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## S. Africans rejoice Mandela's release

by Marc Mercier  
and Fraser Robb

South Africans at home and abroad rejoiced this week with the release from prison of black leader Nelson Mandela after 27 years. For two UNB exchange students from South Africa, Mandela's release was particularly meaningful, as it marks the beginning of serious change.

Sidima Kabanyani, a graduate chemistry student from a black township outside of Cape Town and also a member of the African National Congress, said he "was extremely happy with Mandela's release." When asked whether a peaceful solution could be found without bloodshed, Kabanyani responded "the situation in south Africa is so complex that it is difficult to predict." But he sincerely hopes that a peaceful negotiated settlement could be struck.

Greg Robinson, a graduate survey engineering student from the predominantly white city of Durban in the Province of Natal, said "the prospects for peace are better than they have been for the past 40 years." Robinson also called President F.W. de Klerk's release of Mandela "a tremendous initiative; the spark needed to set the whole thing in motion."

Robinson and Kabanyani became friends after being introduced to each other by a mutual acquaintance. Since arriving in Canada, neither of the two students has been actively involved in the anti-apartheid struggle. However, Kabanyani said he will be involved in the communication of new developments from South Africa as they occur.

Robinson said he first became aware of the apartheid system at the age of ten. "I was in the fortunate position of being raised by parents who were strongly opposed to the apartheid system." He also added that as he became aware of apartheid that it worried him. "As you get older it starts to eat away at you," he

said.

Robinson predicted that the South Africa he knows today "will be a democratic South Africa by the year 2000." The Apartheid laws, premised on racial segregation, were first enacted in 1948 following the election of South Africa's National Party.

With intense internal and international pressure it took the next 30 years to convince the government that it should scrap the laws it had introduced in the early years of its mandate.

It has been to these laws that the world has reacted with revulsion, treating the South African nation as a pariah and cutting back on social and economic links.

Mandela, 71, was sentenced to a life imprisonment term in 1963, along with seven other individuals, for his leadership of and participation in subversive and terrorist activities.

Since his release on Sunday, Mandela has publicly said that he is committed to peace but still espouses the ANC's use of violence to end apartheid.

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said that Mandela was welcomed to visit Canada in the future, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark had another message to convey.

Clark said last weekend, in responding to British overtures calling for the quick relaxation of sanctions, that Canada will maintain its hard line stance against South Africa. He publicly warned that until such time as the apartheid system is completely done away with Canadian sanctions imposed against South Africa will remain in place.

Presently, Canadian sanctions include prohibitions on imports of uranium, coal, iron, steel and agricultural products of South African origin.

Both Kabanyani and Robinson look forward to the positive changes underway in their native South Africa. Robinson, however, has a

special reason for his optimism. Following the birth of his first child 12 days ago, he now has a family to

concern himself with.

Although hoping to return to South Africa after he finishes at UNB, Robinson

cautiously said he would only do so "providing my family is safe and that reasonable economic opportunities exist."

Photo by Harry Mullin



UNB students Greg Robinson (left) and Sidima Kabanyani.

## Budget cut motion ruled against by council

By Sameera Hanif

At last Thursday's Student Council meeting the proposed motion to cut CHSR's budget by \$11,000 was a major issue.

The executive committee claimed at the meeting that the reason for the cutbacks was because all the students at UNB and STU should pay its equal share of money to CHSR.

Wayne Carson, President of the Student Union, also felt that the \$11,000 cutback would be more equitable in that it would help fund other Student Union costs.

CHSR News Director, Gordon Loane pointed out that

the cut would affect the quality news to the point that only games and events on campus could only be broadcasted and this would violate the CRTC regulations.

Steven Staples, programming Manager at CHSR, further emphasized the negative effects the budget cut would have upon CHSR.

The chief concern was the loss of their technician if the motion was to be passed.

The technician repairs, free of charge, the Student Union sound system which is used by many different student organizations.

He also added that CHSR is trying to improve their

programming by doing surveys to see what people enjoy hearing.

Station member, Marc MacKenzie felt that the station is really being used as one thing - a pawn between STU and UNB disputes.

Another station member, Marty Avery, said that at least this emergency had brought CHSR members together, because it is something that concerns all 100 members.

Carson was quick to agree that this was one of the reasons for the proposal.

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