

# Humane Politics

By Larry Loveless  
 How can we, who are somewhat well fed, realize the pangs of hunger? Similarly, it is impossible for us to empathize with the suffering of those who have been tortured. Yet we are somehow discomfited to know that 2/3 of the world is starving while 1/3 has a weight problem.

In our apathy the situation becomes worse. Little do we know, or if we did we choose to forget, that our government often supports injustice by being notably silent or by openly aiding ruthless regimes. Canada did not protest American involvement in the Viet Nam war; nor did Canada recognize the revolutionary government of Nicaragua- which everthrew the brutal regime of Samosa in 1979- until one day after the U.S. recognized the new Nicarogan government; and now, with a mote of consistency, our External Affairs Minister, Mark McGuigan, said last week that he "would certainly not condemn any decision the United States takes to send offensive arms there." (El Salvador)

The human rights committee of El Salvador reports that 13,194 civilians had been murdered in 1980. The Legal Aid Office of the Archdiocese of San Salvador has asserted that 80-85% of the violence is due to military and paramilitary (death Squad) repression. The inhuman raping and slaughter of 3 American nuns and a lay missionary, the burning and pillaging of villages, the assassination of Archbishop Romero, the bombing of the Jesuit University, the massacre of 600 people on the river border between El Salvador and Honduras, the torture and murder of Union leaders, teachers (one teacher's head was placed on a pole in front of his school), peasants, workers, journalists, human rights activists, the decapitated and sexually mutilated bodies of innocent victims who are used as examples to frighten people into silence and submission- all these atrocities reveal the way in which the junta and the military have handled the vast inequality of wealth and power in El Salvador.

The constant violence of the military and paramilitary forces goes completely unhindered by

the junta. Not one member of the military or paramilitary "death squads" has been arrested despite the fact that that numerous sources such as the Catholic Legal Aid Office, Amnesty International, and various human rights groups have documented that the military and paramilitary forces are culpable for most of the violence.

Despite protests from two-thirds of the United Nations from multiple Church organizations, and

from the silent cries of the thousands who have been brutalized, the United States continues to pump military aid and advisors into the Salvadorean Regime.

Isn't it time that Canada started to speak out in support of human rights? If that means going against U.S. Foreign policy, which it often does, then so be it. As Canadians we can express our concerns by writing to our External Affairs Minister Mark McGuigan and local MP.

## FEEDBAG

### The Spirit Moved Us

Dear Editor,  
 Read this one through, and then think about it. It is a well known fact that UPEI's "Spirit" has been fading but I think it has about disappeared after I witnessed the turnout for the Super Bowl Pub. Even taking into account the fact that it wasn't well advertised, I find it deplorable that you couldn't at least half fill the Barn to watch the biggest sporting event of the year. I'm sure if this event was held at the "Acadia Sub" there would be a good turnout of people, to sit down and have a few beers, with friends, or even make new friends. I guess that's a think of the past.

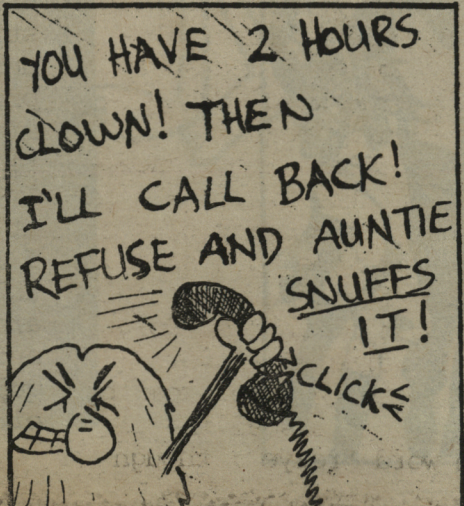
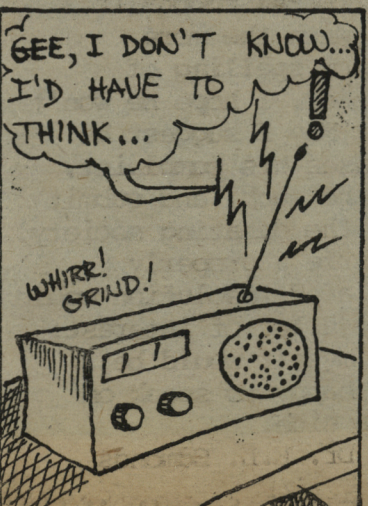
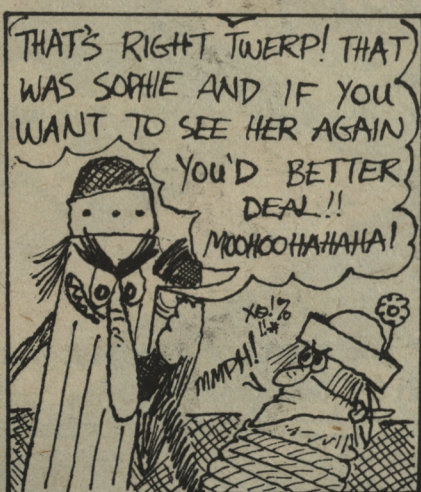
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the people who held this event. It was a gallant effort to pull together a university that seems to be falling apart.

But it seems to remain the same, doesn't it? Some people work hard to set up events that will make your university days, ones that are fondly remembered, while others are just too lazy to bother to show up.

If Super Bowl XV is any indication of our participation in social events, it should have been a good carnival for about ten of you anyway. Think about it!!!

Jack Murphy

## Dexter T. Gnome



to be continued next week