

Pressuring South Africa

by Suzette C. Chan

A campus club is trying to drum up support for a university boycott of South Africa products.

Barb Pillay of Citizens Against Racism and Apartheid says the group plans to ask Housing and Food services and the Students' Union food services to stop buying and selling products.

Some of the products include Rothman's cigarettes and Carling O'Keefe products. Both companies have investments in South Africa.

"It's a symbolic action that's certainly seen as important to people suffering [in South Africa]," said Pillay.

She added that church leaders and civil rights activists are not the only authorities who believe an economic protest will help eradicate apartheid.

"In 1977, the South African prime minister John Vorster said that every South African product bought is another brick in the wall of [that government's] existence."

Students' union VP External Gayle Morris said Pillay has discussed a boycott with her but is unsure whether students' council will act.

"If nothing else, students on campus should have the freedom to choose," she said. She said a possible solution would be to stock South African products but to label them as such.

"What is interesting is that the SU took away the boycott last summer," said Morris. "If council passes a ban on South African products they would be putting it back on."

Larry Llewellyn, director of U of A Food Services, is more confident of supporting a South African products boycott. Although he had not spoken to CARA members about it, he told the Gateway that Housing and Food Services "would be in favor of that kind of thing."

He admitted that his department could be presently buying canned fruit from South Africa without knowing it. Canned fruits are often

unlabelled. Llewellyn said in the event of a boycott, he would ask suppliers if the goods are South African.

There is currently no formal or informal Housing and Food policy on South African products.

Pillay hopes the SU will back a boycott since it will help sponsor a Namibian student to study here.

South Africa has occupied the nation of Namibia since the mid-70s.

Pillay said CARA also plans to start a material aid campaign for schools in various refugee camps.

There are no plans for CARA to deal with other issues of race, although Pillay does not rule out the possibility of discussing other situations.

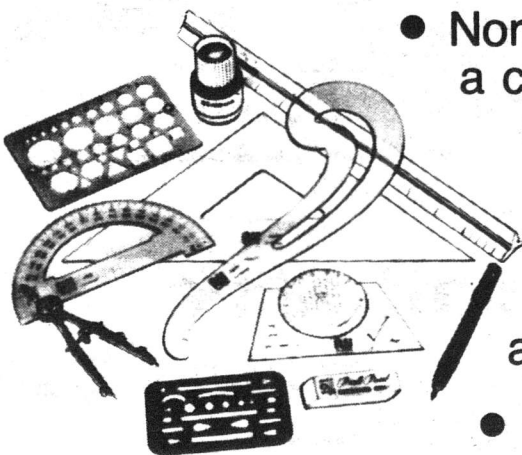
"Right now, with the flurry of issues in South Africa, apartheid is dominant," she said. "we don't feel that Canada is free of racism."

CARA can be reached through the campus CUSO office.



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Stuff you should know

The Royal Bank is having an extension of its Student Loan Centre on campus from Sept. 3 - 6 in rm. W-7 on the Phys. Ed. building.

This will enable students to negotiate their loans on campus without the hassle of going downtown, said VP External Gayle Morris.

The External Affairs Board is concurrently hosting a Student Loan Information Centre on the main floor of SUB.

Students curious about an aspect of loans and loan appeals — such as where to go or who to contact — will be assisted there, Morris said.

The Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences recently announced a quota cutback effective September 1, 1985.

First year enrolment will be reduced from 130 students to 110.

Dean John Bachinsky cited two reasons for the cutbacks: lack of lab space and lack of suitable clinical sites.

In previous years a pharmaceuticals lab was used with capacity for 130 students, but next year a dispensing lab accommodating 110 students will be used.

In addition, there is a lack of clinical sites for third-year students who must do work in practice.

The quota will be maintained for a two year period.

The Edmonton Social Planning Council is now offering a publications service to those interested in current Canadian social policy issues.

Three titles are currently available:

- 1985 Poverty Lines: Estimates by the National Council of Welfare (NCW)
- Giving and taking: The May, 1985 Budget and the poor (NCW)
- Analysis of the May, 1985 Budget. Canadian Council on Social Development.

The prices range between one and two dollars and include postage and handling.

For further information, please contact Tom Grauman at 423-2031.