

Judge Rosalie Abella, the author of a recent Royal Commission Report on Equality in Employment was in town on Thursday to speak to senior administrators etc. on employment equity. The University's head honchos must not have been good little boys because all the conferences, meetings, and workshops were closed to the press. Something to hide?

# Birthright offers compassion

by Virginia Gilese

Birthright means every woman has the right to have a baby and every baby has the right to be born, says Louise Summerhill, founder of Birthright.

She was at the U of A last week to speak about her organization, which she describes as a "crisis pregnancy service."

"When a girl is faced with an unplanned pregnancy, she can contact Birthright and receive whatever help she needs to have the baby," she said. This includes food, lodging, doctors and other services, and, sometimes, coaching a girl through her labour. Assistance is also available after the birth if it's necessary.

"We don't help girls get abortions because that is not our philosophy," she said. "We offer care and compassion, but each girl is free, if she chooses to have an abortion we put no pressure on her. We don't judge or moralize and we don't try to convert her to an ideology or faith." She noted that Birthright's services, such as counselling, are still available to a girl after she has received an abortion.

Summerhill feels that pregnancy centers are necessary today because women are often pressured to have abortions. The Birthright centers uphold her belief in, "the sacredness of life, the sacredness of

the baby, and the sacredness of the mother."

The first Birthright center was opened in Toronto in 1968. "I could see the law had been introduced to make abortions more readily available to girls, and I felt that you cannot tell a girl not to have an abortion if an alternative is not offered. You have to provide an alternative."

Birthright is an inter-denominational organization that is now international. There are 630 centers in North America, five in South Africa, one in Malaysia, and one in Hong Kong. "I never ask to start a Birthright, I just respond to re-

quests," said Summerhill. Recent requests have come from the Philippines, France and Ireland.

Birthright is growing, but so is the issue of a woman's choice regarding her pregnancy. "We don't get involved in the controversy of abortion. We stay out of politics, but for many girls pro-choice is no-choice because they're pressured on all sides."

"Birthright is pro-choice in that we allow the girls a choice. They're free to accept our services or not. As far as I'm concerned pro-choice is just pro-abortion because they don't support the girls or offer them an alternative."

# African pastor's story

by Gary Dhillon

Simon Farasini is unequivocal in his denouncement of Apartheid.

He believes "Man was created in the image of God. Apartheid divides men, who are the body of Christ."

This belief fuels his denouncement that "Apartheid is the policy of the devil."

In *Torture of A South African Pastor* one learns how horribly Farasini has suffered for his convictions.

Appearing in this film Farasini, 36 years old, plump, with a direct almost jocular manner belying his experiences, narrates his story in detail.

Taken into police custody following the imprisonment and death of another pastor in November, 1981, Farasini's ordeal begins. His police tormentors tortured him to write a statement of his involvement in the bombing of a police station in Veranda and other subversive activities. Farasini refused to confess to crimes he did not com-

mit so he was beaten and later tortured by electrical shocks applied to his genitals and spine.

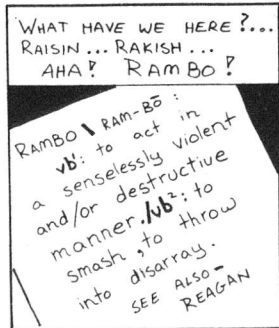
Following this treatment, Farasini was a broken man ready to confess to anything; an attitude which he later describes as "better lies than the truth."

Fortunately for Farasini, European and North American church organizations learned of his imprisonment and pressured the South African Government to release him.

After more than seven months in prison, Farasini, to his own disbelief, was released in June.

At the end of the film, Farasini accredits his freedom to three things: His faith in God; pressure on the South African government from outside organizations, and curiously the declaration of his innocence by the very men who tortured him. This last statement is a compelling comment on a country that unjustifiably torments and then releases its people with complete moral equanimity.

### The Comic Zone



by Don Filipchuck

INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT  
CENTRE



invites You to attend

## PERSPECTIVES

\* an informal discussion focusing on issues of International Development

Every Thursday commencing October 10th  
From 12-1 p.m. at the International Student Centre

**THIS WEEK**  
Perspectives explore the question  
"What is Development Education"

Location 11023 90 ave (east of HUB) Phone 432-5950

Yes, we are open for supper



You'll enjoy eating at

## CAB CAFETERIA

- Breakfast Specials
- Salad Bar
- Mexican Foods
- Hot Entree
- Short Orders
- Naturefest

### AND MUCH MORE

HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday to Thursday 7:15 - 6:30 Friday 7:15 - 6:00  
LOCATION: Central Academic Building



Famous for more than our Cinnamon Buns