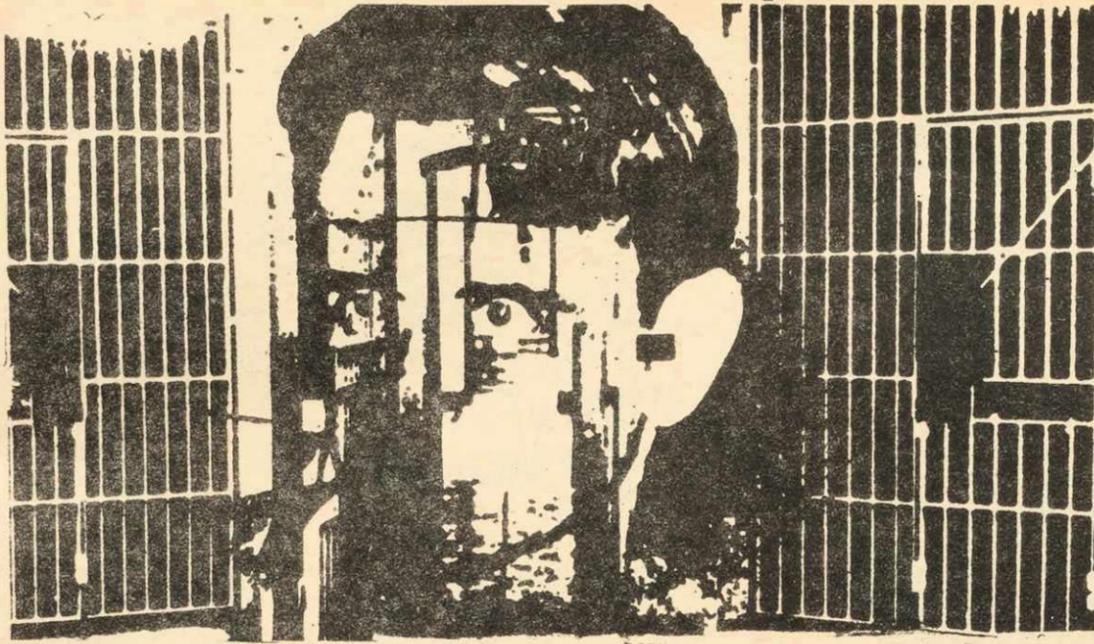


# Holocaust a definite possibility



by Heather Myers

We'll have a "holocaust" on our hands if Canada's prison system is not changed, said B.C. prisoners' rights activist Claire Culhane, speaking at the Dalhousie Law Hour in the Weldon Law Building last Thursday morning.

Culhane attacked the prison system for both its cruelty and ineffectiveness, and expressed concern for inmates and their future victims. Most prisoners have not committed violent crimes, she said, but

after serving 2-10 brutalizing years in a federal prison, they are "walking time bombs."

Claire Culhane recognized the need for law and order within the person and in society, but claimed nothing short of elimination of the present federal prison system will achieve this.

She stated discrimination starts in court, where most judges are ignorant of both the conditions of prisons and the life of the socially and economically deprived classes

from which the majority of the accused come. Culhane cited records indicating that native people are consistently given longer than average sentences for minor offenses, supporting her claim that racism is practiced against the native offender.

## Office Questioned



Joan Astle, Community Affairs Secretary

by Darrell Dexter

Community affairs secretary! Who's that? is probably the reaction you would get if you asked somebody about the position.

Well, if you would find yourself in that category, don't be alarmed. It is the predominant feeling, not only on campus, but among student council members. It seems that no one really knows what she is supposed to be doing.

In conversation with the present community affairs secretary, Joan Astle, she admitted that there was no clear job description and that the secretary from last year really had not outlined how she was to approach the job. She said "I see the job as a public relations office to promote student interest in the community and community interest in the students." Well, there is one thing we know for sure, she

receives a one thousand dollar honoraria for whatever it is she is supposed to be doing.

This is not to imply that the office doesn't do anything. Quite the opposite in fact. Astle has been instrumental in starting or reviving such things as Metro Media, which is a page that would be in one of the major Halifax newspapers to tell the general public what is going on at universities in the city. She has also seen to it that such worthy programs as Outreach Tutoring are continuing. She asks that if people are interested in community affairs projects, would they please get in touch with her office in the Student Union building. Presently, they are looking for someone that would do some reading for a blind student who is taking courses at Dalhousie. They are also looking for people to do a host of other things on committees.

John Murphy, former treasurer of the Student Union or as he put it on his report to the Student Union "The Supreme Financial Officer", said that the office was slashed considerably last year and that it was possible that in years to come the office might be sacked. In reply to that, Astle said that Murphy's comments were probably a reflection of how the office was run last year and that if the office was not better defined, then the Student Union would have to look towards a re-evaluation of the office.

In the future for the office there are projects to be dealt with. The office will be running Intro-Dal on November 16, 17 and 18. Also, the office will sponsor a lecture series by the Dalhousie speakers bureau.

