THE UBYSSEY

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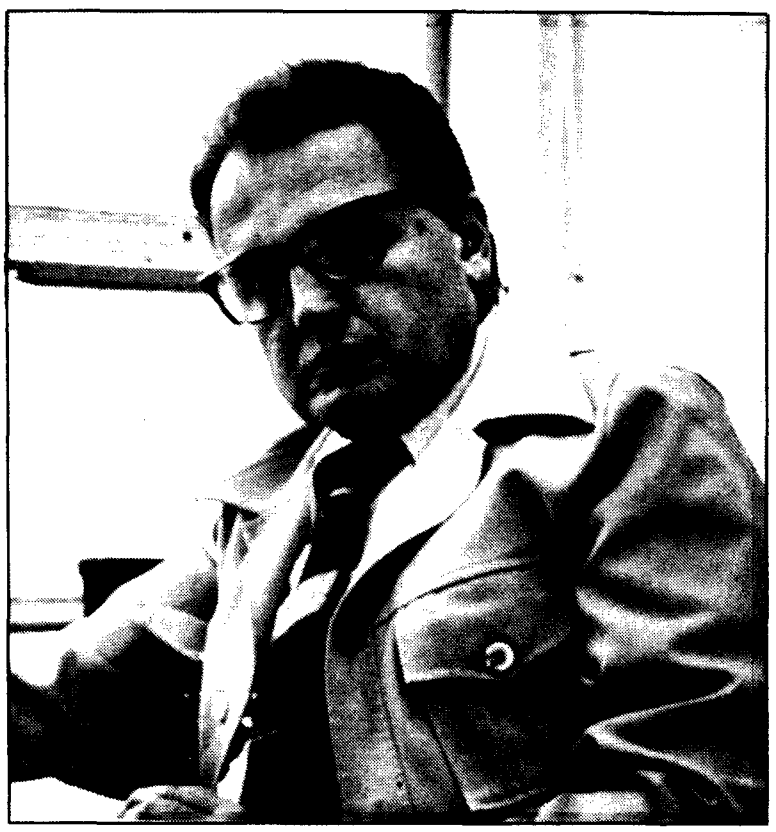
Polish military rule repressing academics

Jerzy Wiatr spews rhetoric on Polish academic life, but experts disagree

By CHRIS WONG



chris wong photo

The controversial Polish professor who was greeted with rare cries of protest on his arrival at UBC can be compared to a character right out of Star Wars.

Like Darth Vader, Jerzy Wiatr possesses a strange ability to grab hold of one's emotions. With a sudden rise in his voice or a stern glance from his eyes, he hammers home his arguments. He seems to possess the black cloak of "the force", which protects him from opposition and serves him in defence.

In his gaudy pastel green suit, Wiatr tries to justify martial law in Poland and is almost able to reduce it to a level which makes it seem reasonable and sound. He achieves this drastic twist in logic through careful wording — arguments over semantics are inevitable when taking to Wiatr.

But with Wiatr's third visit to UBC, his protective shield has not halted a wave of protest against his appointment.

English professor Andrew Busza says Wiatr has adopted a confusing and dual line of defence against the protests.

"The UBC Solidarity Study Group has been attacking him as a member of the Polish government," says Busza.

"When Wiatr defends himself, he assumes the role of the independent scholar and argues that they are trying to prevent from coming here as one. But at the same time he's using the occasion to give the official line. Who is Mr. Wiatr? Is he Mr. Jekyll or Hyde?"

The most significant clue to Wiatr's true identity are facts about his role as director of the Institute of Marxism-Leninsm in Poland. Stan Persky, author of At the Lenin Shipyard and a noted political scientist, says Wiatr is an apologist for the Jaruzelski regime.

"The institute is part of the ruling apparatus in Poland and serves as an ideological front for the party, says Persky. "Wiatr might say they're seeking the truth, but in fact everyone in Poland sees the Marxism of the Polish Communist Party as a complete farce. All the discussion of Marxism is merely an apology for the rule of the party."

Prior to his appointment as head of the institute which occurred soon after martial law was declared in December 1981, Wiatr lived an academic life in Poland. According to Slavonic studies head Boydan Czaykowski, he wrote textbooks which became mandatory readings for compulsory courses in Marxism-Leninsm.

Wiatr's role in the Polish indoctrination process and his refusal to add his name to the long list of academics who openly protest Polish academic repression gave him an unpopular reputation among students and colleagues, say Czaykowski.

Since the imposition of martial law, Wiatr has taken a different stance from that of the communist party hardliners, he says. "The problem with such moderate stances taken publicly by people such as Wiatr is that you cannot be sure to what extent they are a mere facade," says Czaykowski.

"These people, even if unconsciously, are often used to create the best possible impression that the government is pursuing a very different policy."

Czaykowski paints a grim picture of the Polish regime's policy concerning academic freedom. An expert in Eastern European affairs who left Poland many years ago, Czaykowski looks and speaks like a true academic.

He is well aware the freedom he has to speak openly on political matters such as Wiatr's appointment is not present in his native country. "At the moment the atmosphere is such (in Poland) that exercising academic freedom involves a risk of persecution."

The chain of events which shook the Polish academic community after martial law was imposed is described by Czaykowski in dark terms. He has no qualms about making serious charges concerning the regime's policy toward academic freedom. Measures were specifically taken to frighten the academic community after the declaration of martial laws, says Czaykowski.

Every university, polytechnical institute and academy was shut down for several weeks, Czaykowski says. Protests in the form of sit-ins and demonstrations took place immediately, he adds. "Some of these were brutally broken up by riot police at a number of universities."

After the protests put all the participants in serious jeopardy, internments followed, says Czaykowski. Well over 150 academics and a large number of students were interned and some remained in confinement for many months.

But perhaps the biggest blow to students was the banning of independent student's union which had achieved great strides towards increasing student rights in Poland, Czaykowski says.

Persky says the freedoms students fought for included the removal of police from campuses, obtaining control over curriculums, and getting rid of courses in Marxism which were "pure propoganda."

"The worst hacks in the world were the kind of people teaching these courses," says Persky. "It was all bullshit from the point of view of the students. Ever since martial law, it's gone right back to the bullshit."

Czaykowski says students are disappointed and apathetic now because there are no channels through which they can articulate their strong feelings against the government. There is only a boycott against the officially approved student unions which support the government, he says. "They (the students) gained a tremendous freedom in the Solidarity period. They like the taste of it and now they are denied it."

Students received only part of the repression directed toward the academic community. Many university and polytechnical presidents and other officials who were elected in 1980-81 were dismissed or forced to resign, Czaykowski says. The faculty who retained their positions were subjected to a vigorous screening campaign, he says.

Czaykowski interprets the campaign as an attempt to weed out Solidarity supporters and other independently-minded faculty.

"The terms of the review were not only qualifications but also moral and ideological standpoint. It implied that if you did not measure up to those criteria you could lose your job."

The academic community put up a strong resistance against the campaign says Czaykowski. Academics refused to sit on reviewing committees which were composed principally of party members and forced the campaign to peter out, he says.

But according to a recent bulletin from the Vancouver Committee for Solidarity with Solidarnistic, a screening campaign for students is being conducted in Wiatr's own backyard — Warsaw University,

One article in the bulletin says the Polish security service regularly questions soldiers who have enrolled in university about other students.

Admission requirements were altered to allow former soldiers access to universities without passing or even sitting entrance examinations, says Czaykowski.

