

A chance to view "the other side"

by Nyambura Rugoiyo

One of the main objectives of the African Students' Association is to promote understanding between the people of Canada and the people of Africa. To have understanding between people, it is important to know one another. And that is what the African Students' Association aims to do as it launches this year's Africa Week and Africa Night. It is an opportunity to learn, participate in, and, in some way, experience what has been and is going on in Africa.

Africa Week runs from November 15th to the 18th, at the Dal SUB. Details are given in the calendar section of this paper. The main theme for the week is "What the Future Holds for South Africa". The key speech and official launching of the Week will be by Parkesh Diar, a famous lawyer from South Africa, who now lives in Ottawa. The theme is very topical, especially seen in the light of what is now going on in South Africa.

Longtime and well-known political prisoners such as Albert

Sisulu and six others have been freed; mass demonstrations have been held without police interference; and for the first time since it was banned, the ANC has been allowed to hold a legal rally. Although these are not fundamental changes in the apartheid system, they are very significant, and one cannot help but speculate what the future promises for South Africa.

It will be interesting to hear what the panelists in the seminars visualize as the future South Africa.



Africa Night marks the end of the Week's activities, and it is also a time to learn about Africa. The theme for the Night is "The African Child: The Unseen Side". It is different from the Week's theme but related. It was chosen with the specific aim of removing misconceptions about the African child as ever-suffering, with little or no hope for the future.

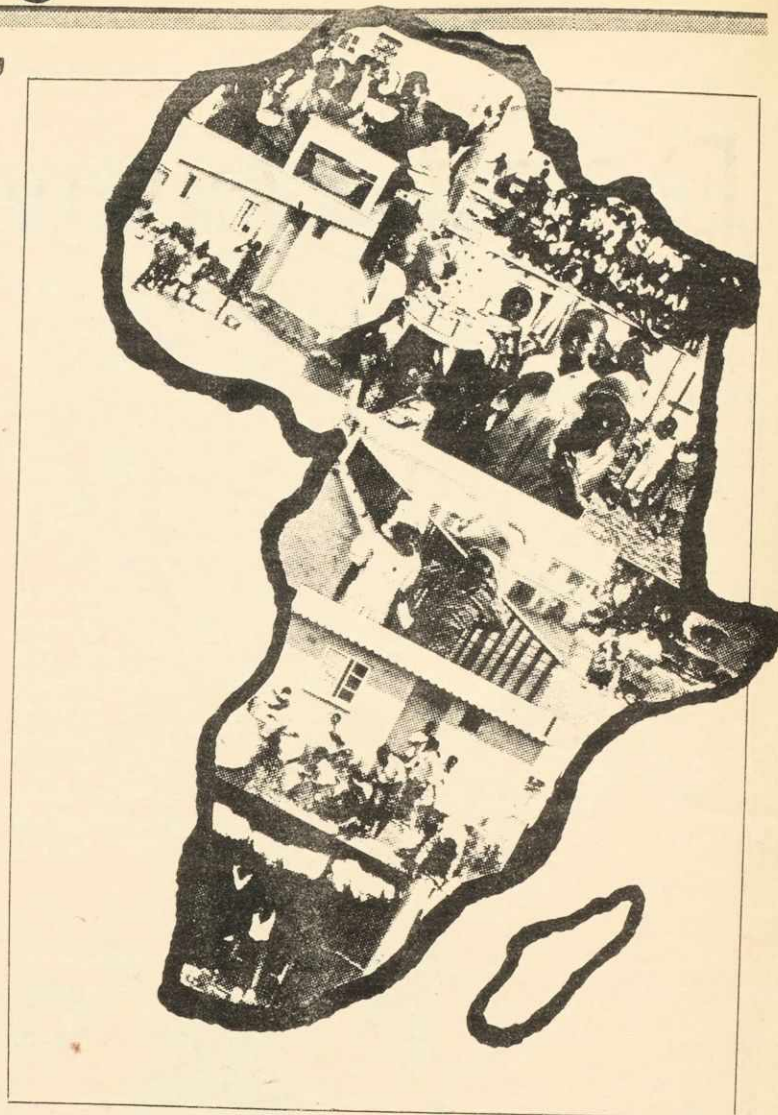
The ASA wants to present the other side — the hope for the future, the majority who have been over overshadowed by the plight of those who have been victims of wars, diseases, famines, etc, the "unseen" (by the outside world) children who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

It is important to remove these misconceptions if we are to plan our future as one world, together. We must be able to come together and to talk as equals, but we cannot do so as long as we are forever portrayed as the victims, the helpless, the hungry, the people on the receiving end.

