

M.P. punctures Palestinians

OTTAWA (CUP)—Tension between the Jewish and Arab students at the University of Ottawa flared during a Nov. 8 speaking engagement by M.P. Jim Peterson.

Peterson (Liberal-Willowdale) recently toured war-torn Lebanon on a personal fact-finding mission. In his speech he was critical of the Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) presence in the country.

Peterson said he visited the village of Damure, 15 miles south of Beirut, which the PLO took over as a military base. The former village of 15,000 Maronite Christians was completely uninhabited, he said. All three churches had been desecrated and one had been used as a garage for repairing PLO vehicles.

Peterson said he had been "led by the media to expect another Dresden" in the aftermath of the Israeli invasion, but this was not the case.

An Allied round-the-clock bombing raid on the German city of Dresden in 1945 killed 135,000 people, more than the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

When the floor opened for

questions after Peterson's talk, the debate on the Lebanese conflict grew animated. Students began shouting at each other. One heckler called Peterson a "Nazi bastard."

A scuffle broke out after Jewish student, Paul Gazin, said, "I am a Canadian citizen, these people (Arab student hecklers) are guests here. They should not act like hostile animals."

Gazin was grabbed and punched,

and his shirt was torn.

Police and security guards were called to the scene as the forum ended quickly. No charges have been laid.

The forum, sponsored by the Jewish Student Union (JSU), follows weeks of tension between the U of O Students' Federation and the JSU. The federation's executive has condemned the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and equated Zionism with racism.

AAB has job vacancy

SU VP academic Wes Sawatsky is having problems filling vacancies on the Academic Affairs Board (AAB).

There have been two vacancies on the eleven member board for some time now.

Recently a new council member for the Education Faculty was appointed to the AAB but that still leaves one vacancy.

"I was really happy to get that one person," said Sawatsky.

The recently filled and the yet to be filled positions have to be filled by council members.

Unfortunately few council members feel moved to sit on the AAB.

"It's a bad time of year," said Sawatsky.

The AAB is the committee that decides upon the grants the SU decides to give the departmental and faculty clubs.

"That's the one concrete thing the AAB does but I was hoping to turn it into a more active forum for academic issues and try to expand its role," said Sawatsky.

TM fund drive raises \$20,000

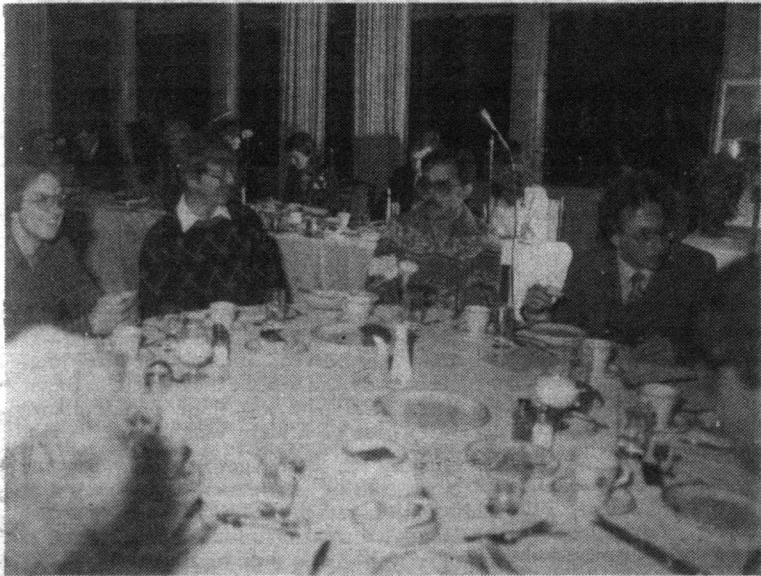


photo by Jim Miller

TM supporters gathered for fund raiser at Mayfair Golf and Country Club.

by Jim Miller

Supporters of the Transcendental Meditation and TM-Sidhis program gathered Saturday in Edmonton to raise funds for the organization's university. About \$20,000 in pledges were taken.

A dinner, at the Mayfair Golf & Country Club, was held to raise funds for Maharishi International University in Fairfield, Iowa which was founded in 1972. About 100 people attended the function which was also billed as the largest group meditation in western Canada.

MIU has quickly expanded since its inception and offers a variety of programs. A doctoral program in the Neuroscience of Human Consciousness was recently added, which combines the study of physiology,

psychology and physics with the Science of Creative Intelligence. SCI is the theoretical basis to the TM program. MIU received accreditation at the doctoral level on June 24.

Dr. Robert Keith Wallace, co-director of the neuroscience program said, "The new neuroscience program at MIU will unify the profound knowledge and technology of consciousness provided by SCI with the most advanced scientific understanding of the nervous system. This integrated science system will unfold the understanding of the development of higher states of consciousness and what it means to spontaneously live life in accord with natural law."

The Transcendental Meditation program was introduced 25 years ago by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi as a means to relieve stress and improve well-

being. Since that time Maharishi has travelled the world in an effort to make World Peace a reality.

Fairfield, Iowa the site of the movements North American university (there are two others in Europe) is also becoming a community for practitioners of TM and the TM-Sidhis program. They have recently founded their own elementary and secondary schools and are actively encouraging business development. Elementary students in this program scored in the top 1 per cent in the nation on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, a standardized test given nation wide.

The TM-Sidhis (Sidhis means perfection) program was introduced by Maharishi in 1977. This program is designed to help stabilize higher states of consciousness and eliminate potential dangers in society before they have a chance to arise. Sidhis techniques are given to meditators who have been practising TM program for a minimum of 2 months. These techniques, it is claimed, will eventually give their practitioner extraordinary abilities.

Perhaps the best known of these is the ability to levitate.

Forty thousand people have been instructed world wide in these techniques. Two large domes have been built in Fairfield, where as many as 1,600 have practised the Sidhi program at one time.

Saturday's dinner was part of an over-all effort by the organization to continue in its efforts to improve the quality of life locally and internationally. Local headquarters of the organization are at 308 LeMarchand Mansion, 483-6531.

The Students' International Meditation Society, which instructs the Transcendental Meditation program lectures on campus Tuesday evenings at 8:15 and Wednesdays at noon in the Humanities Centre 2-33.

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