To top a long list of attacks on academic freedom in Poland, many students and academics have and continue to face trials and prison sentences, Czaykowski says. Their crimes include the distribution of leaflets, and participation in the distribution of bulletins and periodicals.

According to the New York Times (July 9, 1983), the crackdown on accademic dissent continues unabated. The article takes note of several items which appeared in the Polish Communist Party's daily newspaper, Trybuna Ludu. These articles attacked virtually every important Polish writer by name, according to the N.Y. Times report. The paper also mentions two recent, mysterious deaths of academics who were Solidarity supporters.

The government's initiatives towards reform of its academic policies are not as liberal as they appear to be, Czaykowski says. One step the regime took towards alleged reforms was a new act on higher education which was passed in Polish parliament in June of 1982.

Czaykowski calls the act contradictory. It gave the universities a degree of autonomy but also gave the education minister far-ranging powers to exert influence over university affairs, he says. "With the new higher education act the minister has ample basis for intervening in university affairs. Since it was passed the minister has been intervening whenever he's felt like it."

Czaykowski says the appointment of Wiatr by the political science department is insensitive to the state of freedom in Poland.

Hiring the Polish professor "displayed the worst kind of stupidity" on the part of the department, says Persky.

The entire issue brings up the question of the existence of solidarity among academics, says Czaykowski.

"Can we say that freedom is divisible? Is the freedom that we have all fight for us, but when it is denied by another should we close our eyes?"

An hour with Jerzy Wiatr

Visiting professor Jerzy Wiatr would only grant an interview to The Ubyssey on the basis of some clear-cut terms he laid out. His terms included printing the interview in a question and answer format, and showing him a copy of the text before it went to print. Initially he had requested a written statement which would have bound us to these agreements. This term was only brought up in our first discussions with Wiatr. This is an edited version of the interview that took place July 15 in his office with Ubyssey staffer **Chris Wong.**

You have been called by the French journalist Bernard Margueritte as well as by others "one of the principal advisers" of the martial law government in Poland. Since you are also the director of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism, an organ of the central committee of the ruling party, does it surprise you that you are being regarded as a spokesperson for the military rulers? And to what extent are you able to fulfill the role as an independent scholar in these circumstances?

Well it does not astonish me at all that I am regarded as someone closely connected to the government. I don't deny it, I am proud of my role in Polish politics. I am sure that history will form a more or less balanced verdict on what's going on in Poland. I shall have nothing to be ashamed of as far as my contribution is concerned. If I have reservations about using this term close advisor it is not because I want to play down my role in Polish politics, but simply because I don't want to pretend that I am more important than I actually am.

Now as I understand the term close advisor usually refers to someone who more or less on a daily basis functions within the structure of government. If that is what is meant by this term it does not apply to me. I do not function in such close contact with the head of the government albeit it's absolutely true that the kind of research I do in the institute is topical, it's connected with politics, and it's taken into consideration. Now under such circumstances I think I can keep separate my activities as a normal academic.

As an example I was elected, in fact unanimously, president of the International Coordinating Committee of Stein Rokkan Archive which is concerned with local leadership, participation and development.

see page 2: Wiatr

Party hack justifies martial law

By CHRIS WONG

The imposition of martial law saved Poland from a crisis of tragic proportions, a visiting Polish professor said Thursday.

The situation in Poland could have erupted in "an explosion, civil war, or foreign intervention," Jerzy Wiatr told 125 people in Buchanan A106.

But he said Poland has adopted various laws which restrict freedom.

"Freedom, like many other things in life, is a question of degrees," Wiatr said to a chorus of hisses and laughter.

Although censorship exists, the lifting of martial law will mark a return to the 'liberal' censorship laws of 1981, said Wiatr. Censorship is necessary because state interests have to be protected, he added.

Wiatr was chastised by one member of the audience for barely mentioning the role of Solidarity in Poland. Wiatr said Solidarity's leader Lech Walesa played an important and memorable role as the trade union head, but he was unfortunately not able to steer the policies of Solidarity towards compromise.

"I feel frustrated that at the crucial moment when so much was at stake, he did not use his tremendous authority for finding a compromise solution."

There was no organized protest at Wiatr's public lecture but another picket line will take place outside his class when his second course begins Monday.

Fraser Easton, UBC Solidarity Study Group spokesperson, said he does not expect the picket to have a major effect on students taking the course, since the date for dropping courses has already passed.

"We recognize the difficulty for boycotting the class so we'd like to emphasize to students that they can show their Solidarity with those in Poland by not crossing the picket line for the first half hour."

About 600 posters put up by the Solidarity Study Group have been torn down, Easton said.

"We're just wondering whether the apparent supporters of Wiatr are aware of the ironic situation they are in with a complete disregard to our academic freedom," Easton said in reference to the posters.

Wiatr 'proud of' Polish regime

from page 1

My colleagues from all these countries evidently believe that my politics does not impair my ability to function in my normal academic role, even in such a high position.

Would it be accurate to say the role of the Institute of Marxism-Leninism is that of researching, justifying and providing guidelines for the policies of the government?

Well, some of these things you say are correct, some are not. Let me use my own language and I think it will be very clear. The primary objective of the institute is to do policy-oriented research which means doing research on topics that are relevant for decision-making in socio-economic and political affairs with the understanding that such research will be taken under consideration by the central committee of the Polish United Workers Party.

It will have therefore a certain impact on policy making. I would not define the institute's function as justification of any specific policy. When we do our research, we are professionally committed to finding the truth — to present the truth in whatever direction it may point.

According to Amnesty International reports, Solidarity Support Group bulletins, and other publications, many students and academics have been arrested, beaten, tried, given prison sentences, and in a few cases killed under the martial law regime. Why were these actions necessary to crush dissent?

" I do not defend a priori any specific action taken by the government or the police. If and when for instance beating of peaceful protestors occurred, I condemn it and I consider it as illegal. In fact, I think it is the duty of the government to take whatever steps are necessary to prevent such acts from happening. In as far as various forms of political restrictions including arrests or trials for political offenses are concerned, they must be in the context of specific charges and proofs and I would consider it unfortunate if Poland, which did not have political prisoners in recent history, was forced back to the situation when people are in jail for political offenses. On the other hand however, one must realize that violating the law, particularly during emergency, has legal consequences and those who undertake such activity certainly realize that they are in violation of the law.

In interviews and in your public lecture (July 15) you have been asked whether academic repression exists in Poland, In answering this question you have defended the regime by giving examples of academic freedom such as university faculty members you know of who are pro-Solidarity, and books which are politically controversial in Poland which have not resulted in landing their authors in jail. Do these examples suggest there is absolutely no academic repression? And what about Adam Michnek, Jacek Kuron, Jan Josef Lipsk and others like them? Do the few examples you give justify the repression of these imprisoned academics?

Well I never said that there was no political repression in Poland. I am not trying to mislead anybody and everybody knows, no one tries to conceal it, that there is political repression of those actions that are directed to the constitutional order of Poland. Not when you ask me about academic repression or academic freedom, my answer is that academic life is not repressed. However, I do not say that if someone happens to be a university professor, teacher, or assistant, such person has a kind of immunity from political sanctions connected with this person's behavior in politics, not in university.

