

Students, profs: racism no, protest yes!

by Rod Campbell

Three University of Alberta student clubs will protest against the apartheid policies of the South African government this Saturday, in a march from the Legislature Building to City Hall.

The African Students' Association, the Caribbean Students' Association and Citizens Against Racism and Apartheid (CARA) will participate with an estimated forty-seven other groups in drawing attention to the mounting social and political problems that blacks are faced with in South Africa today.

The rally is co-hosted by two main groups; the broad based umbrella coalition, The Council for Black Organisations, and also CARA.

Rally spokesperson, University of Alberta professor of anthropology, Andrew Thakur stated the idea for the protest came up in the summer: "We thought that maybe given the kinds of problems that were going on in South Africa in the early spring, especially the attacks of blacks on blacks, it was maybe about time for us to make our voices felt in terms of what was going on."

Thakur conceded that the recent

provincial development at Caroline, where the racist group Aryan Nations are trying to establish themselves, was also a motivating factor for organizing the march.

Seven speakers will address the rally at City Hall including Adam Carim from the banned African National Congress; Dave Werlin, President of The Alberta Federation of Labour; ND MLA, Reverend William Roberts; Reverend Roy Meehaul; U of A graduate student, Jane Nandwe, from Kenya; Thomas Nadine, President of the Alberta Teachers' Association; and Carol Anne Draw, Vice President of the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees.

When asked how he felt about the recent decision by Student Council not to get involved in international issues such as apartheid professor Thakur replied, "The question of South Africa as I understand it is to a great extent a question of racism. It is a question of dominance. But it is also, from my point of view, a human question."

"It is a moral question from the point of view in that, here is a group of people who have been denied in a very systematic way access to their own institutions.



They are forced to live in a kind of subhuman situation."

"How much different is that from Southern United States one hundred years ago? Today, these are the very people who have the gall to tell people about human rights.

These are the very people who take it upon themselves, they become the custodian of morality and ethics... (they) dispense it by doses and say, well, *this* is ethically correct — you can do it, and *this* is ethically incorrect — you cannot

do it."

"It is very disgusting, this attitude. I think if the Students' Union takes that position, I want to say they are just chicken (stuff)."

The march begins from the steps of the Legislature Building at 1 p.m.

BC gov't attitude angers students

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Socreds make lousy dates. And voters should know that.

That's the opinion of students who organized a sit-in at former premier Bill Bennett's office last year and met with post-secondary education minister Russ Fraser this March.

Agnes Sauter and Brian Shaw were members of the Student Issues Action Committee, which organized 25 Okanagan College students to occupy Bennett's Kelowna constituency office for six days last October and November.

Now they are warning voters in the provincial election that both Bennett and Fraser used media publicity to give the impression of addressing students concerns while

doing nothing.

During the sit-in, students called on Bennett to attend a public meeting at Okanagan College to discuss student aid, post-secondary funding and the closure of the David Thompson University Centre in Nelson.

Bennett agreed to a preparatory meeting Nov. 11, where he told students and local media it would only take "two minutes" to set up the public forum.

That public meeting never happened.

"Bennett co-opted us at the November 11 meeting," said Shaw, now a journalism student at Vancouver's Langara College.

"He turned it into a big publicity affair for himself," he said.

Sauter, now a science student at the University of British Columbia, agreed.

"Bennett never felt compelled to answer any of our questions about educational issues," she said. "It is a clear example by the former leader of the government that students should be wary of promises given during the election campaign."

Following the November meeting, Bennett placed a new condition on the public debate — he said he needed a brief on the students' concerns.

But neither the briefs, nor daily phone calls to the premier's office, nor a series of two minute protests in early March convinced Bennett to honour his earlier promise.

"We thought that following the

leadership convention, there was the possibility he would contact us," said Sauter. "But there seemed to be no intention on his part to come back to the issue."

Bennett is not running in the current election. Sauter and Shaw were further disappointed following a meeting between 20 Okanagan College students and post-secondary education minister Russ Fraser in March.

"We were enthusiastic at first," said Shaw, "but when Fraser came into the meeting, he sat down and it was like he was going to talk to us on a father-son or father-daughter basis."

Shaw said Fraser was sipping tea, didn't take notes, and argued with details in the student presentations.

"He may as well have had his socks off and his feet up on the desk," said Shaw.

Neither Shaw nor Sauter see any better prospects for education under new premier Bill Vander Zalm.

"I am scared of what might happen in the next few years to post-secondary education," said Shaw. "We have a new premier who smiles and smiles, but is just as dangerous as Bill Bennett was."

"For the last three or four years, B.C. students have been subjected to the absolute worst post-secondary education system in Canada," he said.

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Notice to students who have not met the University's writing competence requirements and whose deadline for meeting those requirements occurs on or before November 1986 or January 1987: If you plan to enroll in the second term of Winter Session 1986-1987 or any subsequent term and you have not yet passed the writing competence test, you may petition the GFC Writing Competence Petition Committee for permission to continue your registration.

Registrations of students who do not successfully petition or pass the writing competence test will be cancelled prior to the start of classes.

Advice on preparing and submitting petitions can be sought from the Student Ombudsmen, Room 272 Students' Union Building, or the Student Advisors in the Office of the Dean of Student Services, Room 300 Athabasca Hall. The regulations and procedures used by the GFC Writing Competence Petition Committee are available in either of these offices.

Hearings will be held from November 25-28. The deadline for submitting petitions is Thursday, November 13, 1986.