

South Africa films describe poverty, fear, torture

by Virginia Gillese

"South Africa is one of the most critical issues confronting humanity today," says Steve Larson, a representative on campus for the Lutheran ministry.

Awareness of this issue has prompted the Lutheran Campus Ministry and the Lutheran Student Movement to sponsor a film series on South Africa.

"The issue of apartheid is a topic of ongoing concern (for Christians)," said Larson. He cited Bishop Desmond Tutu and Allan Boesak, a campus chaplain at the University of Capetown who was recently arrested for trying to organize a march against the prison holding Nelson Mandela, as examples.

After the news about South

Africa over the summer, Larson said the film series was felt to be "very timely" and is meant "to invite students to enlarge their vision and be aware of what's going on in the rest of the world."

The films are "about the situation in South Africa. They explore what apartheid means for black people," he said.

"The South Africa situation becomes unique when you remember that the government bases the system of apartheid on the bible, or Christian principles," Larson said. "Yet they — some white South Africans — won't allow blacks to worship in the same church."

A number of Christian churches are speaking out against apartheid

and "actually calling it a heresy."

There are several things Larson thinks Canadians can do about apartheid. Some examples are: "Have letters sent to the Dept. of External Affairs encouraging Canada to lead the way in setting economic sanctions, and boycott products like Paarl brand wines, Carling O'Keefe beer products and Rothman tobacco products.

"It's not a light matter to say that people can pray about the situation", and he stressed that it's important to be informed, "to educate ourselves, to really probe deeply into what is happening."

On Sunday, Sept. 15, two of the first films in the series were shown. Both were about Namibia, the country South Africa continues to occupy in defiance to the United Nation's ruling that they are there illegally.

Devil's Circle was secretly filmed and produced for British television. Whites and blacks were interviewed and filmed as they described the poverty and fear which face the people there. Torture and murder were spoken of as common occurrences.

Though shocking, the film did not attempt to manipulate the viewer, only to inform. One emotion it did evoke is pity, pity for the people and for a country which, in the words of one speaker, South Africa "is going to leave behind that is totally disintegrated."

The second film, *Namibians in Exile*, depicted the lives of 70,000 people from Namibia living in Angola. Although away from their homeland, the film pointed out that these people "do not want to be called refugees because every day they are preparing to return home."

SWAPO (South-West African People's Organization) is preparing Namibians in these camps to return home. Education and medi-

cal care are made available, and life goes on as normally as is possible.

Children are especially given importance. The words, "You can never say tomorrow to a child because that child lives today" are a motto to these people.

The next film in the series is *Cry for Freedom*. This film uses interviews, vignettes and history to discuss the contemporary situation in

Namibia. It also "explores the persecution of the church by the white South African government and highlights the role of the church as an agent of hope."

Cry for Freedom can be seen on Sunday, Sept. 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lutheran Student Centre (11122-86 Ave.), or on Monday Sept. 23 at 12:00 noon in SUB, room 034.

Quantum lectures

by Roberta Franchuk

A Nobel laureate will be among the speakers in the lecture series being presented by the Theoretical Physics Institute of the University of Alberta.

Dr. J. Schwinger was granted the Nobel prize in 1965 for his work in Renormalization theory, which is presently the most advanced extension of quantum mechanics, said Theoretical Physics Institute director Dr. Yasushi Takahashi.

Schwinger will be speaking on two topics.

The first is *Quantum mechanics 60 years later — its phenomenological basis*, to be held in Tory Lecture rm. b-1 at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 19.

The second is *The statistical atom*, to be presented in TL B-2 on Friday, Sept. 20 at 3:00 p.m.

The first would be suitable for first or second-year science students with an interest in quantum physics, said Takahashi, but the third would be considerably more

technical in nature and so he advised that it would be better suited to third and fourth-year students.

Two other speakers will also be available: Dr. D. ter Harr of Oxford University and Dr. D.D. Betts, currently the Dean of Arts and Sciences at Dalhousie University and of former director of the U of A's Theoretical Physics Institute.

Dr. Betts will be speaking on *The nature and nurture of theoretical physics in Canada* in TL B-2 on Sept. 18 at 3:00 p.m. Takahashi said this will be a "completely non-technical talk."

Dr. ter Harr will be addressing two topics: *Ergodic Theory: a historical survey* — to be held Sept. 19 at 3:00 p.m. in TL B-1 — and *Turbulence in plasma and fluids* — scheduled for Sept. 19 at 4:15 p.m.

Takahashi said the talk on Ergodic theory would be relatively non-technical and the plasma lecture would be geared to third or fourth year students.

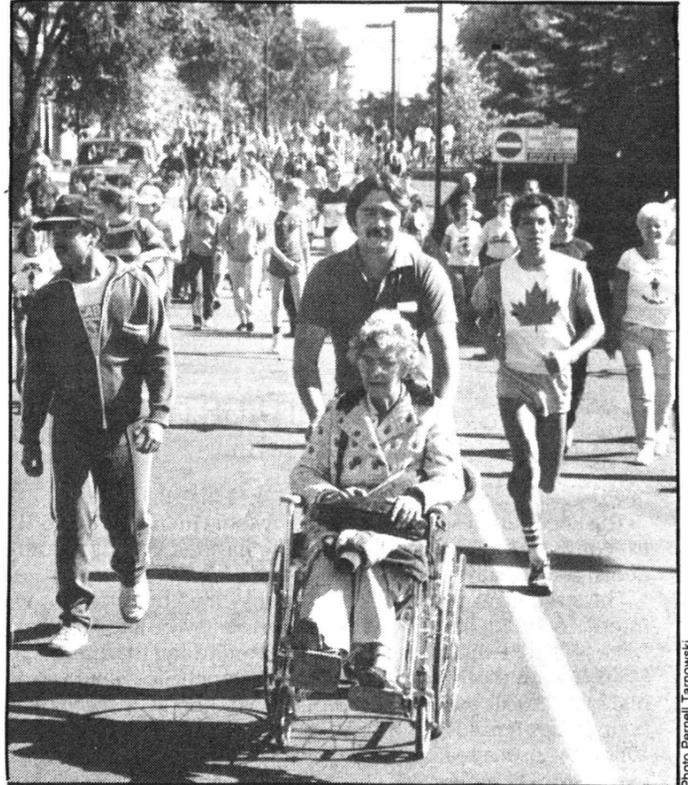


Photo: Fernell Tamowski

These spunky citizens did just fine. Run co-ordinator Gord Stamp was a temporary casualty, having inflicted short-term deafness on himself by holding his starter's pistol too close to his head. There's a reason why the pro's hold it upwards and outward, Gord. U of A President Myer Horowitz made a joke of his sparsely populated pledge sheet by saying, "If there are any of our students here who want to graduate . . ." Ha Ha Ha Myer.

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