

## Grapevine

### Mozambique Symposium

The Honorable Graca Machel, past Mozambique Minister of Education, will be in Edmonton on Wednesday, March 15, to speak at three forums. The forums include: U of A students and professors discussing education and the situation in the frontline states.

The forums are as follows:

9:30-11:30 am The challenge of education in wartorn Mozambique. 4-110 Education North.

12 noon - 1:00 pm Development destabilization in Mozambique. Tory Breezeway 2.

2:00 - 4:00 pm The question of Ideology and History: Mozambique as a case study. Tory basement 87.

There is also an evening program at the NFB theatre in Canada Place 7:30-9:30 featuring the premiere of *Riding Out The Storm*, a Canadian made film on Mozambique.

# Petition campaign convinces language labs to extend hours

by Kevin Law

After much time and effort, language lab hours are extended this semester through the perseverance of several arts students and their petition.

Many language students have felt lab hours have not been long enough to allow completion of assignments, particularly for students with jobs or other time constraints. Such concerns led Pete Quily, Mark Keats, and Sean Kennedy to begin a petition campaign to convince the faculty of arts that longer hours were desired by students.

Pete Quily, spokesperson for the group, said that when they went to (then acting) dean of arts Dr. Powrie, "he said no, he had already made up his mind." Powrie cited money as the main problem.

The group also took their petition to SU vp academic Charles Vethan who went to see university vp academic Dr. Peter Meekison.

Vethan said he felt lab hours were "blatantly inadequate", but

Meekison told him funding was a problem and Powrie had felt there were "more important things in arts."

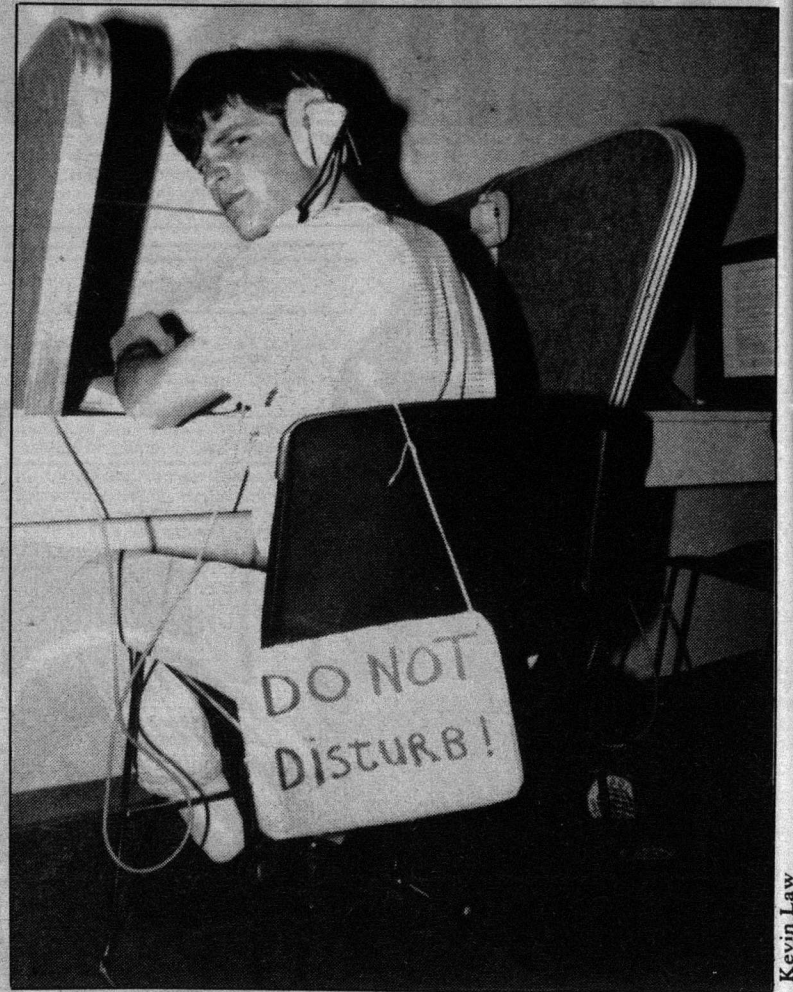
"We took it as far as we could," said Vethan, adding, "When you are told certain things take priority, what are you going to do."

Quily and the petition organizers also went to Meekison who told them even if the money was there, he could not tell the dean of arts how to spend it.

However, Meekison was able to raise extra funds for extended lab hours and the arts department applied the money accordingly.

While lab hours have only been extended on weekends, Quily said they are happy. "It's gratifying when you can change the system," he said. "People need longer lab hours for exam study," Quily noted, citing a 63 percent response rate on the petition.

The future of extended lab hours, however, remains uncertain. The director of the language labs Dr. Ballah, said "If the money is there we'll open, if not we



More work and less play says Byron Collins with a scowl. With longer language lab hours in vogue, he should be happier.

Kevin Law

won't."

Ballah also noted that at first he didn't think longer hours were necessary. "I didn't see it at first," he said, "but I'm starting to see

their case. I hope usage of (extended hours) will show a need for it, so far it has."

Meekison could not be reached for comment about funding for longer hours next year.

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