## A desire and a need to be educated abroad

by Susan Edgett

Did you ever stop to think how a student in deepest Africa finds out about a certain university in Nova Scotia?

In an interview, John Orkar, the co-ordinator for overseas students, explained how the need and desire to be educated abroad evolved in many African countries.

In his country of origin, Nigeria, missionaries have played a major role in opening the doors to foreign countries such as Britain, the United States and Canada. In the mid 1900's, British missionaries set out to spread their religious knowledge to their colonies in Africa. These pioneers were followed by Americans, and, in 1960, Nigeria welcomed its first Canadian missionary.

The missionaries were widely respected by the Africans, because they were responsible for the education of the children. The mission schools, at one time, were the only educational institutions in the country. Gradually, the state has taken over charge of the curriculum but the religious instruction is still left to the missionaries. Students attending a mission school must pay for tuition, but the government finances the books and the teachers' salaries. State schools do not charge tuition fees and pay the student a minimal wage to be educated. The quality of instruction and the materials vary from school to school unfortunately.

Nigerians were grateful to the missionaries for educating their children. Besides teaching the fundamental skills, missionaries were able to advise their students who had the potential and desire, to continue their post-secondary education abroad. Contacts with foreign universities were set up through the missionaries.

The Canadian government has a budget of \$480,000,000 for prison construction, Culhane said, despite the recommendation of the Law Reform Commission that prison be used only as a last resort, and contrary to statistics that predict Canada will need fewer, not more, prison cells in the future.

Culhane pointed out that at the cost of \$30,000 per prisoner, Canada has a reputation for keeping more people incarcerated per capita than any other Western nation. Yet, the administration at Kingston women's prison dropped a desperately needed life skills program operating at a mere \$4000 because it "cost too much." Rehabilitation cannot exist given the present attitudes in our prison system, Culhane said.

Alternatives to prison, she asserted, are available, once one looks at the problem and its solution in the context of society and its crimes. For the 5% of inmates convicted of

violent crimes, she believes detention is necessary. But rather than maximum security prison, these few need the specialized medical and psychological treatment that could clearly be provided out of the ample government budget. For non-violent prisoners, particularly first offenders, diversion projects, which give convicts a chance to make restitution, should be expanded, she recommended.

Responding to questions from the audience, Culhane suggested that lawyers can be most helpful by suing wherever possible on behalf of a prisoner who has been beaten or abused. Ordinary citizens can write letters, visit prisons, and generally lobby from the outside. Complain to the media, if you are barred from prison. If there were compulsory press conferences inside federal prisons every month, Culhane said, prisoners would not be driven to riots and hostage-takings to make their voices heard.

Since the Nigerian universities did not have the facilities or instructors to accommodate all the students, the government began to promote university education abroad. In this way, the students returning with M.A.'s and Ph.D.'s were more qualified to advance the technology and standard of living in the country.

Hundreds of students apply annually for government scholarships through newspaper advertisements. The scholarship quota depends on the student's academic standing and the need for certain areas of study to be learned. In order to apply to Dalhousie University, Nigerians are required to pass five O levels and two A levels, exams based on the British education system comparable to our Grade 11 or 12. The scholarships for different areas of study vary from year to year, depending on the number of engineers, doctors, lawyers, historians, etc. The government calculates the country's needs.

The Commonwealth countries offer scholarships to study in another Commonwealth country. Students must apply through the government of their country of origin.

Canadian International Development Aid (CIDA) offers scholarships to foreign students wishing to continue their studies in a Canadian graduate program. Several African students, undergraduate or graduate, who show the need for financial assistance, may receive the Earl of Dalhousie Scholarship.

Once the student has been accepted to university abroad, he/she must apply for a passport. The passport processing may be hastened if the student is on scholarship. To receive a student visa, the applicant must present evidence of his/her acceptance

to a Canadian university and prove to the Canadian officials that he/she has access to sufficient funds to finance one year at university. The students must renew the visa each year, providing the same information.

Professor Marriott, Dean of Students, said foreign graduate students generally tend to be supported in part by their governments, while undergraduates from foreign countries depend largely on private finances. Dalhousie advises foreign students that a minimum of \$4000 (plus \$750 as of 1979) is required for one year at the university. Government student loans in Canada apply equally to Canadian born students and students with landed immigrant status (for at least 12 months).

Dean Marriott attributes the hike of \$750 in tuition fees for foreign students as a reaction to the differential fees Canadian students have had to pay abroad in recent years. At one time, students paid the same amount for their tuition. However, as foreign universities have upped tuition fees for Canadian students, so Canadian universities have followed suit. With the Canadian government no longer subsidizing tuition fees for foreign students as of this year, the universities are obliged to increase their fees.

Dean Marriott feels that, for the most part, foreign students have been able to cope with the tuition increase this year. The rise presents little problems to scholarship students who merely bill their home government for the balance. Those foreign students here on personal funds have not approached the Dean of Students with financial difficulties up to now.