

LETTERS

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of frontiers." This is, no doubt, a fundamental human right.

If Liberty Coalition and other groups feel threatened at York, why not let them speak, unopposed, in an open forum? The York University New Democrats sincerely believe that such an environment would allow all to understand the matter more clearly. Let all misconceptions, falsehoods and heresay be removed. Let us all join in a reasonable academic discussion, one which would allow each to decide on the matter for him/herself. If such a forum cannot be achieved at York, if this institution is not the place in which we can facilitate 'higher education,' then I must sadly ask, "Why are we here?"

We cannot hesitate to act on an issue so pressing.

Norman G. Kester
Co-Chairperson

York University New Democrats

Lay off the Ross, says student

Dear editor,

I don't care what anyone else thinks—I LIKE THE ROSS BUILDING!

Paul Downes

Apartheid allows no such freedoms

Editor,

Greg Hopper and his so-called "Liberty coalition" stood behind a table in Central Square recently, distributing literature published by the South African government. This is a government responsible for the violent subjugation of 85% of its people. It is a government responsible for the murder of over 2,000 people and the detention of well over 20,000 since the "state of emergency" was imposed (not a record he would tolerate from a black regime for one day).

The media restrictions are draconian. In May this year the newspaper

"Saamstaan" published a story exposing an incident in June 1985 when police killed three boys aged 11. The police claimed they had only killed two. It was the editor who was brought to court. Newspapers are only allowed to print what the government deems fit for publication. There is no freedom of speech in South Africa. Poor old Greg has fallen into the trap of exposing his own ignorance. He uses the same old ploy as the racist South African regime who brand all their opponents with the same Marxist label and then jail them. The people of South Africa don't need Greg, or anyone else to tell them about the virtue of the individual freedoms that capitalism brings or how they should conduct their struggle best. Let's listen to them. They are struggling for their lives, for the freedom to live as citizens in their own country. They are united in their millions by the "Freedom Charter," the first lines of which state: "South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government shall justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of all the people."

Marxism is not on the agenda. National liberation, freedom and democracy is. This is the voice we should strengthen. Whether you are conservative or liberal, capitalist or marxist—is not the issue; being anti-racist and anti-apartheid is!

Britain and America's alliance with the Soviet Union against Nazi Germany helped to win the Second World War. History repeats itself. Today is not the time for branding labels on people and organizations. We have not the time for smear campaigns. Let's forget the so-called "Liberty Coalition" and get down to the serious business of supporting the liberation struggle. At York, students should support the York Student Movement Against Apartheid (YSMAA). Come to our table Mondays & Fridays in October and Thursdays in November. Go to the Rally Against Apartheid on Saturday, October 10, 1987, which assembles 12 noon at the northwest corner of King and Bay, followed by a march to Nathan Phillips Square and listen to the ANC speak.

David Brown

NEWS DIGEST

Students fast for the starving

By PETER CRONSBERRY

In an effort to raise funds for world hunger, Globefast, an international day of fasting, has been organized for October 15.

The project is taking place in honour of the United Nations' official 'World Food Day.' According to organizer Caroline Nobuto the major goal of the event is to raise public awareness about the issue.

Globefast organizers are encouraging participants to fast for the 24-hour period as they would on a normal day. It is through participation of this type that individuals may be able to identify with starving victims.

Since the conclusion of undertakings such as Live Aid and Band-Aid, further fundraising and awareness of the problem have diminished. In the Third World alone, 15 million children will die of hunger or hunger-related illnesses this year.

For further information, please contact the CYSF Director of Social and Cultural Affairs, Meiyin Yap at 736-2515.

52 % of Afghan population gone

By STACEY BEAUCHAMP

A "tainted" view of the war in Afghanistan is being portrayed to the general public, according to President of the Afghan Association of Ontario, Shafiq Jasar.

Jasar, who is also the editor of *Afghan Liberation*, believes that both Soviet and North American media lack the background to report on the problem. In addition, he claims that the Soviet media is restrained by its government on this issue.

North American journalists on the other hand, expressed Jasar, may

have more information, yet it is limited since one must actually witness the turmoil in Afghanistan to adequately report on it.

Nelja Ramazonova, editor of *Soviet Women Magazine*, spoke briefly on the issue at "Reading Red," a forum on media in the Soviet Union. The media in the USSR, she said, is well aware of the situation in Afghanistan and she herself is "not happy" about the situation. Ramazonova believes that both countries "together should solve the problem." She refused, however, to speak of her government's reasons for the invasion.

The President of the York University Coalition of Peace Through Strength, Michael Payne, spoke of additional problems surrounding the situation. It is his belief that "while the independent Communist Parties of Western Europe had condemned the invasion, the only public political force that remains silent (on the issue) is the one that paradoxically calls itself the Peace movement."

According to Jasar, the Soviet Union claims that it is helping Afghans out of the "dark ages" by sending in its "progressive forces." In his opinion there is no justification for what they are doing. According to a Fact Sheet published by Human Concern International, 52% of the Afghanistan population have either died or fled to another country as a direct result of the invasion. Afghans make up 50% of the world's total of refugees and 66% of refugees coming into Canada. These statistics are some of the information that should be better communicated through the media, Jasar said.

Math students set up Society

By GARRY MARR

For the first time since the early '70s, York University math students are trying to create an organization to

act as a liaison between students and professors.

George Snopek, a third year mathematics student, is leading the drive to create the York Student Math Society (YSMS). Presently, Snopek said, only himself—a treasurer—and 10 supporters were involved, although he hopes to gain wider support among the thousands of students taking math courses. He has targeted half of these students as prospective members of the organization.

Joan Pelletier, chair of the math department, said "[I] would endorse the application as a nominal advisor," although she had some reservations to Snopek's original plans. Originally, Snopek was interested in an office and staff, but he was quickly confronted with the reality of shortages in space and money, which he now acknowledges.

Pelletier said that she supported the organization with modifications. She was in favour of student input in the curriculum which, she said, is encouraged by the math department.

Snopek expects that the application for CYSF approval will come shortly.

Anti-Apartheid rally planned

By ANGELA CATALLO

A rally organized by Toronto's Rally Against Apartheid Committee will be held this coming Saturday in commemoration of the International Day in Solidarity with Political Prisoners of South Africa and Namibia.

The march will begin at noon at the South African Consulate (northwest corner of King and Bay) and will end at Nathan Phillips Square at 1:30 p.m. where the rally will take place. At the rally, anti-apartheid supporters will hear representatives from the African National Congress and the Assembly of the First Nations speak on South Africa. Also, local musicians and poets will be present to entertain supporters.

For more information on this event, please contact: The Rally Against Apartheid Committee at 588-7715.

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