

South Africa

Can we wait for the government to act?!

The situation in South Africa has become markedly more noticeable as each day passes. Yet no one seems to really care about this mess and if they do, not enough to do anything more than mention it in casual conversation.

Granted, we have our own problems in Canada that could well be solved with a united front of clear thinkers, but that's not part of the Canadian mind at present.

Our economic and separatist movements, (the latter of which is everyone's game lately), could be wiped away with co-operation of all Canadians. The deserving sights and rewards, in respect to reason and contribution, could be granted to all Canadians, but we wait to let Parliament pass it as law.

Meanwhile men live and die under barbaric rule in many parts of the world.

Uganda and Chile should come to mind but who knows or cares what's happening inside Vietnam as well.

Hell, we were done with that concern a couple of years ago.

Yet, in full view of injustices against human rights, we idle ourselves, our government pays heed in no constructive matter

and the situation grows increasingly worse without a foreseeable finish.

Rhodesia (or Zimbabwe) has become merely a news item in Canada and the object of a few "tsk tsks". Too bad.

The government made a typical move when it pulled out the four civil servants of the Canadian commerce exchange in South Africa. They, in effect, put four people out of work and think they've dropped another of Africa's hot potatoes. In years past the Canadian government has made similar tactic plays in Africa.

While Portugal was fighting to retain its colonial grip in Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Angola, "official Canada" paid lip service to African demands for freedom in these three territories. Yet in practice, Canada supported the Portuguese, economically, militarily and diplomatically.

This can be evidenced by examining Canada's links of trade and investment to colonial Mozambique and Angola, its tactic involvement in NATO's backing of Portugal, and Canada's evasiveness, in the United Nations and elsewhere, on such questions as aid to liberation

movements and the recognition of Guinea-Bissau.

Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Angola are now independent, nonetheless, the precedent established by Canadian policy towards Portugal in Africa remains an instructive one. For as the African struggle for freedom from white minority rule escalates elsewhere in Southern Africa — in Zimbabwe, Mambao and South Africa. As suggestible that "official Canada" is again being drawn into the wrong side of the confrontation.

It will be the future considera-

tion of the Bruns to educate it's readers on the Southern Africa situation with the hope of activating at least a few.

There are some organized groups in Canada of which mention and addresses will be given.

So far we've only found the Toronto Committee for the Liberation of Southern Africa, 121 Avenue Road, Toronto, Ontario. We might also suggest contacting MP's and sending your comments to the Bruns or another favourite newspaper.



Engineers up- in arms?!

Common sense dictates that with the rising costs of education today, to complete a degree in less time than was previously thought necessary would be a practical and sensible course to take. The illustrious faculty of engineering here at our hallowed UNB do not seem to share these sentiments.

In Engineering, term-work generally makes up from 30 to 50 percent of the course mark; as a result most students went into the exams with a fairly decent mark from their terms work. The exams, however proved to be their nemesis.

In the third year Civil group for example, close to 50 percent of the students suffered D's and F's in two core courses for some hoping to graduate next year, this means returning part-time for an extra term.

In another course, a student with a mark of 59 percent, was awarded a 'D'. After approaching the Registrar, the student was informed that 40 percent was considered as a 'D' UNLESS the professor stipulated differently in the first two weeks of the course. This professor hadn't stipulated anything at anytime.

Four years ago the 5 year program was made flexible for

civils, mechanicals and electricals, i.e. they could finish their degree in 8 to 10 terms. As a result of this many students have taken a load of from 6 to 8 subjects per term in an effort to finish early.

Recently, the department of C.E. has been questioning the capability of many of the students to take as many as 8 courses per term and rightly so, there are many who should perhaps do the full 10 terms.

If this is indeed the departmental attitude, then surely it should be adamant in forbidding weak students from taking on too much, it should not however,

attempt to shock students into realizing their limited capabilities by imposing final exams incompatible with the level of difficulty students had come to expect from their term's work.

It is the general opinion of the students that course fairness is dependent upon the individual professor, this being the case, shouldn't the department step in when nearly 1/2 a class has marks below 50 percent.

Surely some fault must lie with either the method with which the course was taught or the arbitrary standards set by a professor who in one case kept those standards to himself.