All those people you mentioned, I don't want to comment specifically on their cases. They are under investigation, they have not been officially charged with anything, and I do not know the exact character of the charges if they finally are charged. But all these people were very deeply involved in political activity. Some of the activities were outside the limits of the law. They were therefore seen as political figures rather than as academics. I think the distinction here is very clear.

Should politics be irrelevant in regular appointments which are not part of academic exchanges in Polish universities?

Yes, I believe that politics as such should be irrelevant. When I was the dean of the social science faculty at Warsaw University, we spoke very strongly to the principle that controversial political opinions of individuals should not constitute reasons for blocking their appointment. There are several cases to illustrate this.

Then why is it that there have been so many political dismissals in Poland from universities?

Well I would like to hear the names because I keep hearing generalities that there are so many dismissals. Now I can give you a very long list of people who were interned after the declaration of martial law and who immediately upon their release returned to their academic

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War criminal 'concerns' Pedersen

By MURIEL DRAAISMA

UBC's administration president says he is "concerned" that a convicted war criminal is teaching at the university.

But George Pedersen said the administration is not in a legal position to fire botany professor Jacob Luitjens, who was convicted in absentia of collaborating with the Nazis during the German occupation of the Netherlands in the Second World War.

The university would encounter "serious obstacles" in a bid to fire the 64 year old Dutch professor, Pedersen said. One of these is a binding agreement between the university and the faculty association on conditions of appointment, he said.

And the other is B.C.'s human rights code, which says a reasonable cause must exist for dismissal. It claims conviction of a criminal charge is not a reasonable cause unless the charge relates directly to the person's employment.

Pedersen suggested that in the eyes of Canadian courts, the Dutch government's conviction of Luitjens in absentia might not constitute a reasonable cause, considering it took place 35 years ago and that Luitjens has been a "satisfactory employee" of UBC for 20 years and is entering his final year of employment before retirement.

"I don't think the university is in a position to take action against Luitjens. But I do have some concerns about the matter," he said.

In 1981 the Dutch government requested Luitjens' extradition from Canada to serve a 20 year sentence on charges of being armed with and using a firearm and of assisting German occupation forces in rounding up Dutch resistance fighters.

But the Canadian government refused the request because his offence is not covered under the extradition treaty between the Netherlands and Canada signed in 1899.

"There isn't a pebble, never mind a tree, behind which university officials can hide behind," Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal centre in Los Angeles, said in a telephone interview.

"This guy was involved in crimes against humanity. A responsible university should say 'Mr. Luitjens, unless you clear up your Nazi past, you can't hide behind us,' " he said.

Luitjens had a fair trial in a democratic country and his culpability is beyond doubt, he added.

"The apparent silence at UBC about Luitjens is shocking. The silence is deafening," said the centre's dean, Rabbi Marvin Hier, adding he was appalled that UBC students had excused Luitjens' past and refused to boycott his classes.

Associate psychiatry professor Robert Krell said he is amazed Luitjens is allowed to teach at UBC and is outraged because only two UBC professors have protested in writing to the Dutch consul-general. "There should have been a flood of letters protesting his presence at UBC. Their failure to take action is outrageous."

Unemployed students lose appeal

By MURIEL DRAAISMA

The provincial government has hammered a few more nails into the coffin of B.C.'s student assistance program.

Students who are unable to save $920 over four months or $57.20 a week will not be eligible for a federal loan. Only if students can demonstrate they were too sick to work or a family emergency arose will they be able to appeal the education ministry's decision, said Dan Worsley, UBC's financial assistant awards director.

"It's pretty stiff. Students' right of appeal in this case has been eliminated," he said.

Last year, students who demonstrated they had searched extensively for a job could get their summer contributions waived. And if they intended to work part time in the fall, financial awards officers would accept part time earnings as their contribution to the program.

But these exemptions, along with the ministry's pre-budget proposal to relax loan guidelines, have died.

A few nails in the coffin are aimed at students who have money tucked away. Students must liquidate their assets before they can receive student assistance. If they don't, the assets' value will be deducted from the total amount for which they are eligible.

And if a student decides not to work for two months during the summer, she or he will only receive half of the maximum provincial grant.

"There's no free lunch. As a taxpayer I applaud that decision," said Dick Melville, education ministry information services director. He said this new guideline was intended for students who can afford to travel, not for unemployed students.

Married students with no dependents will no longer receive more provincial grant money than single students. Previously, they received $2,400 in grant, but will now only get $2,000.

"What is the difference between two married students and two students living together? I don't think the latter incur more expenses," said Worsley.

The nail that will hurt the most hasn't been driven in yet. The provincial government is likely to set maximum grant levels, thus limiting the total amount of non-repayable funds students can receive, said Stephen Leary, Canadian Federation of Students — Pacific region chair.

The government will not make any decisions about grant ceilings until it knows the total number of applicants and the program's cost, said Melville.

But it will probably limit the number of years students can receive grants, Worsley said.

sarah cox photo

STRANGE STOP SIGN proclaims recent peaceful revolution in Canada. Warmongering government was quickly overthrown by peace-loving people when testing of deadly weapon was announced. Unfortunately, photog awoke from dreams to join anti-cruise demonstration this Saturday at 11.

Work study lives again

By SARAH COX

UBC's ailing work study program has been revived by an unexpected transfer of funds.

After the board of governors said at its July 7 meeting it was unable to fund the program, a presidential committee gave work study $75,000 from unallocated funds, said Lisa Hebert, Alma Mater Society external affairs co-ordinator.

And $100,000 has been transferred from bursary funds, she said.

But the reallocated funds are not an adequate replacement for the $450,000 originally requested by the AMS, said Hebert.

"There's not half as much money in the program as we had hoped. The total funds won't be able to address what is really needed by the students," she said.

The work study program was originally expected to create 500 jobs for UBC students who qualify for student assistance beyond the maximum amount available.

The AMS had hoped UBC's contribution would have increased $200,000 from last year, the first year of the program.

The provincial government has pledged $181,000 for this year's program, the same amount as last year, said Hebert.

But work study administrator Sheila Summers said the government might not come through with the money.

"We expect the funding to be at the same level but we have nothing in writing," she said.

Hebert said the loss of $100,000 from the bursary funds will not affect needy students.

"On the surface it looks bad because you're making students work for what they could get for free," she said.

But students can use work study to reduce their debts, said Hebert.

Students still grappling for jobs

By SARAH COX

The number of unemployed B.C. youth dropped slightly in June, but more than one out of every five young British Columbians are still out of work.

A 3.6 per cent decrease in unemployment from May means employment is still up 120 per cent increase from two years ago, according to statistics Canada.

But student representatives are calling the new unemployment statistics "misleading."

The number of young people with decent jobs is far less than statistics indicate, said Stephen Learey, Canadian Federation of Students — Pacific chair.

Even people able to find only temporary or part-time work are included in the statistics, said Learey.

"The figures don't tell the whole story," he said. "You only have to work one week out of a month to be considered employed."

Although part-time and full-time breakdowns for June were still unavailable, Learey said April and May figures indicated a substantial increase in the number of students working part-time.

"Quite a large amount of students still won't be able to pay for their education," he said.

Brian Stevenson, Alma Mater Society president at the University of Victoria, echoed Learey's concerns.

"To have the statistics come up a little in June is not going to help students," he said. "The statistics are much more conservative than reality."

In an unprecedented move, the University of Victoria AMS has set up an emergency food service to help unemployed students, said Stevenson.

"We felt we had to provide a direct service to help the real need of students," he said.

