

Valentine Calls Guyana Land of Contrasts

"In many ways my summer trip to Guyana was a metaphysical journey within myself," according to Robert Valentine, Asst. Dean for Student Academic Affairs and Assistant Professor of Spanish. Isolated from the rest of South America, geographically and culturally, Guyana's population is comprised of English-speaking East Indians who were brought to South America as indentured servants by the British after the abolition of slavery in 1838 and black descendants of the slaves who cut lumber and sugar cane. Since independence was granted to this former British colony, most whites have left, as have most foreign investors. Foreign companies, mostly sugar and bauxite, are gradually being nationalized by the pro-Cuban, pro-Third World, socialist, black party of Prime Minister Forbes Burnham, whose party came to power in a coalition with Portuguese businessmen who have since left Guyana. Although blacks are outnumbered by the East Indians, they have managed to win all of the elections since they came to power, thanks largely to their control of the ballot boxes. Racial tension between blacks and East Indians is critical and could explode into violence at any time, as it did in 1964. If this happens, the British army will not be present separate the two groups, according to Valentine, as they did in the past.

Dean Valentine returned from Guyana with a collection of literature, school books, photos and posters currently on display in front of the Registrar's office in the Liberal Arts Building. He encountered some trouble shopping in bookstores, as all

stores in the capital city of Georgetown close at 4 p.m. because of frequent muggings. Valentine was warned not to walk around town alone in daylight and his hosts gasped in horror when he expressed a desire to jog around the park at night.

The most illuminating aspect of the trip, according to Valentine, was being a member of a small racial minority. The other U.S. members of the entourage sponsored by the Piedmont University Center of North Carolina were black, with the exception of one woman who was thought to be black by her Guyanese hosts prior to her arrival. While Valentine's black traveling companions were lodged in private homes and schools, he was isolated in a hotel in the middle of town. "I thought I was getting special treatment until I discovered that hosting a white in one's home in Guyana was not the fashionable thing to do," Valentine says. "The experience of reverse prejudice was intense and unforgettable. Although the majority of my hosts were extremely gracious and kind, I found myself developing an unjustified case of mild paranoia. Generally speaking, I can only conclude that being a member of a racial minority can be a very threatening experience, whether the threats are real or not. I am still trying to discover why I felt threatened and what this says

about me," Valentine said.

Professor Valentine studied the educational system of Guyana from the first grade to the university level, visiting over twenty schools throughout the country. Although shocked by the lack of facilities, the overcrowding and elitism, Professor Valentine was impressed by what was being accomplished with the few materials available. The best elementary school in Georgetown boasts a student-teacher ratio of one to 45. Six large first grade classes are conducted in one large hall, separated only by moveable partitions. In spite of this crowding, the uniformed students are very disciplined and quiet. The reason for this uncharacteristic six year-old behavior is the long waiting list of applicants to this public

school. "If a child misbehaves, he is out on his ear," said Valentine. The absence of textbooks is prevalent through the college level. At a vocational school for home economics the teachers asked Professor Valentine to send them used McCall patterns and pattern books.

Rather than spending its limited resources to improve education, Valentine noted, the government of Guyana is pouring millions of dollars into the establishment of a quasi-military organization called the National Service, a cross between Boy Scouts and brownshirts. Platoons comprised of unemployed "toughies" are sent into the jungle to establish colonies and to prevent the invasion of a part of Guyana claimed by Venezuela. This bright-green

uniformed private army serves to augment the black regular army, should the East Indian majority decide to attempt to overthrow the Burnham administration. Valentine attended several parades at which the presence of large numbers of this elite force was impressive. Among the officers of the National Service were several black American expatriates who left the U.S. for a variety of reasons. A former New York activist for example heads the propaganda unit that turns out thousands of booklets and posters supporting the current regime and its policies.

Valentine is full of praise and criticism for this emerging nation and would be happy to relate his experiences to interest students.

Art Sale Scheduled

A representative from Baltimore's Ferdinand Roten Galleries will be at St. Andrews on Wednesday, Oct. 15 for an exhibit and sale of original graphic artworks.

Included in the exhibit will be nearly 400 works by such noted artists as Jean Miro, Max Ernst, Pablo Picasso, Marcel Duchamp, Henri Matisse, Edvard Munch and Victor Vasarely.

According to a Roten Galleries brochure heralding

the exhibit and sale, "While important limited editions of outstanding graphic expressions by major artists in the Roten collection can cost many thousands of dollars, most of the works in the catalog cost under \$100. Some of these original prints cost as little as \$10."

The nature of the graphic

Bunn Awards —

(Continued From Page 1) group. A group report will be drawn up presented to the administration.

Offering both classroom instruction and actual field experience, this course is one of the truly important places where students can get involved in the future of St. Andrews.

The development package currently planned by the college includes construction of a 21-acre shopping and business office complex at the intersection of Highways 74 and 15-501, as well as, a couple of hundred acres for residential housing.

media, which can produce different editions of original prints from the same work, accounts for this broad range of prices.

The Roten exhibit and sale will be held in the foyer of the Vardell building on the south side of campus from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The works will be laid out on tables for individual perusal. The public is invited to attend.

Farrago —

(Continued From Page 1)

from the first show back for another run. Niblock said he would try to run Farrago as he had seen some similar coffeehouses in London run—a special guest or two, along with some regulars who appear frequently. "I hope it can be a place where people can try things out, too," he said, "their first songs, or their first performances—that sort of thing." He said suggestions would be welcomed regarding future entertainment, as well.



"THE LOVES OF A BLONDE" directed by Milos Forman. Concerns the bittersweet love affair of a factory worker and a concert pianist. Bosley Crowther of the New York Times called it "human, true but understated - inconclusive, indeed, as in life..." Apparently a comedy with great emotional substance. (7 p.m., Sunday, September 28 in Avinger Auditorium).

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