

Refugees "SUBJECTIVELY" chosen by Immigration Canada

by Gregory Hamara

Despite the fact that Canada has opened its doors to almost 75,000 political refugees over the past two years, neither the federal nor provincial governments have enacted any policies which would facilitate the placement of eligible refugees into post-secondary institutions.

Nor do the prospects look good for government action in the foreseeable future.

"The federal government has no specific status for refugees who may have been students in their country of origin," explained Gerry Cavanaugh, manager of the Canadian Immigration Centre in Halifax in a recent interview.

He said that refugees are "subjectively" chosen by Canadian officials abroad, with an eye to the refugees' abilities to establish themselves once they have settled in Canada.

The success a refugee has in securing private sponsorship also goes a long way in determining whether the individual will be allowed into the country, Cavanaugh added.

Because the vast majority of refugees seek steady employment soon after their arrival in Canada, the option of continuing a university or college education eludes virtually all new arrivals. Cavanaugh said that even if some refugees managed to pursue formal education, the government would not be aware of their numbers because it does not maintain statistics on refugees after their settlement in Canada.

Student refugees

One private-sector group that actively attempts to enrol refugees in post-secondary institutions is the Ottawa-based World University Services of Canada (WUSC). In concert with student, faculty and international student associations throughout Canada, WUSC arranges sponsorship of refugees which would permit them to continue their education.

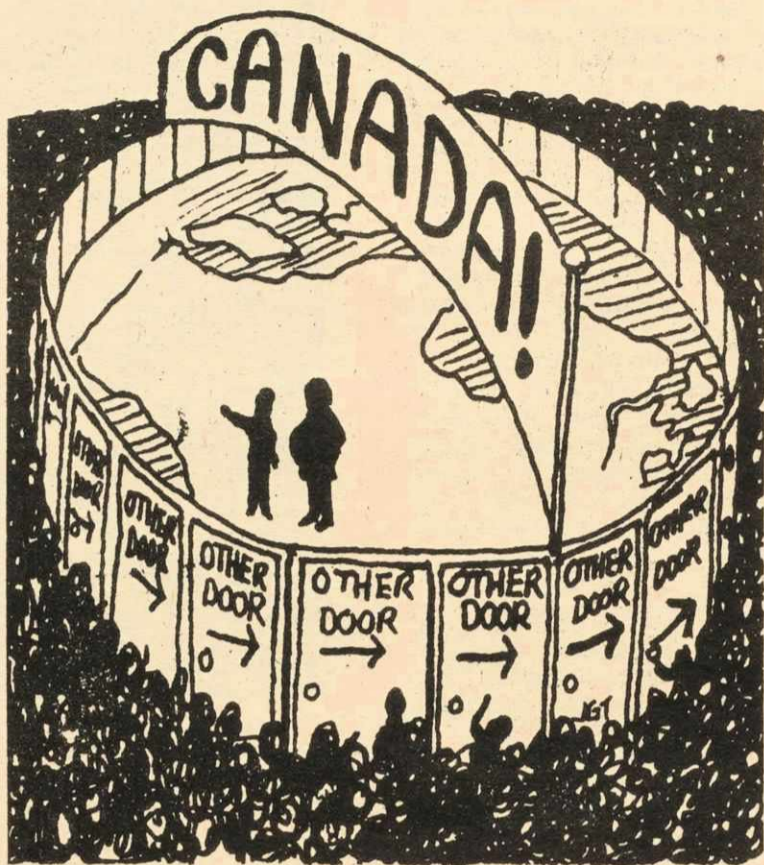
In an interview from Ottawa, Paul McCarthy, WUSC's student refugee coordinator, said that the organization, through its foreign representatives, lays down the necessary groundwork to ensure that the eligible refugee makes it to Canada — including, in some cases, paying the cost of transportation.

"Once the refugee arrives in a particular locality, the responsibility falls on the student or faculty group to provide proper sponsorship," he said.