The service is provided with the co-operation of the university food service and funded by the AMS, said Stevenson. Students are eligible for three meals, for which they sign a contract agreeing to pay back $3.50 for each meal, when they can afford it.

"It's not a handout," said Stevenson. "In a sense, it's a loan. We don't want students to feel they're getting charity."

Students are expected to take advantage of the service in November and April when student loans run out, as well as during the summer, said Stevenson.

There are no figures available on the number of students who have used the service in its first three weeks of operation because the contracts signed by the students are kept confidential, Stevenson said.

Christians to ignore fringe protest

By MURIEL DRAAISMA

Christian leaders of all colors will congregate at UBC starting Sunday to explore global problems and religious issues.

Mainly Protestant, Eastern and Oriental orthodox churches will be represented at the sixth assembly of the World Council of Churches, which will host about 930 delegates from 300 churches around the world from July 24 to Aug. 10.

Expected to attend are 750 journalists, representatives from other religious traditions, and a number of noted speakers, including Coretta Scott King, widow of civil rights activist Martin Luther King, peace activist Helen Caldicott and Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Cantebury.

The council will discuss questions of militarism, nuclear disarmament, human rights, global unity and the role of women in the church.

"It's like a congregational picnic," said Tom Dorris, editor of Ecumen-ical News Service, adding the WCC only holds such a conference every seven years.

A small fringe of fundamentalists are planning to protest the assembly. Gordon Hagen, its spokesperson and pastor of the Lighthouse Baptist church in Surrey, said the Anti-Christ himself might be among the 3,500 people attending the conference.

Ulster's Ian Paisley and Bob Jones, a professor whose university in South Carolina lost its tax exempt status because of its alleged discriminatory policies towards blacks, will join the angry group confronting the WCC.

"I think (the opposition) shows how the bible is read by some people. It would be unfortunate if WCC members allow themselves to be diverted by such a tiny distraction," said WCC's communication director John Bluck.

The conference is a unique occasion at which many diverse Christians will get a chance to talk to each other. "The WCC staff has to make sure that conversation takes place. That's enough of a job in itself," Bluck said, adding the council will ignore the protesters.

Much of the controversy is centred on grants which the WCC gives to black guerrilla groups fighting white supremacy in Southern Africa, Bluck said. "We have a special fund to combat racism. Money is given each year to groups ranging from liberation organizations to anti-apartheid groups."

Action taken

It seems that we just may, albeit ever so slowly, be making our way out of the dark ages of the '70s. Unfortunately, as people once again become politically conscious of various issues, the Bennett government is more determined than ever to throw us back to the more apolitical disco days.

But the more the Socreds attack tenants' rights, human rights, education and health care, the more people they will politicize.

The coming collision between government and people was humorously hinted at during the recent Vancouver Folk Music Festival when Nancy White sang "Keep the Bennetts at bay/Keep the Bennetts away" to claps and cheers. It could have served the NDP well as a campaign slogan.

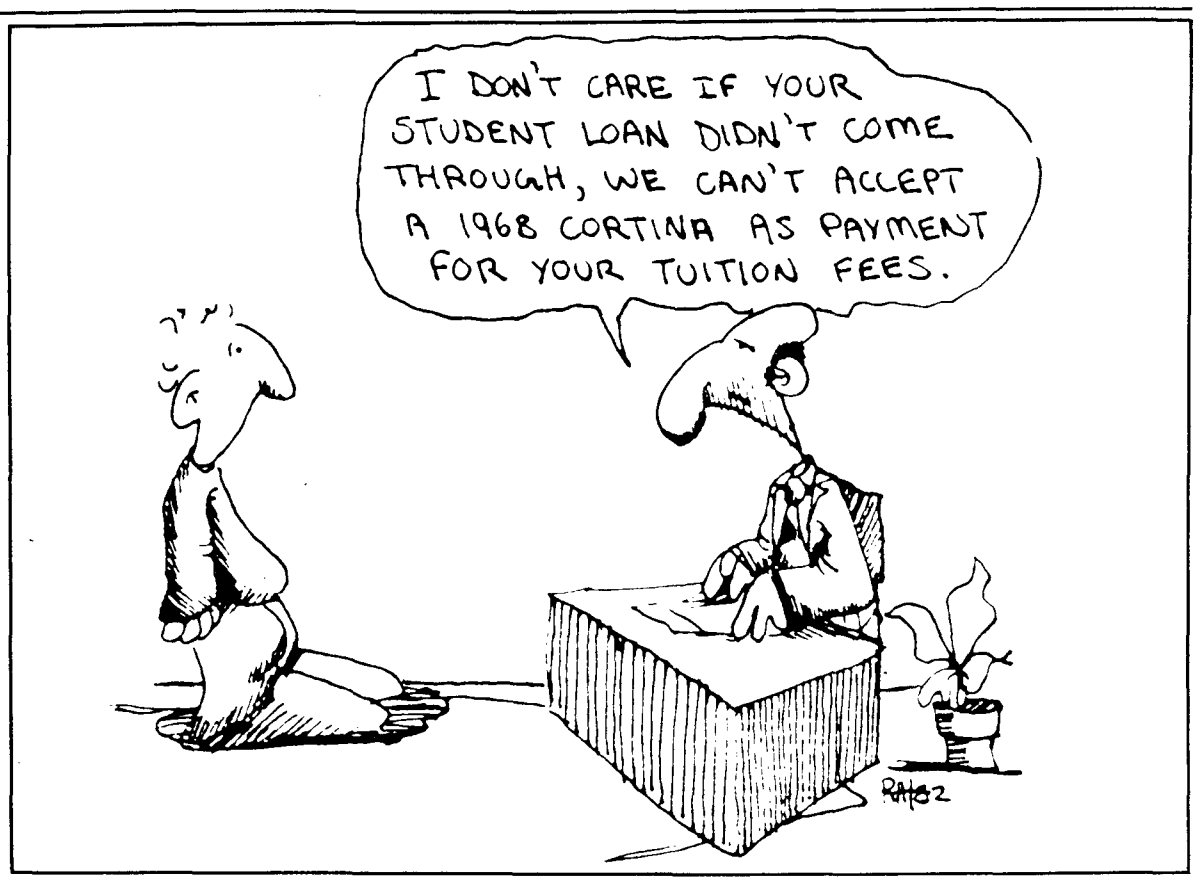
Politically oriented songs received rousing responses from the folk festival audience, and so did a few announcements about upcoming political events such as this Saturday's "duo demos" protesting the Cruise missile and the provincial budget.

When people can listen to music, and then sing Solidarity Forever together, it obviously means more than just appreciation for good music.

As government cutbacks and the depression continue to affect everyone but the very wealthy, people are increasingly recognizing their common interests and their common power.

Political activity in Vancouver has recently been fairly low-profile, but at the folk music festival, people displayed considerable political energy and enthusiasm. If the trend continues Bill Bennett may start looking forward to his weekly respite at home in the Okanagan.

But it may not do him any good. The shouts of Vancouver demonstrators will hopefully soon be heard even from there.



Letters

Editorial misinterpreted by graduate student

It is with surprise and dismay that I find Mr. (Jack) Gibbons, a graduate student of economics, able to compare the government of Canada with that of Poland in his letter last week (July 13, Boycott UBC). It is without surprise, but with the same dismay (alas, long-lived) that I find the Ubyssey editorialist able to compare the government of British Columbia with that of Guatemala. Gibbons should know better; the Ubyssey is just following a tradition of childish rhetoric.

