

# Chaplain's Office addresses racism

by Roberta Franchuk

interview by Alex Shetsen

The U of A Chaplain's Office recently sponsored a series addressing the question "Is Christianity Racist?" The series was partially designed in response to the growing concern over such well-publicized groups as the Aryan Nations, but also examined apartheid, the

holocaust, and the treatment of the North American native people.

Racism in North America is "sort of behind our backs. It doesn't explode very often, but it's still there," says Bruce Miller, U of A United Church Chaplain.

"The Aryan Nations dare base their prejudice on Scripture," says

Miller. "Aryan Nations claim Hitler as the Messiah."

Miller sees this type of radical interpretation of Christian teachings as a danger of leaving too much up to the individuals, giving authoritarian groups such as the Aryan Nations room to grow. "We have to show some concern for the

welfare of society," he points out.

Lack of criticism by religions aided in the rise to power of Adolf Hitler. He was originally supported by a great proportion of the Christian Churches in Germany.

Eventually, as the true dangers of Naziism became apparent, the church renounced Hitler and his ideas. The film "Genocide" examined the events surrounding the Holocaust.

"In some ways we are practicing genocide towards the Indians," Miller says, pointing out the handling of land claims and other examples of the way Canadian society interferes with native rights.

This attitude dates back to that of many of the early Christian missionaries, who denounced native religions and tried to replace them with their particular brand of Christianity.

As a result, "the natives almost lost their cultures." This topic was addressed in the seminar "The Bible and the Sacred Circle" with Richard Price, Director of Native Studies Program.

"Apartheid is a Heresy" exam-

ined the universal condemnation of apartheid by the churches. Apartheid is seen as "a crime against God and humanity."

Religious groups "can speak more eloquently than the politician" in fighting against apartheid and other forms of racism.

The recent ecumenical movement, a joining of religions in attempts to solve injustices of society, is becoming more widespread.

Miller sees this as a growing concern by religion with the impact that it can make on the policies of society. It is important that "every religion must stick to the real world."

"Every religion has a possibility of becoming an 'opiate of the masses'."

"Liberation should be the role of religion in the world tomorrow — not liberation of people, but the world."

## Anchor Splash: funds to the blind

by Greg Halinda

Everyone is invited to participate in this year's Anchor Splash, a fun event that generates funds for the blind.

Organized by the Delta Gamma women's fraternity, Anchor Splash is a swimming pool competition with six events, including a ping pong ball relay, crazy dive competition, and a 200-yard relay.

A plaque and prize goes to the best cheering section and the overall winning team also gets a prize.

Anchor Splash chairperson Lavona Bailer said this is the fourth time their fraternity chapter has run the event.

"So far the only teams involved are from fraternities," said Bailer. "We were trying this year to get other teams involved. Anyone who is interested can participate. There is a \$20 team entry charge."

Teams are typically four to six persons each, all male or all female. Anchor Splash goes on Saturday Nov. 8 from 1 - 4 p.m. at the U of A west pool. Spectators pay two dollars each at the door, and all funds collected go to the blind.

## Sesek new Lib. president

by Cam White

Peter Sesek is the new president of the U of A Student Liberal Association (U.A.S.L.A.) following the overruling of an appeal made by association members.

The appeal was launched because of concern over voting procedures in the Sept. 25th executive elections.

Sesek and his slate won the election 34 to 26 votes. 14 of all the votes were by proxy.

Karyn Decore, a past president of the U.A.S.L.A., made an appeal concerning the proxies to a board

of the Alberta Liberal Youth Commission headed by assistant dean of law, Anne McLellan.

"The whole election was a farce," said Robert Noce who ran on former president Peter Cornwall's slate. "The ordeal has hurt the association terribly. We've been acting like Conservatives with all this backstabbing."

The constitution of the U.A.S.L.A. is silent on the matter of proxy votes, however, the A.L.Y.C. constitution states that proxies are not permissible.

The A.L.Y.C. constitution super-

cedes that of the U.A.S.L.A. The A.L.Y.C. board ruled that the constitution could be overturned.

Sesek and his supporters voted against the constitution on Sept. 25th and won.

Sesek claimed that any harm done to the association was caused by the previous executive, "Who refused to co-operate or hand over any funds to us."

Cornwall said that such accusations were "entirely false. We'll have to get along with the new executive whether or not we like them."

## WRITING COMPETENCE PETITIONS

Notice to students who have not met the University's writing competence requirements and whose deadline for meeting those requirements occurs on or before November 1986 or January 1987: **If you plan to enroll in the second term of Winter Session 1986-1987 or any subsequent term and you have not yet passed the writing competence test, you may petition the GFC Writing Competence Petition Committee for permission to continue your registration.**

Registrations of students who do not successfully petition or pass the writing competence test will be cancelled prior to the start of classes.

Advice on preparing and submitting petitions can be sought from the Student Ombudsmen, Room 272 Students' Union Building, or the Student Advisors in the Office of the Dean of Student Services, Room 300 Athabasca Hall. The regulations and procedures used by the GFC Writing Competence Petition Committee are available in either of these offices.

**Hearings will be held from November 25-28. The deadline for submitting petitions is Thursday, November 13, 1986.**

## WINTER SESSION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES!

Challenging positions are now available for post-secondary students in Edmonton City, Edmonton Region, Calgary, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, and Red Deer regions as:

### JOB SEARCH PRESENTERS

To be considered you must have:

- \* current post-secondary student status
- \* knowledge of the region
- \* good public speaking skills
- \* experience working with youth
- \* access to your own transportation and be willing to travel to outlying communities within a given region
- \* a school schedule which will allow you to work variable daytime hours and attend a training session in Edmonton, January 23 - 25, 1987.

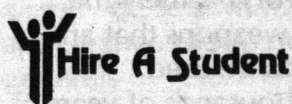
Working under the direction of the local Hire A Student committee, you will conduct presentations on job search techniques to secondary students, interact with educators and prepare reports.

This position is part-time (minimum 40 hours/month) January to April and full-time May and June 1987. The wage is \$8.00/hour plus travel expenses.

Competition closes November 14, 1986. Interviews will be held in early January, 1987.

Applicants are asked to submit a resume, a copy of their winter session timetable and an indication of preferred location to:

**Hire A Student Resource Section  
Career Development and Employment  
2nd Floor, Sun Building, 10363 - 108 Street  
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For further information, call the Hire A Student Resource Section collect at 427-0115.

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