

Walk a mile in my shoes..and get sore feet Walkers fund new programs

BULLETIN

Student Union President Andy Winstanley has thrown down the gauntlet, challenging Gazette editor Neil Harrison to a winner-take-all contest in the upcoming Miles for Millions marathon October 24.

Sources close to Harrison indicate that he has accepted the challenge eagerly and is currently engaged in top-level discussions aimed at producing a winning strategy for the meet, seen by many observers as the crucial test in what has become a running battle between the Gazette and the Union executive.

Harrison had no comment when queried about his plans for the 30-mile walk. Usually reliable sources report, however, that an advisor known only as "Mercury" has been present at all strategy meetings thus far, but it is not clear what connection, if any, this has with the actual Miles for Millions walk.

Members of the Miles for Millions committee are now making the final preparation for the 1970 walk. This year's goal for the annual walk to aid international development is \$200,000.

Meaningful Change

The committee's announcement about the allocation of the funds raised stressed the committee's new

thrust toward supporting programs in underdeveloping countries which are working toward a meaningful social change.

The committee's decision on allocations also emphasized their wish to become involved in such things as lobbying to change current Canadian government aid and trade policies. About 15% of the money raised from the walk will be used to set up a year-round education/ action committee in Halifax-Dartmouth.

Executive director of Miles for Millions, Jim DeLaurier, said Canadian aid policies are in fact not aid policies but are policies which work to the advantage of Canadian foreign trade, and to the disadvantage of the recipient countries.

"Canadian aid to the Caribbean, by far our largest per capita aid program, helps to maintain their relationship whereby Canada receives a vastly greater amount of money from this area in the form of investment returns to Canadian companies and the maintenance of a favourable balance of trade, than we ever give to them in the form of aid. What this means is that the Caribbean, and other poor countries, are in fact aiding our development."

"It is precisely because of this kind of relationship that most Third World countries

are steadily growing poorer, not richer."

Community Development

The committee lists ten projects to be funded if the walk raises its objective to \$200,000. Most of the programs, which are located in the Caribbean, Brazil and Mozambique in Africa, are involved in local community development.

The committee gave top priority in Brazil to Operation Hope run by Roman Catholic Bishop Helder Camara. Operation Hope is working to improve living conditions of people in urban areas in North East Brazil through direct assistance and community organizing. In the Caribbean, the committee listed the International Fellowship of Reconciliation program as first priority. This project involves community development stressing alternatives to the present structures which do not operate for the betterment of the community.

Mr. DeLaurier says 20% of the funds raised will go to FRELIMO, an indigenous group recognized by the United Nations, which is operating health, education and welfare services in the areas of Mozambique liberated from Portuguese control.

Grads reject grievance plan

The Council of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students has recommended rejection of a proposal before the university senate calling for a student-faculty grievance committee.

The grad students see the plan, put forward by philosophy professor David Braybrooke, as a road block in the way of student participation in decision making rather than a progressive step.

The Braybrooke Plan recommends a committee of 15 students and 15 faculty to deal with any issues, demands, claims or grievances brought forward by any group of students.

According to a D.A.G.S. statement, the committee would serve only to "legitimize student powerlessness and would make it more difficult to achieve more substantial changes in the future."

No More Real Power

The main objection lies in the fact that the plan in no way alters the strength of the student voice in the senate, three out of 160, a "trivial contingent" in the body that makes the final decision.

"What the students will have gained through the

implementation of this plan is merely the formal right to discuss issues. There would be no gain in effective i.e. voting power to influence senate decisions. Thus, we have here only a formalization of what students theoretically possess now - the ability to voice their opinions."

Much of the power in constituting the committee and determining its composition rests in the hands of the university president, Dr. Hicks. He would be empowered to choose five of the faculty members (who would then select the other ten) and to strike the committee in the first place if he found it necessary.

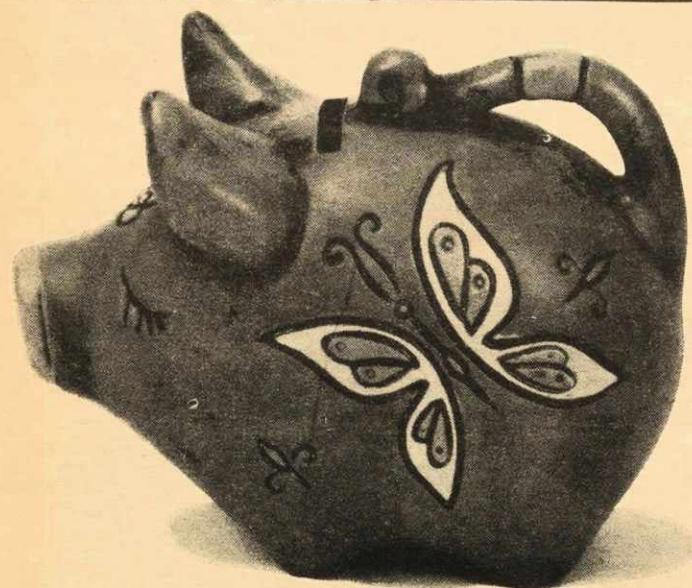
Builds Buffers

In addition, D.A.G.S. maintains that the proposal would create yet another "buffer" between students and the president.

"This practice of creating buffers between the powerless (students and in some cases faculty) and the powerful (the administration headed by the president) has become increasingly prevalent in university life in recent years."

Student Union President and senate member Andy Winstanley is reported to be opposed to the Braybrooke proposal, adding that the plan shouldn't be introduced to senate without student support.

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