Perhaps the Trudeau government has abused its power while in office. Calling the invocation of special powers granted the government by a duly elected parliament criminal is incorrect, however, and if that government abuses those powers or acts illegally in other ways, it is subject to recall by the electorate. The people of Canada have chosen the Trudeau government to lead them for more than a decade.

The recent legislation of the Bennett government is distasteful to many, and will perhaps be remembered in the next election, and their mandate will be removed.

The present governments of Poland and Guatemala are guilty of acts far more heinous than anything that either Trudeau or Bennett may be accused of. Furthermore, the generals ruling Poland and Guatemala are subject to the pleasures of their respective military bodies, not the will of their populations.

Comparing the elected federal and provincial governments of one of the western democracies with any military regime is an insult to anyone who bothers to take part in the electoral process.

Even elected governments take actions contrary to the principles of freedom and human rights, as the Bennett government so clearly demonstrates. Only open debate and vigilance can preserve our freedoms. Foolish radicalism (such as so often appears in the editorial column of this paper) and the elevation of murderous regimes to the level of Canadian government only undermines the work of those who seek constructive change in our political system. Little wonder those in positions of responsibility so often ignore the views of the student population.

Michael Schlax
geophysics graduate studies

THE UBYSSEY

Wednesday, July 20, 1983

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Once upon a time, in a castle far, far away, there lived a princess named Sarah Cox. Sitting on her red velvet throne, she moaned quietly. "Oh, we must stop the power struggles in the kingdom," she said to her knight in shining armor, Brian Jones. Ever ready to serve, he quickly dispatched the servants Donna Turcott and Brenda Sweeney to dispose of the unwanted elements. Court jester Neil Lucante and his jazz-playing monkey Chris Wong heard the rumblings in the castle and began to get worried.

They stumbled down into the dark hole of a basement where Muriel Draaisma and Kelley Jo Burke were boiling rats' tails and bats' wings in a cauldron. "Hee, hee, don't worry, me lads, after a drop of this the wee Princess won't bother us anymore

'Petty protests tiring'

I feel that I must protest the tactics used by the Solidarity Study Group, and in particular Bill Tieleman, to discredit and embarass professor Jerzy Wiatr, who is here by invitation to teach two particular courses during summer session. The Solidarity Group is rapidly taking on the bad odour of a vigilante group, and Tieleman's voice in yet another quarter is becoming tiresome.

Yes, it takes courage to oppose any oppressive regime, and yes, Wiatr's appointment is controversial, but this is not justification for the public hounding and personal embarrassment the Solidarity Group is inflicting on an individual human being who is reputed to be a good teacher and is therefore an asset to a university where all ideologies can (theoretically) come to light and be examined and discussed in an atmosphere of academic freedom.

Seven detractions, however qualified, are quite a number on a "fact" sheet, Tieleman. It is my feeling that you owe an apology to Wiatr for your oppressive and degrading actions.

Protest the regime, and I'll support you, but rise above this pettiness, which is losing sympathy for you and your group, if not for the cause.

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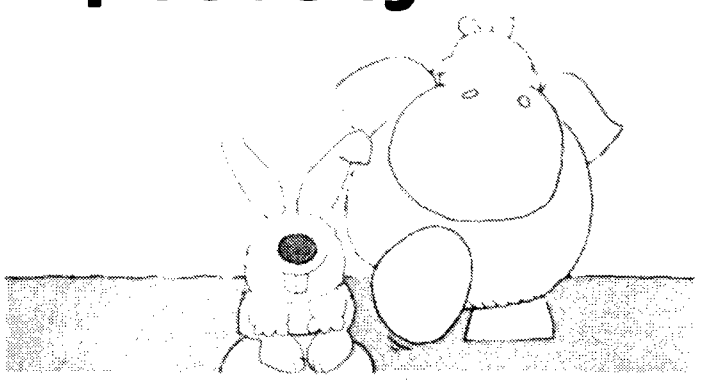

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from page 2

life the next day with the same teaching position, the same teaching obligations and with no consequences for their academic career. For instance, we have several people in my own department at the university, and these are people who are very active either in the Solidarity movement or in various political groups or associations in opposition to the government. There was no one in my faculty dismissed for political reasons. So unless I hear specific names, specific cases, I cannot comment on generalities.

(At this point I handed him a list of names. He pointed out an error on my part that the list was of elected rectors who had been dismissed, not of dismissals from appointed positions.)

Now let me say something. Many Western universities have as heads of the universities presidents who are not elected by the university itself but usually only by the board of trustees. Now our universities have since 1982 had the system under which rectors are elected by the university but must be approved by the government. Then once serving in office, they can be dismissed either by the government or by a vote of non-confidence passed by the senate of the university.

Under this law, the government in several cases dismissed rectors whose politics the government believed incompatible with the interests of the state. But these people remained university professors and I would say if the politics of the president of an American or Canadian university became too controversial from the point of view of the board of trustees, such a president would also be dismissed.

Given all that, why were the majority of elected university and polytechnical officials forced to resign or be dismissed after the imposition of martial law?

No, it's not true that the majority were forced to resign. Of the 70 institutions of higher learning on the university level, I am not certain about the figures but as far as I remember about one-third of the rectors either resigned or were dismissed. Over 20 rectors and a certain number of deputy-associate rectors, but that certainly wasn't a majority.

Why were those one-third forced to resign or be dismissed?

I think it's general knowledge that there is a considerable controversy over the policies of the government particularly since the declaration of martial law. Some university rectors found it impossible for them to function within the context of martial law in Poland in the way the government considered acceptable.

What was the rationale behind the banning of the independent student union and when will it be reinstated?

The reason for banning the independent student union was the union got involved openly and explicitly in political activities which are incompatible with the constitution. They attacked the foundation of the constitution and refused to change their line. In fact activists of the independent student union formed illegal structures of the union, and that was the reason of the government decision to ban it.

So far as the independent student union is concerned, it's role is finished. That does not mean new student associations may not emerge. In fact one such association was already formed last year and there is no provision in the law that prevents students from forming other associations. They all need recognition and legalization by the university authorities if they function within one university and government legislation if they function nationally.

Is not the reluctance of students to join the new approved student union a sign that students want their own independent organization?

Well it is probably a sign of various things. Now one has to remember that when the independent student union acted, it's membership constituted a small minority of the student body. It was not an association of the majority of the students, albeit it was very active on several occasions. It was able to generate much wider support than it's membership itself. But even at the peak of the popularity and activeness of the student union, it did not recruit the majority of the students.

I don't want to mislead you, I may be incorrect about the exact number but I would say the membership was around ten per cent, certainly not anything close to half the student body. Now that to my way of thinking explains why the majority of students do not now join unions albeit I would certainly agree that those who were members of the independent student union would not join now for political reasons. There are three such organizations working now amongst university students which all support the government.

When martial law was declared, a verification campaign aimed at the teaching staffs of many institution was set into motion. What was the aim of the campign — to ensure that faculty lived up to certain ideological criteria and to weed out Solidarity supporters?

Well certainly not. Considering the number of Solidarity supporters in Polish universities, such action if successful would have crippled the university staff, decimated it. Now that didn't happen and I think even talking about verification campaigns is incorrect. As I remember, what the universities were doing and what was given this image through the one-sided reports was a review of junior faculty not of senior faculty from the point of view of academic performance. This review was not aimed at firing people for their political positions. In fact this review was done by faculty themselves, not by any outside body.

