



ANC criticizes apartheid support

"The sweat and blood of African peoples is translated into millions and millions of dollars and it makes countries who deal in these goods accomplices - active accomplices - in apartheid," charged the representative from the African National Congress (ANC) John Makatini.

Makatini, on a cross-country speaking tour to "sensitize public opinion" criticized Canada's violation of the United Nations boycott of South African goods. He held a press conference in Edmonton Wednesday which

was sponsored by the Canadian Peace Council.

Makatini, who is also ANC's UN representative, called the collapse of the Portuguese colonial empire in Africa, as in Angola and Mozambique, "an important landmark in our struggle."

"And the humiliating defeat of South African forces in Angola also had far-reaching psychological effects for our people - it boosted their morale tremendously," he continued.

According to Makatini, it is the duty of the Canadian people to exert pressure on their govern-

ment to change their policy towards apartheid.

This is important he said, because Canada will take the place of Sweden on the UN Security Council which is planning to issue a monetary and arms embargo of South Africa.

"We hope that Canada won't be counted amongst those nations who have taken a stand against the aspirations of the African peoples," he remarked.

The African National Congress takes the matter of sporting links with South Africa very seriously," said Makatini.

"Our memories are still fresh

from what happened in Montreal," he said, "and if New Zealand participates (in Edmonton's Commonwealth Games) then Africa will abstain."

Makatini said he would prefer Canada to pressure New Zealand into cutting off sporting links with South Africa rather than force ANC to take any direct action.

Makatini described the June 16 Soweto uprising (in a black township in South Africa) in terms of "bloodthirsty Soweto police armed with the most modern of weapons cutting down

children of eight, all engaged in a peaceful demonstration."

Any peaceful transition of power on South Africa is "too late" now, claimed Makatini.

He said he would decline any offers of direct Canadian involvement in the liberation struggles in Africa except for the sending of food, clothes, and money.

According to the ANC representative, the African National Congress, formed in 1922, is a "national liberation movement" and has observer status on the UN.

Suicide is the most severe form...

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Academic inflation spreads to universities

by Kevin Gillese

There may soon be an anti-inflation board established on the U of A campus if an instructor in the Faculty of Education has his way.

According to Dr. Jim Balderson, the reason is simple - the U of A is experiencing "academic inflation."

Dr. Balderson received media coverage last spring for reports he distributed concerning academic "inflation" he claimed to have found in Alberta secondary schools.

Balderson collected student marks in grade 12 subjects from 1971 through 1975. He discovered that after compulsory departmental exams were dropped in 1973, the percentage of A's and B's in every subject in the grade 12 matriculation program rose sharply.

"Yet there was no apparent indication that the students in later years were so much more brilliant," said Balderson.

"They're 'paying' high school students higher grades for the same or lower quality work," he claimed, "and to me, that's academic inflation."

Tuesday, Balderson presented another thesis on academic inflation to a class in educational administration, in which he claimed the university may also be experiencing academic inflation.

Balderson used graphs to illustrate how the percentage distribution of grades in lower levels of English on campus have remained relatively static over the period 1971 to 1975: "yet the Dean of Arts (George Baldwin) has recently been quoted widely as saying the level of literacy of people entering freshman English courses has dropped - are they receiving the same marks for lower quality of work?"

Dean Baldwin said his own feeling was that marking stan-

dards have indeed loosened in the last five years.

"Yes, I think there's been a softening in marking standards on campus - not uniformly across the University or even across one faculty, but generally speaking," Baldwin said Wednesday.

"I think the answer for the statistics Institutional Research have come up with is either the impressions of people at this time are wrong and students are now a good deal smarter than students were before, or else grading standards have undergone a change for the worse; that is, they've been softened."

"I personally believe the latter."

Baldwin said he believes something should be done to remedy this softened grading situation but that it should not be a "band-aid" solution.

"The only thing that can really address itself to the problem is the staff thinking to themselves about individual standards," Baldwin said. "You can't apply any gross institutional remedy to this type of problem."

Yet he pointed to the Arts Faculty Council meeting Tuesday evening as a positive step towards firming-up the academic standards in the Faculty.

The Arts Faculty Council

decided Tuesday that each department in the faculty will receive statistics each year on the distribution of grades so that individual instructors can evaluate any change in grade distribution.

"We're not likely to see a return to the stingy days of the sixties," said Baldwin, "but at the same time there's a very strong hope in the faculty that there will be more deliberate thought about

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Ontario students will pay \$100 more

TORONTO—Tuition fees for Ontario university undergraduate students will increase by \$100 in the upcoming academic year, the province's minister of colleges and universities announced here last week.

Harry Parrott, who made the announcement in the Ontario legislature, said there would also be a \$75 hike in community college tuition fees.

To offset the tuition increases, Parrott told the legislature, the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) grant budget will be increased from this year's \$61 million to \$74

million for 1977-78.

In his statement, Parrott said, "I believe the taxpayers of Ontario, the institutions and the students themselves are best served by the moderate fee increase we have proposed."

The increase "does not change the government's commitment to ensure that students' access to post-secondary education is not limited by their financial circumstances," Parrott said.

He indicated that higher tuition fees will be "taken directly into account" in assessing financial assistance granted students from OSAP.

Elves resigns

Students' Union special events director Doug Elves has resigned as of January 1 and, although his six-page resignation sharply criticizes the Students' Union, SU officials insist the parting is an amicable one.

"People always think when they hear about resignations that there's been some conflict but that's not the case here," says SU services vp Jan Grude. "Doug has done an excellent job and he's leaving to go back to school That's all."

In his letter of resignation, Elves says he is resigning his position "because I'm tired and I want a rest." But his letter adds he is dissatisfied with the time-consuming responsibilities the Special Events director must handle, as well as "the gaping vacuum in supportive resources" which currently exist within the Students Union.

The special events director currently looks after RATT enter-

tainment, forums, cabarets, and any special events (such as poetry readings) on campus. The job includes arranging preliminary bookings, advance publicity and administration of the "special events."

"In future we'll try and bring special events more in line with what the title implies," says Grude. "Right now it's not and Doug was quite right when he pointed that our cabarets are not special events, they're ongoing things."

Elves said he often found himself putting up posters for special events because the part-time staff people he found himself forced to work with were often not available and it would take him as long to find someone to do the job as it would take to do the job himself.

Grude says the Special Events office will be restructured when Elves leaves it to include "many of the changes Doug has discussed in his letter of resignation."

"Doug and Harry Goldberg (SU General manager) and Ted Kulpa (SU finance manager) are going to sit down before he leaves and discuss many of the very good proposals he's put forward," said Grude.

"Doug is leaving us because he has over-extended himself, partly as a result of the office he works in and partly because of his own administrative shortcomings which he freely admits to," said Grude, "but not because of any hard feelings."

"He has worked out very well and he wants to finish his degree, so he'll be going back to school in January and finish the last semester in his Education degree."

Elves would not make a public comment on his resignation.