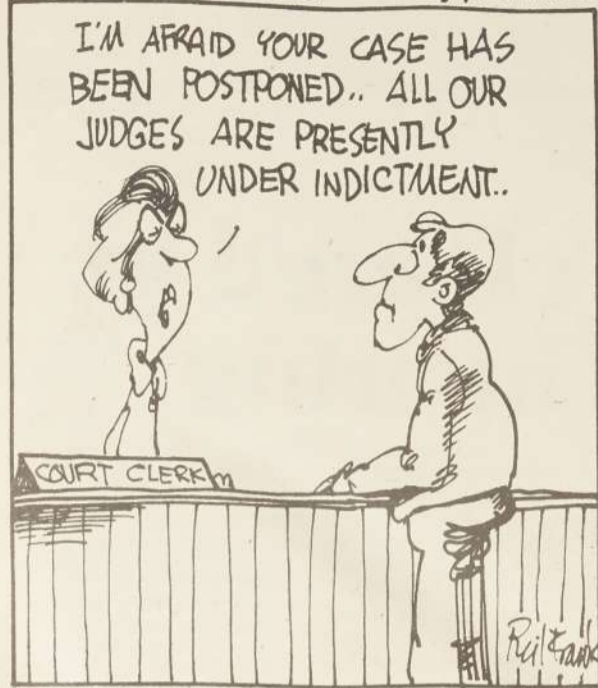


# opinion

FRANKLY SPEAKING ...by phil frank



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## Hats off to foreign language

A little bit of the flavor of old Europe was made possible for College students to enjoy Wednesday by the hard work of the foreign language department. Each year they present Sidewalk Cafe Day with traditional foods, songs, and dance from France, Germany, Spain, and other foreign countries.

The College campus was lined with colorful booths steaming with the aroma of delicious foreign dishes like crepes, tarts and non-Americanized burritos. But the Sidewalk Cafe Day offered much more than just a delightful feast for the gourmet.

Songs in French, German and Spanish filled the air and traditional dances from those countries were performed to give College students a realistic glimpse of foreign cultures that are so often stereotyped in the United States.

The foreign language department should be commended on the fine job they did of creating a unique atmosphere, where everyone, not just those currently taking a foreign language class, could enjoy and even learn something about European culture.

With the campus filled with people strolling along the rows of displays and eateries, and others watching the songs and dances being performed in the warm sunshine in front of Barlow Hall, it appeared that the Sidewalk Cafe Day was a very successful event and the foreign language department thoughtful planning paid off handsomely.

Hopefully, the department will continue to present such a colorful and informative package for College students, as it gives them at least a little exposure to a foreign culture that many know nothing about. MK

guest shot

## Let's all cheer for Idi(ot) Amin getting the hell out!

**Editor's Note:** This article was reprinted from the Pioneer Log, the weekly student newspaper at Lewis and Clark College in Portland.

**Tafadzwa Chibanguza**  
Of the Pioneer Log

Times come in our lives when we change from one stage to another. Well for Idi Amin, it is time he lost some weight. The man had gotten too fat on Ugandan wealth.

There is the saying that "those who believe in violence someday will pay the price." This accurately relates to "Big Dada" Amin.

Amin came to power in January 1971 through a military coup. He was formerly the commander of the Ugandan army. He overthrew former president Milton Obote, who apparently was attending a commonwealth summit in Singapore. During his eight-year rule, Amin titled himself, His Excellency the Life President, Al-Hajj, Doctor, Field Marshal, Idi Amin Dada, VC, DSO, MC, LLC, CBE (Conqueror of the British Empire). As long as he lives, he will live with a bad mental breakdown.

Immediately after the coup, Amin presented incredible reasons as to why he was coming to power. He accused Obote of corruption in the government. We see Obote had left the government in a mess. Another accusation was that the former president was not cooperating with the East African Economic Community, of which Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda are members.

These and other reasons appealed to the masses, who were also excited for a new leader. On the other hand, many Ugandans resented Obote's ideology which appeared to be communist. Also, to some extent, Obote was considered a "tribalist."

In his early stages of power, Amin appointed an excellent cabinet with brilliant onomilitary guys. He showed his resentment of "tribalism" by appointing one cabinet member from each of the 24 groups of people in Uganda. The Ugandan government was functioning well.

The turning point in his rule was in June 1972. He ordered all Asians to leave Uganda within 90 days and receive no payment for their property. He said the reason for taking this

action was because the Asians held control of the Ugandan economic system.

But Amin failed to see the outcome of his actions. The Asian presence had taught the Ugandans economic ideology, they had been unfamiliar with it prior to the Asian presence. The Asians had also been the basis of commerce, education, medicine and law. Exiling them again showed Amin's brain damage. It left Uganda in an unhealthy economic state.

The Asians also had an advantage over the Ugandans in a way they had both the brains and the bucks. The Ugandans had the brains but not the money. As a result of the Asian expulsion, Uganda felt a great loss of effective entrepreneurship.

Amin failed to see the problems his country was facing. And above all he failed to baring a solution to the problems. Everything was functioning well in his eyes. So he began killing the brainy guys who were now opposed to his policies. Amin was afraid his opponents would threaten his position. Any educated person who said anything intelligent would face the firing squad. Amin was jealous, in a way, because he was not educated himself. He went as far as fourth grade and then joined the military.

To make sure he stayed in power forever, as he hoped, he consulted an African doctor. The doctor told him to kill his own son and eat his liver. Amin did so. He had no regard for human life. He began appointing unskilled cabinet members who only know how to operate a gun. The year 1973 brought more persecution. Reshuffling of jobs became common in his government. Many educated

and skilled persons began fleeing Uganda in fear of being persecuted. He did not do anything constructive for people.

Even educated people in an army experienced persecution. The idea was that nobodies should be intelligent in the face of His Excellency. His Excellency was the only intelligent person.

Amin customarily kept the heads of some of the people he killed in a refrigerator. For what reason one might begin to wonder. Amin was nuts.

In 1978, Big Dada raided Tanzania. This action took place as a result of confusion in Amin's own army. Some men who were turning against him started spreading rumors that the Tanzanians were planning an attack on Uganda. The idea here was to turn Tanzania against Amin.

The plan went as predicted. Amin was defeated this year. His capital, Kampala, was captured. Amin fled. To whom nobody knows, but we know that Mr. Amin is now a loser. The new provisional government is still searching for the culprit. They want Amin alive, to try him and execute him. No jury can doubt a sentence for Amin. Should Amin be captured it would be interesting to know the swear words he will call his judges.

Amin was a sex maniac, a polygamist. He had hopes of starting a new generation of his own. He had 34 wives from whom he expected more than 200 children. He treated women like dogs.

Uganda does not have to worry about him anymore, neither does the rest of the world.

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## the print

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