

Palestine week

by Lutful Kabir Khan

The much debated and ever controversial "Palestine Awareness Week" is hitting this campus once again from Nov. 3 - 13.

In the past two years "Palestine Awareness Week" has elicited some of the most controversial and heated debate and discussions around the information booth in HUB.

Campus Security even had to

investigate alleged threats on the lives of the organizers.

The Gateway also received several letters condemning the coverage given to Dr. Fathi Arafat, chairman of the PLO medical wing, who gave a lecture on the humanitarian issues of the Palestinian refugee camps.

This year's events are organized and sponsored by the Arab Students Association and the International

Students Centre.

There will be an information booth in HUB Mall every day from 10 am to 2 pm featuring literature on the Palestine issue.

There will also be slide shows and films every day in the Humanities Centre Lecture Theatre Two. Details of the shows are available from the International Student Centre at 432-5950.

In addition to the week's events, there will be a lecture on Nov. 27 at 3:30 pm in Humanities Lec. Theatre One by Dr. A. Aqel, Vice-President of Al-Najah University, the largest Palestinian university in the West Bank. Dr. Aqel, an eminent social psychologist, will lecture on academic freedom, military censorship and the harassment faced by Palestinian university students and staff in Israeli occupied territories.

Hossam Sharkawi, the president of the Arab Students Association, hopes that this year's events will attract everyone interested in becoming aware of the problems of the Palestinian people and the root of the prolonged tragedy in the Middle East.

Students can't write while drunk

LENNOXVILLE (CUP) — Almost a third of first-year students at Bishop's University failed a mandatory writing test this fall.

The writing test was taken this year by 526 students. Twenty-seven per cent failed.

"A lot of (students) don't write very much in classes," said Margaret Redding, director of the Writing Proficiency Programme. They accumulate marks on quizzes and mid-terms which only require short answers. The test catches most of them.

Some students who took the test attributed the results to drunkenness.

"It was a bad time in Fresh Week," said Anthony Milonas. "Everyone was half drunk."

"I failed. I was impaired," said Jeff Sprecker.

According to a recent survey by Southam News, eight per cent of Canadian university graduates are functionally illiterate.

COPUS aids students

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time students are ineligible to run for S.U. positions at most Canadian universities.

"This facilitates less concern for their special needs and concerns," says Johnson, and she expresses discontent over the lack of representation for part-time students in student government across the country. Johnson contrasts the U of A with the U of C, which has six members of its council which were part-time students at the time of their election.

However, Johnson points out that it is not the students' union or the university who is to blame, but rather the small number of part-time students and their relative apathy.

S.U. student Tim Boston said, "I have met with the national and provincial representatives for COPUS and I'm working with them to achieve positive results. We're looking into getting a seat for a COPUS representative on student council but they need more organization and structure. You can't just appoint somebody to council."

Boston bases his comments on the relative size of the part-time student body.

"Our duty is to represent all students to the best of our ability. But the reality of the situation can't be ignored. There are simply far more full-time students than part-time students."

Another major concern of Johnson is the limited access to degree completion through part-time studies.

"At most universities, a Bachelor of Arts is the only degree obtainable exclusively by part-time studies. Other degrees require a minimum of at least one year of residency."

Even when courses are available, Johnson continues, problems develop.

"Many courses are not available in the evenings and (some) courses (are) cancelled because of a small attendance. Also, university offices close at 4:30 pm making it difficult for evening students to get consultation."

But once again Johnson insists that the relative size of the part-time student body is the key factor in their difficulties.

Brian Silzer, Registrar, is in agreement. "Degree programs and the courses offered to obtain them are structured in response to two facets: the demand for courses, and the resources available to fulfill those demands. While we would like to facilitate the demands of all students, all the time, we simply can't. We must remind ourselves that there are 25,000 full time students, most of which would rather see services provided during the day."

Johnson admits that communication between the part-time student and the university aren't optimal because of the lack of coordination of the part-time students as a group.

If you have concerns you'd like to express regarding part-time students, write to: Maria Johnson, Alberta Representative for COPUS, 109 Michener Park



Beer bills investigated

WINNIPEG (CUP) — Unpaid beer bills, an outstanding loan debt and long-distance phone calls to Norway may lead to a police investigation into \$22,000 debts accrued by a student council at the University of Manitoba last year.

The Arts Student Body Council will be calling in the Winnipeg City Police to investigate alleged wrongdoings by last year's council.

Dave Konefall, spokesperson for the council, said the council's executive decided to go to the police at an October 2 meeting. He denied current police involvement in the investigation.

"We have had informal discussions with the Winnipeg Police to determine whether they will take over this investigation or not, contrary to what was printed in a major newspaper in Friday," said Konefall, adding the ASBC must talk to their lawyer before confirming police participation.

The ASBC launched an investigation into the finances of last year's council after it was discovered that \$22,000 could not be accounted for.

Several members of both this year and last year's ASBC have said what happened last year was a matter of bad judgement, exercised within the rights of the council's constitution, dismissing the notion of a criminal investigation.

Konefall agreed many councillors feel this way, adding he has undertaken measure to prevent future abuses of council finances.

"We're presently diverting most of our energies towards restructuring our constitution to ensure the accountability of our council and future Arts councils."

Bob Raeburn, director of University Relations, declined comment about police involvement but expressed his concern over the council's situation.

"We still want to talk to members of Arts and (the University of Manitoba's Students' Union)... and at this time the Board of Governors will not undertake formal action," said Raeburn.

Konefall said the reason for consulting the police was because the Board of Governors would not act or does not have the jurisdiction to investigate previous councils.

Raeburn said the matter may come up at a future meeting of the Board of Governors.

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