It is a fact that Africa has had more than its share of problems and disasters, and children have been seriously affected. But clearly there are those who are not so affected and who have a lot to give to and to contribute to a better tomorrow.

Africa Night is aimed at showing "the tip of the iceberg", as it were, of this unseen side.

Come and share in this experience. And, of course, savour exotic African dishes and join in the cultural performances.

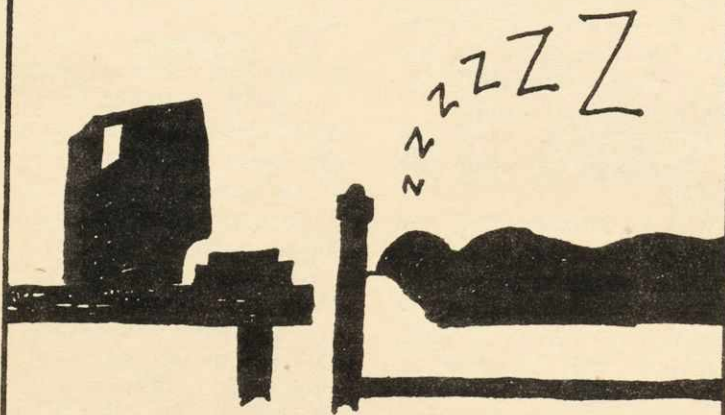


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Students slashed again

by Chris Lawson

OTTAWA (CUP) — Their faces were streaked with red, blue and green.

They were hordes of screaming

students. They were tooting blowhorns, kazoos and a bevy of assorted noisemakers, but they weren't at a football game.

They were, in fact, on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to protest Bill C-33 last Thursday. The noon-hour rally took place on the steps of a chilly, rain-soaked national capitol before the Canadian Federation of Students' lobbying effort.

Ink from "Kill the Bill" and other anti-Tory placards had dribbled onto their bearers' faces.

In between speeches by student leaders from across Canada, the students chanted "Hey hey, ho ho, education cutbacks have got to go," and "We want Brian," as the rain poured down.

Rally organizers didn't get anything like the 2000 students from Carleton and the University of Ottawa they had planned, but at least 500 showed up.

Bill C-33 will cut federal payments to the provinces for health care and post-secondary education.

The bill will reduce the growth rate for Established Programs Financing payments (EPF), by one per cent per year. It would be in effect for 1990/91.

Finance minister Michael Wilson told parliament in April that the reduced growth rate would cut \$200 million from the program in 1991 alone. The EPF will transfer \$34 billion to the provinces this year.

Because the EPF represents 23 per cent of all federal spending,

Wilson argued, it had to be cut back as part of the government's deficit-cutting program.

Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) researcher Mike Old said C-33 will mean \$900 million less in federal payments for post-secondary education between 1991 and 1995.

"Hey hey, ho ho, education cutbacks have got to go"

Ministry of finance officials say although federal spending will be reduced, it will not fall below the rate of inflation, and extra payments to poorer provinces will continue.

But C-33 is not the first cutback in federal transfer payments. In 1984, the Liberal government limited growth in transfer payments as part of its '6 and 5' restraint program.

The Conservatives' C-96, introduced in 1986, reduced the growth rate by two per cent.

Old says between C-96 and C-33, the total loss to post-secondary education funding will be \$6.8 billion by 1995.

"You have to wonder what the feds are doing when Mulroney makes these comments about how education and research are meant to be priorities, and then they turn around and announce these cutbacks," CFS chair Jane Arnold said.

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