themselves on aged women.

Don't have neighbours - these often rape women.

Don't have a father, grandfather, uncle or brother - these are the relatives who most often rape young women.

Don't marry - rape is legal within marriage.

To be quite sure - Don't exist!

from Women against The Violent Society, advertising their forum held in Sydney Australia in celebration of International Women's Day, March 8th 1974.

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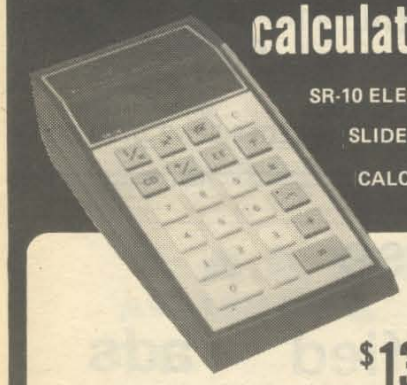

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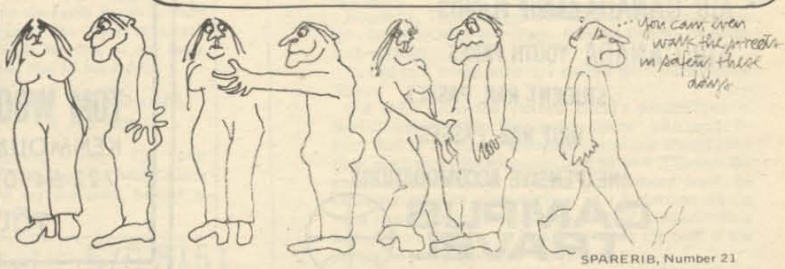

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