It's for me even strange that a review conducted by such a body can be interpreted as a political verification aimed at firing people for their political opinions. People were not fired for their political views as a result of the review. And I would not call it a campaign. It was a normal standard procedure that was carried out in the past regularly. It gave the universities the possibility to know better what is the performance of the junior staff.

You said in your public lecture censorship was necessary to protect "state interests." What interests are these and what does the government have to hide?

Well it's not a question of what the government has to hide, if you use this terminology. There are state secrets concerned with vital security interests of the state. That I think is not unique in Poland. Censorship is not exclusively this. Also through censorship the government intends to exclude from public life the expressions of total rejection of the system and in this sense make the media compatible with the general guidelines of government policy.

I realize fully speaking in a country that officially does not have censorship, any defense of this institution must be unpopular. But don't be naive, don't think that mass media in the western countries are not controlled by those in power. And if you have any doubt, look how selective is the news coverage for instance in television. I am not saying this is an ideal state of affairs, don't misunderstand me about this. I would certainly prefer to have no need for censorship, but it should be accepted within limits established by law.

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Chinese art achieves unity

By PAT MACLEOD

Crouching quickly with legs apart and arms held steadily over the table, the artist began to stroke black ink on white rice paper with busy, agilie movements.

"Now you can look at a piece of calligraphy without fear," said Yim Tse, artist and organizer of a Chinese calligraphy demonstration, July 16, at the Asian Centre.

The statement captured the spirit of the nine-day show "Rhythm of the Brush: An Exhibition of Chinese Calligraphy" which the demonstration concluded.

A cultral event for Vancouver in one of the most scholarly Chinese arts, the show appealed to both the Chinese and non-Chinese. Eighty people watched the five participants reveal their different personalities through a series of brush strokes — light or heavy, wet or dry.

"When I use a chicken fur brush, I use a technique like gong fu — very strong," said Eddy Ching, explaining the basics of brush, ink and the use of red seals to balance a composition. His careful, deliberate strokes were an illuminating contrast to the busy approach of Tse and the 44 pieces on the surrounding walls produced by nine Vancouver artists in six different styles.

Taken mostly from classical texts for ease of translation, the range of works from the fluid running style to the more symmetrical seal script contributed to the uniqueness of the event. Traditionally a scholarly pursuit, even many Chinese cannot read the archaic seal and oracle bone scripts, and children who begin learning the art when they are five are not masters until they are 50.

"In ancient times, scholars could afford to get up at five o'clock in the morning to grind the ink and meditate. What I do at 7 o'clock — I feed the baby," said Tse explaining why he buys ink instead of grinding his own. But the expressiveness of the works on display show that the practice of quieting the mind to achieve unity of mind, body, arm, and brush is still a priority.

One of several recent successful shows at the Asian Centre, Rhythm of the Brush was a year in the works, said Tse. It was produced with minimal funds, he added.

The show was one of several recent successes at the Asian Centre. The photography exhibition, "Portraits of Yang Family Village" has been acquired by National Museums of Canada for national and international tours. Tse hopes to produce an exhibition of equal calibre that includes both Chinese and Japanese artists two years from now.

The five demonstrators were Chan Kin; Chen Tieh-fan; Ching E.; Lau Wai-yin; and Tse Yim. The other four artists were Chan F.; Chang Ching-ku; Leung Shek-feng; and Tong Wing-po.

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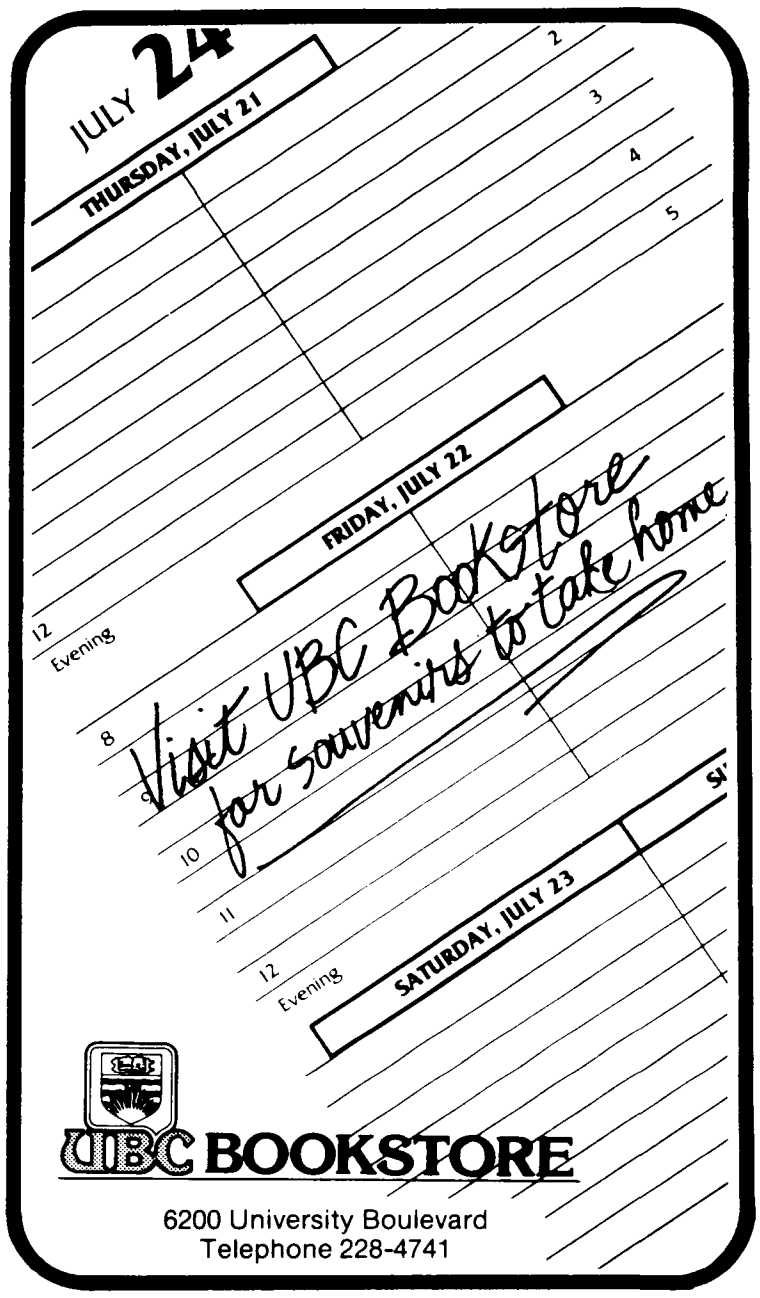

Vista

Music

Dick Smith/Pat Caird: playing the music of John Coltrane, July 22-23, Classical Joint, 231 Carrall.
Coastal Connection: a hot jazz quartet, July 24, Classical Joint.
Questionnaires: rhythm and blues, July 20-23, Town Pump, 66 Water.
Sheila Davis: blues night, July 22, Hot Jazz, 36 East Broadway.
Jon Doe Band/Beelzebub and the Fallen Angels, Lucifer would be proud, July 21, Soft Rock Cafe, 1925 W. 4th.
Leo Kottke: the famed guitarist makes a rare visit, July 22-23, Soft Rock.
Kin Lalat: a five-member Guatemalan band presently living in exile in Nicaragua, Sat. July 23 8:00 p.m. Brittania Auditorium, 1661 Napier.

