

Tunisian experience — Dalton plays Livingstone

by SHELLY NELSON

While most students worked dilligently at jobs this summer, a member of the UNB Faculty, Dr. William Dalton, Chairman of the Anthropology Dept., spent his summer in Tunisia.

His time spent in this North African country was indulged in studying the cultural society which is rapidly industrializing.

Even though Dalton studied Arabic at the University of Manchester, and at Harvard University, he says that it took a while for him to fit into the Arab world. 'You find yourself

having to give up your own way of life.'

Despite this, Prof. Dalton made many good friends, including Beduoin tribesman, whom he met while living in Libya for two years.

While studying their culture, the professor soon found that they were just as interested in his culture as he was in theirs. Discussions revolved around technology and surprisingly enough, the first landing on the moon.

Because the Beduoin have an egalitarian system, Prof. Dalton found himself being

veiwed as only something of a curiosity. However in the Oasis, the natives revered him as a teacher.

Dalton, who was known as 'Bill' throughout the Beduoin tribe, noted that his biggest surprise came from the veiling of women. 'To see the face of a woman is a supreme embarrassment not only to her, but to her husband as well.' Contrary to popular belief, however, this institution is not practiced in all Middle Eastern countries.

North Africa is described by Dalton as a 'huge musuem',

due to the unlikely appearance of of Roman amphitheatres and arches scattered throughout Tunisia and Libya in the most remote parts of the land. Other such historical findings are the remains of Leptis Magna in Libya, and, of course the ancient city of Carthage, which was constantly at odds with Rome.

Dalton recounts his amazement upon entering the Arab world for the first time, and viewing long-robed men on donkeys. 'When I first landed in Morocco, I thought I was looking at a Biblical scene!'

Of course, one cannot enter North African countries without having some hesitation on the various forms of governments - 'democracies'

opposed to 'dictatorships'. Currently Pres. Mabib Bourguiba and Col. Muammar Qaddafi, the respective leaders of Tunisia and Libya, are at odds with each other.

As a result of this, according to Dalton, the people see themselves as victims of a political battle. 'They are at the receiving end of many Western policies, so therefore many of them are more politically aware than we are.'

What does the future hold in store for the Beduoin nomads, whose only source of income is their herds? According to Dr. Dalton, they are continually being subjected to the control of the state, and as a result, their way of life is radically changing.

Campus Ministry "loneliness"

by MARILYN ROSE 454-1093

I'm sitting in my room. The door is closed. The desk is littered with junk - an empty Coke can, the torn wrapper from a candy bar, a cup with half an inch of murky looking coffee still in it, 5 or 6 scattered notes to myself reminding me of things to be done and finally the papers and books I need to complete the English paper due in the morning.

First I stare at the wall in front of me, then at the door and finally at the mess on my desk. In the hall I hear people laughing and talking and my first impulse is to forget the assignment that is due and to jump up and join them. I don't want to be alone right now. Sitting here by myself is driving me crazy. Yet here I sit and the loneliness remains.

Have you ever felt like this? Being alone doesn't have to mean being lonely. You can use those times alone to your benefit, instead of feeling blue.

How? Start with your attitude. How do you view your

time alone? Are you bored? Do you feel "stuck" alone? Choose to make the most of this time by seeing it as an opportunity to develop yourself. Here are a few suggestions:

- Learn something new - don't worry about whether it's practical. What's important is that it's something you want to do.
- Get some exercise - if you like to jog or play squash, start doing it regularly. Join a team.

- Read - go to the library and pick up some books to read purely for pleasure.

- Rearrange or redecorate your room - sounds simple, but it's another way of affirming and expressing your individuality.

- Help others - do volunteer work at the hospital or in a nursing home. Teach a Sunday School Class.

So whatever you do when you're feeling lonely remember that by reaching out and touching someone else's life with caring and love then through your times of loneliness you can grow as a person.

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