

"He tried to drown his sorrows..."

The Gateway

Wednesday, October 15, 1986

...but someone taught them to swim."
John Brunner

Fasting for solidarity

by Rod Campbell

Oct. 16 has been designated by the United Nations as World Food Day in an attempt to draw attention to the problems associated with hunger and development.

As an act of solidarity with the UN's goals, an ad hoc committee of U of A students will participate in a 24-hour fast at the Gallery Lounge in HUB Mall beginning at 12 noon Thursday.

Group spokesperson Bernard Trotter stated that the motivation for the fast grew out of "a general concern over global development issues (especially) the chronic problem of world hunger."

When asked how proficient institutions such as the UN are in alleviating world hunger as opposed to individuals such as Bob Geldof Trotter replied, "The UN is fairly strapped for funds. They're having

financial difficulties of their own. We can't expect the UN to end world hunger, it takes a concentrated effort from aspects of society... Ultimately the problem of world hunger is a cultural problem. People have to realize that if there are people dying and suffering in the community, there has to be a certain solidarity around the world. (Our commitment) is a symbolic gesture. It's a drop in the bucket, but in the long run maybe it will change people's attitudes."

In addition to the fast, there will be a number of film displays and presentations throughout the day. The film *Elements of Survival* will be shown at 7 p.m., followed by discussion led by Dr. Saleem Qureshi.

All activities will occur in the Gallery Lounge. Individual participation is encouraged.



About 100 people rallied in an anti-Apartheid protest last Saturday.

photo Paul Menzies

Muslim club denied office space

by Brad Johnson

The university's Muslim Students' Association (MSA) has been denied office space this year.

Clubs Commissioner Rick Stedman said Friday the MSA in previous years were using their office for "purposes that they didn't put down on their application." He said this included regularly moving around office furniture to pray.

"The Ismaili students have an office," he said, addressing the question of religious or racial discrimination.

Abad-Ilah Bennani, MSA president, said that although they had a weekly Friday prayer, it was not central to MSA activities. He likened the prayer to "taking off your coat at the door."

"Religion has nothing to do with it (MSA activities)," said Bennani, and "...we can go to our Mosque and pray."

"For the last five years we had an office," he said, and that they applied at the end of August for office space, the same time as the other clubs.

Stedman said there was little office space and "about forty other office applicants."

He also said the MSA was monopolizing office space, since they, like other clubs, had to share it, but weren't capable of this.

"Other clubs could not gain access to the office," he said.

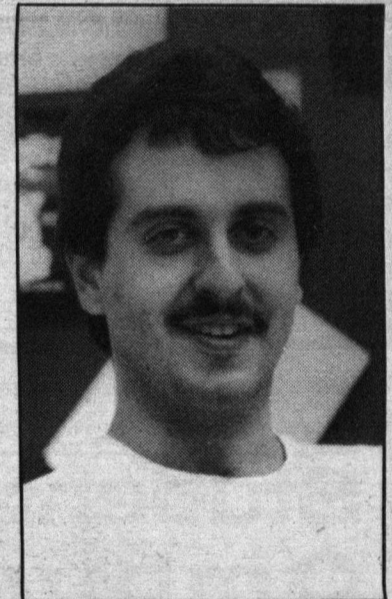
They were also stacking the other clubs' stuff to pray, he said, making it impossible for the other clubs to use the office.

Stedman sent them a letter on Oct. 6 explaining why they were

denied an office.

In it he said the MSA was using the office in such a way that other clubs could not share it and that the prior executive booked rooms improperly and "became abusive to our staff on several occasions."

The MSA is an association of approximately 600 to 700 members. Its official aims are hobby, recreational, public service, religious, sports, and welfare.



SU Clubs Commissioner Rick Stedman

McMaster's 29 percent pass "fishy"

HAMILTON (CUP) — About 300 McMaster University students who were told last month that they had failed a test of English competency, have been now told they actually passed.

The passing mark for the test was 29 per cent on a 80-question test. However, instructions from the testing committee given to markers said "29" is the passing mark, and did not specify 29 per cent.

Test committee chair Barbara Levy said programmers marked the test with 29 correct answers, or 36 per cent, as passes. The percentage of failing students is actually 27 per cent, and not the 43 per cent origi-

nally reported.

"It was no fault of the programmers. It was ours for not checking the report more closely," said Levy.

John Fox, a student council representative, said the discovery of the mistake is "fishy."

"It's too convenient now because (the university is) getting backlash from the students, parents, and definitely faculty members, and big media coverage," he said.

Mike Kukhta, student union president, said "the whole thing was rushed into. They needed more time to work out the details."

"Imagine the stress that students must have gone under. The univer-

sity should be very apologetic," he said.

Students who actually passed have been notified by mail.

The competency test used this year tested only for grammar proficiency, a break from tests used in other years.

"Essay tests would be time consuming and expensive. The committee just doesn't have the resources," Levy said.

But Tracey Foster, chair of the student union's academic affairs committee, disputes the cost factor, and said a test without essay questions can't give a proper indication of a student's competency.

B.C. Premier is heckled

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Jeering and heckling students harassed B.C. Premier Bill Vander Zalm during a recent, short visit to the University of British Columbia.

The 30 hecklers and about 100 Vander Zalm supporters scuffled and shouted obscenities at each other during the Premier's short walking tour of UBC.

Vander Zalm, wearing a blue UBC sweatshirt, left the student union building after only 20 minutes. Some students gave him Nazi-style salutes.

"I'm not being chased out," said Vander Zalm, as he was leaving.

"I'm just moving along."

Graduate student Kevin Annett said he came to heckle Bill Vander Zalm because the premier stands for the poor policies of the Social Credit government for the last 10 years.

"There's a lot of hatred here," said Annett, who added that he had been called a "faggot" and a "communist" by Vander Zalm supporters.

But Schott Leaf, a Social Credit Youth member from Douglas college, said the hecklers had started the name-calling and had prevented the premier from meeting

with students. "They shouted him down when he tried to speak," said Leaf.

The Social Credit government introduced a controversial restraint program in 1983. In 1984 student grants were eliminated, which dramatically increased the average student's debt load. University operating grants have either been cut or frozen since 1983.

Simon Fraser University, UBC and the University of Victoria have all substantially increased tuition to help cover the drop in provincial operating grants.

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