McCarthy said the sole stipulation WUSC insists upon is that the refugee continue his or her education.

As part of a 60-nation World University Service network working in conjunction with the United Nation's High Commission on Refugees headquartered in Geneva, WUSC concentrates most of its energies in the third world — especially in African nations.

"Without a doubt the refugee situation today is most severe in countries such as Ethiopia, Zaire and Uganda," said McCarthy. "But with 18,000,000 displaced persons around the



"Building a wall around Canada? Certainly not!"

This is just our modified open door policy!

Jeff

world, the problem is very international in scope."

He added that in recent months the organization has had to turn its attention to eastern Europe to cope with the increasing numbers of refugees fleeing Poland.

McCarthy said he was "satisfied" with Ottawa's current policies toward refugees. The organization engages in limited government lobbying on behalf of refugee students, but he stressed "we're definitely not an advocacy group."

His only criticism was directed at the National Union of Students, which, he felt, could be doing more in organizing sponsorship of student refugees.

Minimal action at Dal

Except for the enrolment of one refugee from the African nation of Lesotho this past September, little action has been undertaken by either the student union or university administration at Dalhousie University.

The one university official who was involved in the settlement of the Lesothian refugee said that Dalhousie had no long-term plan to absorb more refugees.

Dean of Student Services Ted Marriott said that the financial burden of placing refugee students should fall on the federal government's shoulders.

"More government assistance in this field would be as useful to developing countries as anything the government is doing now," said Marriott.

At the Dalhousie student union meeting last Sunday, a motion was passed to strike an ad hoc committee to explore the

question of how the student body can become involved in student refugee sponsorship. In an earlier interview, student president John Logan said he hoped councillors would not adopt an "altruistic" attitude to the plight of refugees.

AFRICA NIGHT 1981

Africa is a multi-cultural continent inhabited by 455 million people. Africa's multi-culturalism is manifested in a number of ways including arts, dances, food and mode of dress, all of which will be featured on November 7, 1981 at the Dalhousie University Student Union Building from 7:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

The theme of the occasion is Africa: The New Generation.

Mr. Ochen from the Uganda High Commission and special guest for the occasion will be presenting a lecture on the theme on Friday November 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the MacMechan auditorium.

Everyone within the Halifax community is invited to attend.

At Africa Night 1981 a buffet of African dishes will be presented, with displays of African artifacts and exotic African dances along with some Reggae and Disco music — something for everyone. The music will be presented by EXODUS.

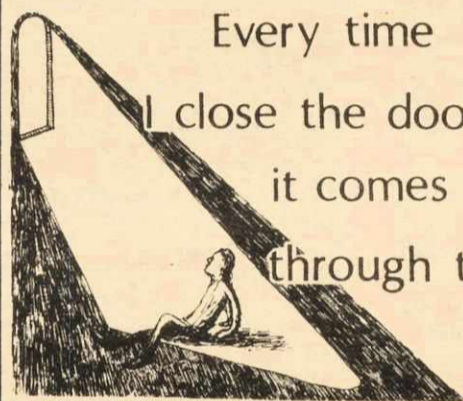
Admission is a modest \$7.00 and tickets are available at the Dalhousie Student Union Building or at the Centre for African Studies, 1444 Seymour St. For further information please call 424-7077 or 424-3814.

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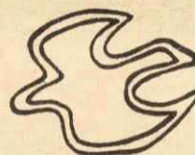
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SUB Lobby
Dalhousie University



Every time
I close the door on Reality,
it comes in
through the window.

Colleigh
Buller

...Maybe its time to come in and
meet the campus chaplains



The Campus Ministry
in Dalhousie University

Student Union Bldg.-Dalhousie University
Halifax-Nova Scotia - 424-2287/2288/2200

Rev. Joe Hattie (RC): 422-5665 • Rev. Rick Bridge (Anglican): 425-3852
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