

# 'Canadian coverage of Biafra unfair'

By TERRY PETTIT

A U of A African student has accused the Canadian press of "mis-educating" Canadians about the Biafran Civil War.

Okon Udokang, a grad student in poli sci and a student of world affairs accused the press in front of about 200 people at an Africa speakout in SUB theatre lobby Wednesday noon.

Contrary to what we have been told, he said, "the Biafran struggle is not a tribal war but one between supporters of federal unity and separatists."

He stated that the countries supporting Biafra seems to want to break Africa up into a large number of small, economically dependent countries.

Another member of the panel, Egwuonwu Okafor, a grad student in pharmacy refused to let this statement go unchallenged.

He said the Nigerians are using this as an excuse to suppress the Biafrans, but that ten out of 22 countries in Africa are smaller than Biafra—smaller, in fact, than the Ibo tribe itself.

Due to the increasingly unbearable conditions that the Biafrans faced under the Nigeria government, "we had no alternative but to say goodbye to Nigeria and we did," he said.

Mr. Udokang attacked the role that missionaries, especially the United Church of Canada, have played in influencing public opinion against the Nigerians.

"We cannot live in America, we cannot live in Europe, and now you don't want us to live in Africa. Where do you want us to live?" he questioned.

One of the women in the audience, who spent two years in Biafra just prior to the start of the civil war, maintained that it was entirely a tribal war and defended

the position of the missionaries in Africa.

She accused Mr. Udokang of being out of touch with events in Nigeria since he left ten years ago and condemned Britain and Russia for sending arms to "help create chaos".

Another speaker, Prof. R. Koplon of the poli sci department, said that there is a theory in political science circles that "in Africa we will see a vicious circle".

First there will be multi-party democracy followed by a one party totalitarian system followed by a military takeover attempting to bring order and honesty to a corrupt regime, followed by a renewal of the multiparty system. This is due mainly to the tribal system in Africa.

The first part of the program was devoted to a discussion of the Rhodesian problem.

Prof. Les Greene of the poli sci dept was of the opinion that "the whole thing has become a situa-

tion of bloody nonsense, of ideological piety", and that any military sanctions should have been applied immediately, when a token gesture would have been enough.

"We believe that self-government is always better than good government," he said.

Another speaker, Ashwin Shingadia, a graduate student in poli sci from Rhodesia accused Ian Smith of being a "racist".

"The Rhodesian government is a Frankenstein monster that will collapse of its own dead weight," he said.

"It is our duty in the name of peace to help the guerillas" who he said are coming into Rhodesia through Angola and Mozambique.

He protested the conditions in the detention camps for political prisoners, saying they are "sordid".

A member of the audience, from Africa, said "It is too bad there isn't a timetable when the government will collapse so we can be rewarded for our patience."



—George Barr photo

**JUBILAIRES RETURN WEDNESDAY**—for a second run of "Girl Crazy". In this scene Gordon Gordey plays a zany European pianist who vows the girls in a western saloon. Tickets for this week's performances are still available in SUB.

## If you are arrogant, CUSO doesn't want you —you must learn about helping countries

By DICK NIMMONS

Are you arrogant?

If you want to work with CUSO or any other international development agency, you had best forget it, because you are just not wanted in any foreign country.

Such was the message at "People Aid: Help or Hinderance to Development" Wednesday night. The discussion of the panel concerned the approach and attitudes of CUSO volunteers and foreign aid workers.

### AID GIVEN

The panel consisted of: Bruce Bailey, Canadian operations director of CUSO; David Catmur, who has worked in India as a foreign aid worker; Al Bromling and Eugene Dextrase, former CUSO workers; and David Njire, a Kenyan student at U of A.

All of the panel members pointed to the fact that foreign aid is given, and volunteers come, with the attitude "We, the developed (white) nations, have all the answers." David Njire stated that this attitude is closely linked with latent racism: "White people are faced with hostility, because, when they believe they have the answers they assume a superior attitude, and when charged with this (racism) they answer defensively: 'Some of our best friends are negroes.'"

### BLONDES?

This defensive attitude invites suspicion, according to Mr. Njire, "Because when do you ever hear a white person say 'Some of my best friends are blonde?'"

Another theme that ran through the discussion was the statement that if the CUSO volunteers want to be accepted in a foreign aid country they should not try to

interfere until they thoroughly understand the situation in the host country.

Bruce Bailey, in the course of his speech, offered a series of criteria for developed countries to use in the giving of foreign aid:

- The receiving country should

have a government that has at least the support of its people.

- The receiving government should be interested in social change.

- The receiving government should have a strong commitment to general human equality.

## TEACHERS WANTED

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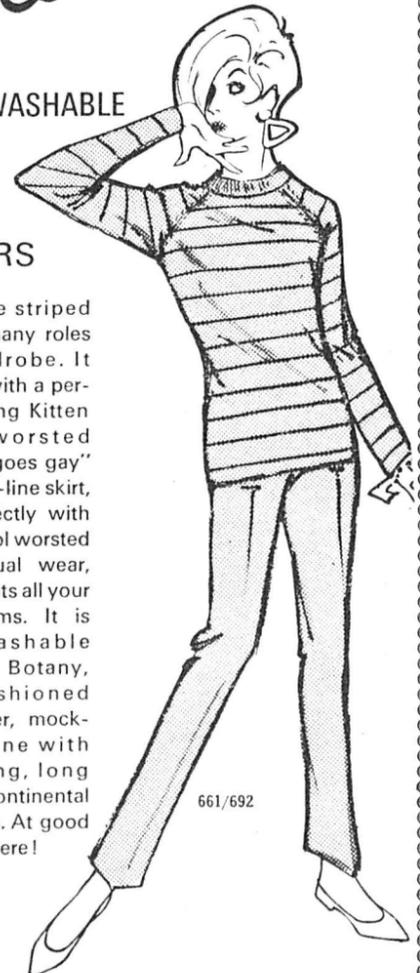
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