Movies

Pacific Cinemetheque (800 Robson, 732-6119) July 22: **Alicia,** 7:30 p.m.; **Anna Karenina,** 9:30 p.m. July 23; **Contemporary Dance,** 7:30 p.m.; **American Ballet Theatre: A Close-up In Time,** 9:30 p.m.
Ridge Theatre (16th and Arbutus, 738-6311) **Starstruck,** 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Next show, Lianna.
Savoy Cinema (Main and Kingsway, 872-2124) July 22-24: **The Harder They Come,** 7:30 and 11:15 p.m.; **Bongo Man,** 9:20 p.m. July 25-26: **Reggae Sunsplash,** 7:30 p.m.; **Rockers,** 9:30 p.m.

Etc

Human Rights: opening with an exhibit entitled The Martyrdom of Romero starting a list of political and progressive events running until July 30. Call 681-6740 for more information.
The Copper That Came From Heaven — Dance Dreams of the Kwakwaka'wakw: the regalia and parnephalia used in native dance dramas on display, July 22-April, Museum of Anthropology, 228-5087.
The Memorandum: ground-breaking Czechoslovakian play directed by John Cooper, Frederic Wood Theatre, 8 p.m., 228-2678.
The Norman Conquests — Living Together: the second part of Alan Ayckbourn's "marvellously hilarious trilogy," as described by famed critic Rex Wiesenthal, Waterfront Theatre, Granville Island, Mon.-Fri. 8:30 p.m.; Sat. 6:30 and 9:30 p.m.; Mon. 2 for 1., 685-6217
Luv: another hilarious comedy, Firehall Theatre, 280 E. Cordova, Tues.-Sat. 8:30 p.m.; Sat. 6 p.m. 2 for 1 and 9 p.m., 689-0926.
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SUMMER SCENE

VOL. 12, No. 3 JULY 20-26

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The Summer Session Association is the student organization of Summer Session; if you have any problems, concerns or suggestions, please drop by our office — main floor of SUB, opposite the candy counter. We are there Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Phone 228-4846

SUMMER SOUNDS

Free, noon-hour outdoor concerts. Bring your lunch and a friend.

Wednesday, July 20	Under-a-Rest — SUB
Thursday, July 21	Phoenix Jazzers — Music Building
Friday, July 22	Tuba Quartet — SUB
Monday, July 25	Pacific Brass Guild — Clock Tower
Tuesday, July 26	Hollyburn Ramblers — Music Building

(In the event of rain, concerts will be held in the conversation-pit area, main floor of SUB.)

SUMMER SCREEN

Free films presented at 7:30 p.m. in IRC Lecture Hall #2.

Wednesday, July 20
PORKY'S: (Restricted) A raunchy comedy about high school boys in 1954.

Friday, July 22
QUEST FOR FIRE: (Mature) A unique interpretation of the beginnings of mankind, and the struggles for possession of fire.

MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S EVENING

Thursday, July 21
Music for Trumpet and Organ; music by Torelli, Albinoni, Haydn and Hindemith.

Tuesday, July 26
An all-Brahms concert; music for Soprano, Violin, Cello and Piano.

These concerts are held in the Music Building Recital Hall, and are free to the public. All concerts are co-sponsored by the S.S.A., Musicians Union Trust Funds, Extra-Sessional Office, and the Department of Music.

BLOOD DONOR CLINIC

Wednesday, July 20 and **Thursday, July 21** the annual Summer Session Blood Donor Clinic will be held in the Lounge Area, Scarfe Building. Give the gift of life — generously! Your support is ***urgently needed***.

Summer Session Association information is a service provided cooperatively by the S.S.A. and The Summer Ubyssey.

Festival fills Jericho with sound

By BRIAN JONES

Fifteen or so years ago music festivals attracted young people who leaned toward radical politics, good music and drugs. Who could ever forget Woodstock, even if you were only 10 or 11 years old at the time?

Enjoyable music and festivals are still popular, as proven by the success of this year's sixth annual Vancouver Folk Music Festival, and so too are drugs.

But as a famed sixties crooner once sang, the times a' went and changed. Politics disappeared out of most music about the time Watergate was making headlines and while ex-student radicals bought suits and moved to the suburbs, people like Paul McCartney made millions singing adolescent ditties.

Now, current political events are forcing politics back into music. For anyone who thought James Taylor epitomized the politico-folkie, this year's festival was an encouragement. One of the major themes this year was Latin American music, and festival organizers lined up an impressive variety of performers.

Kin Lalat is a group of five Guatemalan musicians currently living in exile in Nicaragua. Unknown to each other in Guatemala, they met and formed their band in Nicaragua. For a year and a half they have been performing traditional Guatemalan folk music, as well as their own original compositions.

Their songs convey the Guatemalan people's hardships and strengths, and although an interpreter only gave a short translation of lyrics before each song, their music succeed in communicating their culture to the audience.

—brian jones photo

KIN LALAT... quitarist sings of exile

Tito Medina says the band members fled Guatemala when the political climate became worse in 1981 and it was impossible for many musicians to perform in public. "It got to the point where the police were coming to close down performances," he says.

Singing traditional folklore is considered by Guatemalan authorities to be sinful and criminal, says Medina. "There were times when we had to arrive by surprise and just start singing."

Kin Lalat are members of the Association of Cultural Workers of Guatemala, which is made up of progressive Guatemalan artists, most of whom reside outside their native country.

"We consider our art to be a committed art, committed toward revolutionary success in Guatemala," says Medina. "Our role as a group is to give out information about the real situation in Guatemala."

This year's festival marked the first time Kin Lalat has performed in North America, but they will soon perform in the U.S., Medina says.

These performances are important to Kin Lalat, he says. "It is really important to feel the solidarity and support from the Canadian people. When people understand what is going on in Guatemala they will participate in helping us in what we see as our just struggle."

Kin Lalat was one of the festival's highlights. They brought the sorrow and triumph of a culture that has endured foreign oppression for more than 400 years. They brought meaning to solidarity, at a time when demonstrations and other activities in Canada seem to have little effect on Central American events.

But Tito Medina recognizes and appreciates the moral and spiritual support.

"Although we have different languages and cultures, we are all brothers because of our things in common."

Storyteller tales tickle legs and rugs

By MURIEL DRAAISMA

Liz Ollis can tell a yarn that will pull your leg and whip the rug out from under you.

She's a storyteller, and from the moment she lets out her deep Southern drawl she grabs the audience's attention.

The friendly mountain woman begins to tell a story about a hoe handle "expanding and contracting." As she speaks, her voice and fingers weave the old farm story into a mixture of sound and movement.

Gayle Ross, the other half of the Twelve Moons Storytellers, joins Ollis' tale about Briar Rabbit, Sandy the raccoon and their froggy friends. Guttural noises and frog-like burping sounds emanate from their throats, creating melodic tunes which tickle the audience.

Ollis flavors her stories with a home grown style and spicy tidbits about her family in the Kentucky and Tennessee mountains. She draws out her vowels like a true Southerner and delivers jokes with deadpan humor.

"What's the most fun is people don't see the rug until you pull it out from under them. And a trick indigenous to the mountains is trying to pull your leg so you walk uneven the rest of the day," she says after a performance at the weekend long Folk Music Festival at Jericho beach.

