



Carol Ann Matschke and Donna Mitchell battle it out in kick boxing at the Acton Y Thursday nights.

This week thru the lens

Acton's 'Y' offers a variety of interesting programs

Registration is tonight



Julie Atherton strikes a pose during the YMCA ballet class Wednesday nights.



Doing an incline dumbbell press is David Stone. The Y runs weight lifting classes two nights a week.



Lee Chung finds this ball a little big to handle during Friday's kindergym class. Children play games, sing songs and do exercises during classes.



David Schultz munches on a cookie during the YMCA's kindergym. Gail Manuel is the instructor of the Friday morning classes.



Stretching at the Ladies keep fit class Thursday at the YMCA is Ellie Tuitman.

By 4 vote margin

# Trinity pulls account out of Scotia Bank

By a majority of just four votes, Trinity United Church members decided Sunday to start removing their assets from the Bank of Nova Scotia in a protest against the bank's loans to South Africa.

The motion on the floor since the February Annual Congregational meeting proposed Trinity remove their funds from the Bank of Nova Scotia and place them in the Toronto-Dominion Bank or a credit union. The T-D bank has stated it will pursue no new loan involvement in South Africa.

An amendment ratified the motion to allow the church board some leeway. The church's current account will be changed immediately and investments will be transferred as they mature if the Bank of Nova Scotia hasn't at that time changed their loan policy.

After nearly three hours of discussion and debate, 76 of the church's 490 voting members and adherents cast ballots, 40 in favour, 36 against.

Debate on the issue has stirred the Trinity congregation for nearly two months. Inspired by a letter from ex-board chairman and Acton chairman for Ten Days for World Development, Eldon Comfort, and the United Church of Canada's urging international banks to cease lending money to the South Africa government because of its apartheid system of racial segregation, the matter was thrown to vote at the congregational meeting February 8. Carried by a "substantial majority" the motion was handed to the Unified Board for action. In an unprecedented action the board threw the decision back to the congregation for further research and information.

A four man panel composed of protagonists Eldon Comfort and United Church of Canada treasurer Bill Davis; and antagonists Wes Beatty and Ross Knechtel, presented information to the congregation prior to a question period.

All members of the panel agreed they were opposed to apartheid. Beatty said the question before Christians was not "should we help to bring about change, but how".

"We should not ask people with influence to back away... we can only help the Africans if people with influence are there", he stated.

Ross Knechtel questioned the motion by asking "should we condemn and punish the Bank of Nova Scotia for disagreeing with the General Council (of the United Church of Canada)". He called the planned action a "secondary boycott" and said it was a "terrible mistake" that would not produce any effect.

Davis explained the attitudes of General Council and provided history of the Task Force formed to look at the church's corporate responsibility.

"We are stewards of the church's money and are responsible for the way it's used... we are obliged to be concerned how the church's profits are made." He added there was no evidence the South Africa government had used loan money to benefit blacks.

"This is not an economic boycott" he concluded.

Last to speak, Eldon Comfort said he believed "every moral, political, sociological and economic means" should be used to attack social evils.

"Why South Africa?" he queried, "no other country is as intransigent to the world as South Africa... all done in the name of Christianity."

He called the South African situation unique—the only country where racial segregation is legal.

During a question period it was brought out by Davis that South Africa is concerned about its international image and credit.

"As long as we are prepared to provide capital we are supporting it (apartheid)" he said.

He explained the U.C. of Canada would be tendering its bank accounts shortly and a bank's position in South Africa would have a bearing on the decision.

Answering a question concerning the "cleanliness" of other Canadian banks, Davis said it was hard to get information from most banks but the Toronto Dominion had issued a public statement that it will not be making any new loans to South Africa.

"I'm confident they are not playing around with us," he said, adding the Royal Bank had come "half way" in the decision, by stating they "had made no new loans to South Africa for two years".

Rev. Chuck Beaton asked the antagonists why couldn't companies in South Africa be asked to bring pressure to bear on the "oppressive regime". "Where there is money there is power," he said.

Beatty answered if the Bank of Nova Scotia were asked to use its influence "where would we stop?"

Knechtel said a better way to counter the South African problem would be to offer scholarships to whites in South Africa, "they'll learn things here they won't learn in South Africa" he added.

Many congregation members chose to speak to the motion. Speaking negatively, senior church board member Ralph Denny informed listeners all banks in question had a percentage of holdings in Brass Can, a company doing business with South Africa. He said the Acton Nova Scotia Bank branch had been very good to Trinity.

Rev. Beaton, speaking for the motion, said Trinity's actions had "far wider implications than we thought" referring to the church recently by national Bank of Nova Scotia president J.A.G. Bell.

"We have a responsibility for international issues" he concluded.

# Acton fights for refugee

Acton visitor from Guatemala, Miguel Angel Albizures, has been arrested in Costa Rica and will likely be killed by the Guatemalan government if letters from Acton churches fail to obtain refugee status for the political escapee in Costa Rica.

Here in February for the Ten Days for World Development program, Albizures and his translator, Anna Lucea Fuentes Mohr told Actonians the horrors of living under the present Guatemalan dictatorship.

A labor union organizer, Albizures was exiled in Costa Rica after having fled for his life. Mrs. Fuentes Mohr is the daughter of an opposition leader murdered for his political activities.

Arrested recently after his return to Costa Rica, Albizures will be returned to Guatemala and will be at the mercy of the government unless he is granted refugee status by Costa Rica.

In an effort to help, a petition has been circulated throughout Acton churches requesting Costa Rican president Rodrigo Carazo Odio grant Albizures refugee status.

A telegram was sent Tuesday and will be followed by a letter bearing an estimated 350 signatures.

Mrs. Ruentes Mohr is married to a Costa Rican and is therefore automatically granted protected status.

# Care of dying meeting

The North Halton Palliative Care Interest Group which was organized to study the needs and concerns of the dying and their families is holding its second meeting April 2, 8 p.m. at the Milton hospital.

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