

Project a contradictory theory?

by Wes Oginski
The Hunger Project. What is it and what does it do is being asked on campus.

"We are not a relief organization," says Tim Nolt, president of the Campus Hunger Project. "We do our part to raise awareness (about the world hunger situation)." The campus group will host a fund-raising starve-a-thon this weekend.

Nolt says the goal is to get people involved, through the Hunger Project or other organizations.

Eric Stephanson of the Chaplains' office on campus questions the goals of the project and its origins.

"A number of students wanted me to sponsor them for the starve-a-thon," he says. When asked what the money would be used for, the students "thought it was for relief (activities)".

The Hunger Project was created in 1977 by Werner Erhart of EST (Erhart Seminar Training) fame. Erhart created an international organization to educate people about the world hunger situation. Their point is hunger can be ended by the year 2000 if people are willing to commit themselves to solve the problem. An approach similar to the EST philosophy of consciousness raising is used.

Many of the organizations corporate staff are EST trainees but this does not necessarily follow into groups outside of the United States. These groups are usually operated by volunteers.

A 1979 article in *Mother Jones*, a left-wing investigative periodical, draws strong connections between EST and the Project itself. It says that the Project finds sending money to relief organizations a "dehumanizing act".

Of the \$2,741,851 raised in 1980, none went to direct relief of hunger programs, but rather to fund and promote itself and the world hunger situation. *Mother Jones* observed of the Hunger Project, "consciousness is everything; distribution of wealth and power, nothing".

Campus organizers are fully aware that money raised does not go towards direct relief of hunger.

"We have the technology and resources to do something about it (hunger)," says Nolt, "all we need

is the political willingness." This is the Hunger Project's thrust.

Stephanson agrees that this is a worthy cause, but he says the message is not clear.

"I don't mind if they say they're raising consciousness (about world hunger)," he says. "I raise the question about the effectiveness of what they're (Hunger Project) doing to end world hunger."

According to Canadian laws, any non-profit organization must be a registered charity. The Hunger Project is not registered federally or provincially under that name, yet it is a registered charitable corporation in the United States.

Political causes for world hunger

by Wes Oginski

A discussion which centered on whether hunger is a political or technological problem took place last Friday in SUB as part of the Hunger Project's starve-a-thon activities.

The starve-a-thon is raising money to help support the Hunger Project, an organization committed to getting people involved with the world hunger situation.

Four U of A professors and a visiting priest from Peru participated in the discussion.

Jorge Calderon, from Peru stressed political problems are inherent in the hunger situation. He explained that many products, like new strains of wheat, have been created to relieve the situation, yet it persists.

"I think technicians agree that agricultural production can be doubled if the resources are available," said Calderon. "I don't think hunger will be resolved by the year 2000 unless the (political

system is destroyed that created the problem.

Rod Wilson of the Department of Anthropology disagreed about the emphasis placed on the political involvement.

"I agree there are political problems but we cannot afford to ignore the technological problems," he said.

Wilson's emphasis fell on the logistics of distribution of aid. He said just because a group of people live in the jungle, does not

necessarily mean they are in need of aid. "We need to know more about the situation before we go rushing in," he adds.

Karal Krotki of the Department of Sociology disagreed with the concept of placing blame somewhere.

"I don't believe in blaming somebody else," he said.

Krotki said more emphasis should be placed on helping needy people to develop their own resources.



SUB was the focus as passing students stopped to listen to the Hunger Project's guest speakers at an educational seminar last Friday

Photo Martin Beales

Ambitious sales tax protest yields small return

OTTAWA (CUP) - The students' federation at the University of Ottawa wanted to show the Ontario government how angry students were at a recent tuition increase, so they organized a sales tax boycott. They managed to withhold 33 cents.

The federation spent \$1000 on a campaign asking students to withhold the seven per cent provincial sales tax on all purchases. Instead, they were to give the merchant a specially prepared form indicating the reason for the boycott, the amount of unpaid tax and an address where the government could reach the boycotter for payment.

The boycott coincided with the March 8-12 National Week of

Student Action, organized by the Canadian Federation of Students and its provincial student groups, when students across the country held demonstrations, rallies and marches to protest provincial and federal underfunding to post-secondary education.

CFS President Claude Joncas said the boycott was intended to create a massive workload for provincial tax officials trying to collect unpaid tax. But only three students are known to have participated, blocking a whopping 33 cents from provincial tax coffers.

"I am disappointed because there could have been more participation. All those who wanted to show opposition had an

opportunity to do so. The response on campus was kind of sad," said Joncas.

He attributed the failure of the boycott to student reluctance, federation elections and the on-campus student store.

"The word 'boycott' is one that students don't like to hear around here. Also students don't seem to be aware of the boycott. The information was there, but they didn't seek it out," said Joncas.

"Students need to be fed, otherwise they won't get food."

Joncas also said that extensive campaigning for the federation election, which occurred at the same time as the boycott, overshadowed publicity for the

protest. He said he was unable to promote the boycott because of election commitments. "I didn't want to go out and publicize the boycott because people would say that I'm only out to campaign," he said.

Most items sold in the campus student store are non-taxable, and Joncas said this hindered students from easily participating in the boycott.

Joncas, however, is not willing to give up. He says the boycott may continue, if the federation executive decides at a future meeting to recommend to the student council that the federation withhold the tax it owes the province.



Olivia Butti's Diary

Dear Diary
March 22
Drat, a whole day shot to heck. I've been sitting by the phone waiting for that call that says Cec is out and I'm Mayoress of the city. Meanwhile I've been mulling over some ideas for this summer:

- Now that we've got bus service for senior citizens going maybe we can slip a whole new bus service in without the union noticing. This week a few more routes, next week a couple LRT runs. By August we can have the whole thing going again. Thus way we can convert to all part-time drivers faster, than if we actually settled the strike.
- I understand the federal government has some sort of student loan program. I think I should check into it. I wouldn't mind borrowing a few students to mow the lawn and weed the garden this year.
- I've got that Summerfest now. I just found out that they plan to give all there money to that horrible Jazz City thing. Everyone knows that jazz is the music of houses of ill repute and that so-called jazz "musicians" are really a conspiracy of junkies who transport heroin and deadly reefer across the country. When city council gets a load of this (I've even got an article clipped from National Inquirer for proof) they'll give all that money back to clean

wholesome Klondike Days.

- What's happening to movies these days, diary? All the romances seem to be about queers. There is even a murder mystery about queers. Well I've had it. I told Petey to buy us one of those video disc players so we could watch the old decent movies with normal leading men like Errol Flynn.
- I don't understand all this kerfuffle about testing Cruise missiles in Alberta although frankly I don't think they're going to work. I took a cruise once but it was on a boat. I can't imagine it would be any fun on a missile.
- Obviously this city has to do something to honor our sports heroes, particularly Wayne Gretzky. A lunch is hardly enough. I think Terry Jones had the right idea when he renamed his twins Wayne and Gretzky. I'm sure they're the two proudest little girls in Edmonton right now. This city should name something appropriate after Wayne Jasper Avenue maybe or perhaps Mill Woods.
- Well anyway diary, once I'm mayor I'm going to have a busy summer; I don't know when I'm going to find time for that fact finding tour of London, Paris, Rome, Madrid and Athens that is so urgent. They had better throw Cec out tomorrow, I've got packing to do.