Her storytelling partner, Ross, employs her own distinct style and tradition. A descendant of John Ross, the great leader of the Cherokee nation, she conveys American Indian values in mythical tales about nature.

Like Ollis, Ross tells both humorous and serious stories. But although she is quick to smile, she remembers the white man's damage to her Indian heritage.

"My grandmother, who is the reason I became a storyteller, made sure I had a strong awareness of what it means to be an Indian," she says.

In the Twelve Moons Storyteller's second performance Sunday, Ross told an Indian story about the origin of fireflies through the love between a earth man and the moon woman. She says a Saskatchewan Cree storyteller gave her the story as a gift.

"I was only able to tell the firefly story because Liz had drawn the audience into a firm circle and created the atmosphere for which I could tell something serious," she says, referring to Ollis' comical tale about ol' Jack and his donkey.

The two speak to the audience as if they are holding a conversation between friends. Casual and relaxed, they are highly entertaining and draw an emotive response from the crowd.

The duo admits that selecting stories for a performance take a tremendous amount of time. But they don't have any problems finding stories because they're "anywhere and everywhere."

"We find stories in books, from personal experiences, from people at gas stations and at Seven-Elevens," Ross says.

The stories performed at the festival were only a small sampling of their repertoire, Ollis says. Along with Ross' mythical Indian tales, they mostly perform tales about animals and childhood experiences.

They decided to form a storytelling pair five years ago on the ride home from a national storytelling festival.

"We said to each other: 'I will, if you will.' So we joined hands," Ollis says.

Ollis thinks storytelling is as natural to humans as breathing. Stories help people see themselves in perspective and keep their imaginations fertile, she says.

"Storytelling is powerful. Stories speak to us on both conscious and unconscious levels; they enter our dream space."

She sees storytelling as an important folk art and as a means of developing compassion for fellow human beings. "It's an ancient tradition that has been applied to modern society. And people who think it's endangered haven't been in bars lately."

British feminist singer enthralls crowd

By SARAH COX

Amid the sound of clapping and music from other stages, Frankie Armstrong's voice captures her audience and draws them into the dramatic power of her music.

Singing mainly solo, Armstrong's wistful but strong lyrics speak of issues wreaching deep inside her listeners.

Armstrong has a magical insight which can bring a crowd to its feet.

She sings of women's experiences, of their oppression and strengths. She grips the audience with the fear of a nuclear holocaust, and at the same time, gives them hope to continue their resistance to armageddon.

"I want to move people, to inspire them," says Armstrong offstage in her clear British accent.

She smiles at the people who throng nearby after a workshop, taking the time to talk to her audience.

"For me, singing is one of the most powerful ways of lifting ourselves above the deadening effects of the kind of industrial, urban society we live in," says Armstrong, who has been performing for 26 years.

Her hazel eyes light up as she talks animatedly about her music and her involvement in the anti-vietnam war and the anti-apartheid movements. Most of her audience are unaware that this lively woman is blind.

But Armstrong has a unique and magical insight which can bring a crowd to its feet in emotional appreciation.

In a workshop on women and unions, Armstrong and her friends, songwriter Leon Russeldon and singer Roy Bailey, bring cheers and sympathetic laughter from their listeners as they sing about sexism in unions and the workplace. The song, 'Get it Together in the Union', addresses women's participation in unions, and conveys men's reluctance to take women's work in the home into consideration when scheduling union meetings.

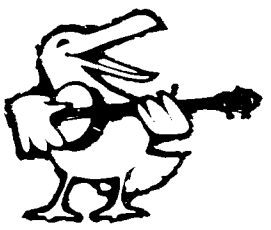
"I have always sung about women," says Armstrong. "In 1966, I helped record an all women's record. It didn't rock any boats, but we weren't challenging a whole order of things in the way the women's movement has grown."

Armstrong's repertoire includes traditional, heart-rending songs from Britain and Ireland as well as songs about contemporary issues.

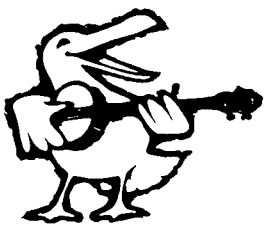
"They aren't the kind of songs people looking for number one hits want," she says with a laugh.

Commercial songs are dismissed by Armstrong as shallow and unemotional. She prefers to communicate her songs to an audience she feels she can reach with the depth and feeling of her voice.

"There's something quite extraordinary about singing alone," she says. "You can hear the audience breathing with you. There's something about the involvement in what's being sung about."



In a workshop on women around the world, Armstrong holds her listeners spellbound as she performs a song British women sing at peace demonstrations. "It's a song for men



to sing along with and hopefully be inspired by," she says.

The song asks the question: "Shall there be womanly times or shall we all die?"

Armstrong sings of "missiles asleep in concrete tombs", and of the imperative reconciliation of science and nature, before she concludes that "there will be womanly times and we will not die.

"Our prime minister (Margaret Thatcher) seems to have lost touch with her womanly times," Armstrong says after the applause has died away.

"It's something that's not just attached to your genitals," she adds as the audience cheers.

Chileans protest against 'fascist' regime

By SARAH COX

Benjamin Cares Yanez bears no outward signs of his long exile since a 1973 military coup overthrew Chile's thriving democracy.

But when he speaks passionately of his struggling native country, his listeners know he is still involved in the escalating demonstrations slowly weakening the repressive military regime.

As a union leader under the socialist government of Salvador Allende, Yanez was thrown in jail without trial when Augusto Pinochet led the unexpected and bloody coup.

Yanez's internment drew international protest, and he was finally exiled to Paris on the request of president Francois Mitterand.

For his fellow Chileans, life has not been as fortunate.

"During the last ten years, Chilean people have learned what fascism is," Yanez said Thursday at a press conference sponsored by the International Development Educational Resource Association.

"More than 40,000 people were killed, thousands were arrested and tortured, and thousands more disappeared in the aftermath of the coup," said Yanez.

Little has changed over the years, he said. "The repressive measures used by the dictatorship to control the people have not let up at all. They just continue and continue."

Unemployment has now struck one a half million Chileans, compared to an unemployment rate of three per cent before 1973. Foreign companies continue to drain Chile's vital copper resources, which were denationalized after the coup, Yanez said.

Coupled with increasing poverty, these unbearable conditions prompted the Chilean people to take to the streets in massive demonstrations this year, said Yanez. In recent demonstrations, two 19 year old women were shot, many people wounded, and 500 detained, he said.

"All these measures are incapable of stopping the struggle of our people. They are not afraid anymore."

The corruption of the Pinochet dictatorship is becoming so apparent that even supporters of military dictatorships recognize the need for a change in leadership, Yanez said. Some former Pinochet supporters, such as the national conservative party, have even joined the growing opposition to the regime, he said.

But he speaks strongly against the re-shuffling of the military government quietly supported by the U.S. "The same forces that are in a position to replace the Chilean dictatorship contain conditions to become the massacres of the Chilean people in the future," he warned.

Yanez is critical and bitter toward American military and economic aid to Pinochet, and of the U.S. involvement in the overthrow of Allende.

"The U.S. has been the biggest supporter that the junta has," he said.

American involvement makes armed struggle between the people of Chile and the regime inevitable, said Yanez. "This is the only alternative that the Latin American countries have to seek their social, economic and political independence."

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