

Campus closings unacceptable

Dear editor, Mazen Bouri's article ["No education under occupation," July 24] has clearly pictured the bitter reality and the ongoing tragedy of the Palestinian educational institutions. With the exception of two universities the remaining were shut down by the harsh Israeli military order for so-called security reasons. Clearly, this shut-down is one of the numerous Israeli repressive acts to impose collective punishment on the Palestinian people.

This unjust order is by all fair standards of human behaviour to say the least, unjustified and unacceptable. This act bluntly violates international law, conventions, and most important the spirit of academic freedom. Equally shocking is the staggering number of Palestinian students and educators who are languishing in Israeli detention centres.

Sadly and understandably so, this situation is creating widespread hatred and frustration that can only harm the peace process to achieve regional stability. Lastly as students and educators, we should call upon Israel to adhere to the code of law and reopen Palestinian universities, release all detained students and professors and refrain from further hindering the Palestinian right to progress in education.

Sincerely,
Jehad Al-Iueiui

Can't deny us an education

Dear Editor:

I would like to add further comment about Mazen Bouri's article, which is excellent. I am angered, but not surprised at the events that have taken place concerning these institutions.



I am angered because the repression of the freedom of thought is one of the worst possible crimes. I am not surprised that Israel has done this in Palestine because it is in keeping with the current and long standing oppression of the Palestinian people by the Israeli regime.

Oppression and repression of freedom of thought is standard fare for those who use guns to convey their message. In Cambodia the educated and the educators were slaughtered en masse and left to rot in what became known as the killing fields. There are dykes of rotting bodies holding back muddied and festering waters still today as Cambodia plunges ever deeper downward. In Central America, two years ago, an entire student council "vanished" as the university was taken with helicopters and tanks and the student press shut down for being "subversive". In Ulster, or Northern Ireland as it is commonly

called, Catholic Republicans are denied houses, the right to vote, and jobs and are kept penniless, homeless and without the revolutionary forces of that country-powerless.

In George Orwell's book, 1984, he speaks of the crime of owning books and police who monitor your thoughts. We are headlong into the era of thought police who believe that if they control your access to education they can keep you stupid and obedient to their oppressive regimes. They have overlooked that the quest for knowledge and the desire to think freely can not be quashed easily. The Irish freedom fighters have a Gaelic saying: Tchaioch Ar La which means, Our Day Will Come. It will. It will come for all peoples of the world who are oppressed by draconian laws. Education is a right that cannot be denied and through it freedom follows. You can't hang an idea and you can't stop a dream with a bullet. That

is why Tchaioch Ar La.

Thank You,
Angus Adair
Western Region Canadian University Press Human Rights Co-Ordinator and Peace Issues Co-Ordinator

Tory tax hits poorest students

Dear Editor: The Federal Tories have launched yet another attack against the students of this country. Commencing this September the federal government will be charging an administrative fee of 3% on all Canada Student Loans.

What this means is that students will be receiving three percent less of their loan allotment. For example, a student who receives \$3675 as a loan to help her or him through the year, must pay \$110.25 up front to receive their loan.

This amounts to a discriminatory tax that hits the poorest students, precisely those who can least afford to pay. It is also interesting to note that this is the first significant change in a program the Tories have bled dry for seven years. As opposed to any progressive measures to help improve accessibility to post secondary education, they are viciously attacking the most vulnerable students in the country.

In the face of rising tuition fees, an economy which left many students without summer jobs and student assistance levels that have failed to keep pace with inflation, this tax is an additional barrier to post secondary education. The Canadian Federation of Students urges the federal government to eliminate the tax and to increase funding for post secondary institutions. This would be the first and most immediate step towards creating a truly accessible, high quality system of post secondary education in this country.

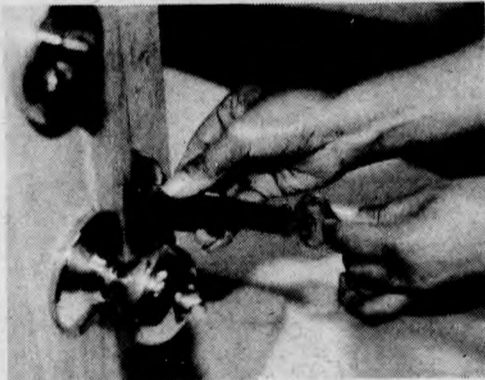
I strongly urge you to contact the York Federation of Students for more information on how we can fight this tax and improve accessibility for all students in the province and the country.

In Solidarity,
Rob Centa
V.P. External, York Federation of Students

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