^{ne} Gateway

Crossroads complex

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According to Bethany, the medical profession pushes the use or prescribed drugs, medication the



Bethany Ellis

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majority of people cannot afford. Traditional healing methods are being ignored.

Unfortunately for Bethany, antimalaria tablets made in Canada are stronger than those in Cote D'Ivoire. As a result, she overdosed. The room began to shrink and grow repeatedly. "Where there was only one window I saw three," Bethany recalls.

Fortunately her neighbours noticed that their comrade was not out and about as usual. Discovering her condition, they quickly arranged for a ride to the hospital in Abidjan where the problem was successfully treated.

"Never did I feel abandoned. I was always well-cared for," remembers Bethany.

Asked about the difficulties with which she had to contend during her stay, Bethany concedes that being the constant centre of attention was tiring. Privacy was a scarce

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commodity; personal space and time to write letters was minimal.

In terms of education, university in Cote D'Ivoire is free. Ironically, the public system at the primary and secondary levels is not. School is expensive, and for a reason, explains Bethany. After slavery was abolished and access to education was made available to everyone, the native population perceived a school that cost nothing to be another form of slavery under white rule.

Clad in her authentic West African 'boubon', Bethany is now back in Edmonton at the U of A. She is presently involved with the local committee of C.C.I. and wants to share her experience with various groups in the community.

International centre

by Jennifer Hyndman

"The International Students Centre? Never heard of it ..." This was the sentiment of a number of students approached Monday afternoon in Quad.

Despite the fact that the International Student Centre (ISC) offers a variety of activities, support services, and enthusiasm to U of A students, it remains a relatively undiscovered wealth of information.

Barry Tonge, director of the ISC isn't worried. "I'm not concerned that they (students) know who we are, but that they're aware of what activities are provided." Involvement is the key issue, and Tonge sees the role of the ISC as that of facilitator.

Opened in 1984, the centre aims "to promote international programs and activities on campus," according to Jan Gelfand, ISC program coordinator.

Gelfand emphasize that all social, educational, and recreational activities are open to U of A students, faculty, and the community at large. In addition to serving the particular needs of over 1500 students from around the globe, the centre is for all "international students", defined by the program coordinator as "people with international interests."

The ISC's library offers information about studies abroad, international exchange opportunities, as well as overseas volunteer and employment prospects. The centre organizes weekly seminars related to development education and is responsible for International Week on campus.

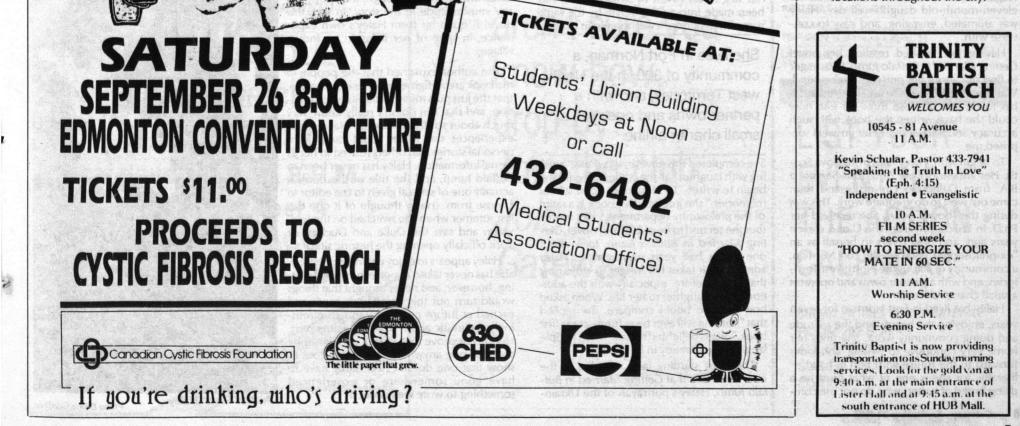
In a report soon to be released by Institutional Research and Planning (IRP), Tonge expects to learn the strengths and weaknesses of ISC programming, information that will be used to build and revise the centre's mandate. The report is based on a survey of foreign students at the U of A. As expressed by these students, increased interaction between Canadian and foreign students is one need Tonge plans to address.

Now located in a cozy house one block east of HUB, the ISC will be moving to the new space under the mall during the Christmas break. "The move will give us a higher profile," says Gelfand, in addition to providing much needed space and consolidation with the Office of International Student Affairs.

For more information on upcoming speakers, workshops, and recreation activities call the ISC hotline (432-5950) or pick up the quarterly newsletter and monthly calendar of events at the centre free of charge.

The Volunteer Action Centre (phone 482-6431), a United Way Agency, has special requests of interest to university students:

Visually Impaired: Book readers for visually impaired students and professionals are needed in various locations throughout the city.



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