

THE BRUNS



NATIONAL NEWS

FROM UNIVERSITY NEWSROOMS ACROSS CANADA

Students decry Coke's human rights failures

Coca-Cola's employee health program targeted in international day of protest

by Emma Sobel

MONTREAL (CUP) — Coca-Cola is not doing enough to treat workers in its African bottling plants living with HIV/AIDS, according to a group of McGill University students protesting last week.

The demonstration was organized by Health GAP, an activist group based in New York. Students involved with the McGill International Health Initiative spent an entire day collecting signatures on a petition meant to pressure Coca-Cola to take a more pro-active approach to HIV/

AIDS treatment and prevention among its African workers and their families.

McGill medical student and protest organizer Faiz Ahmad said that because the university deals closely with Coke, students have an interest in the company's treatment of its workers.

"McGill gives so much money to Coke. Almost every building here has a contract with them, so we are trying to get as many [McGill] associations as possible to endorse our cause," he said.

Ahmad argued that Coca-Cola should be doing more to protect its workers from HIV/AIDS, a health crisis that has reached unprecedented epidemic proportions in Africa.

"Coke is putting most of their money into prevention and not into treatment," said Ahmed. "They're

saying, 'Here's a condom; try not to pass it on'."

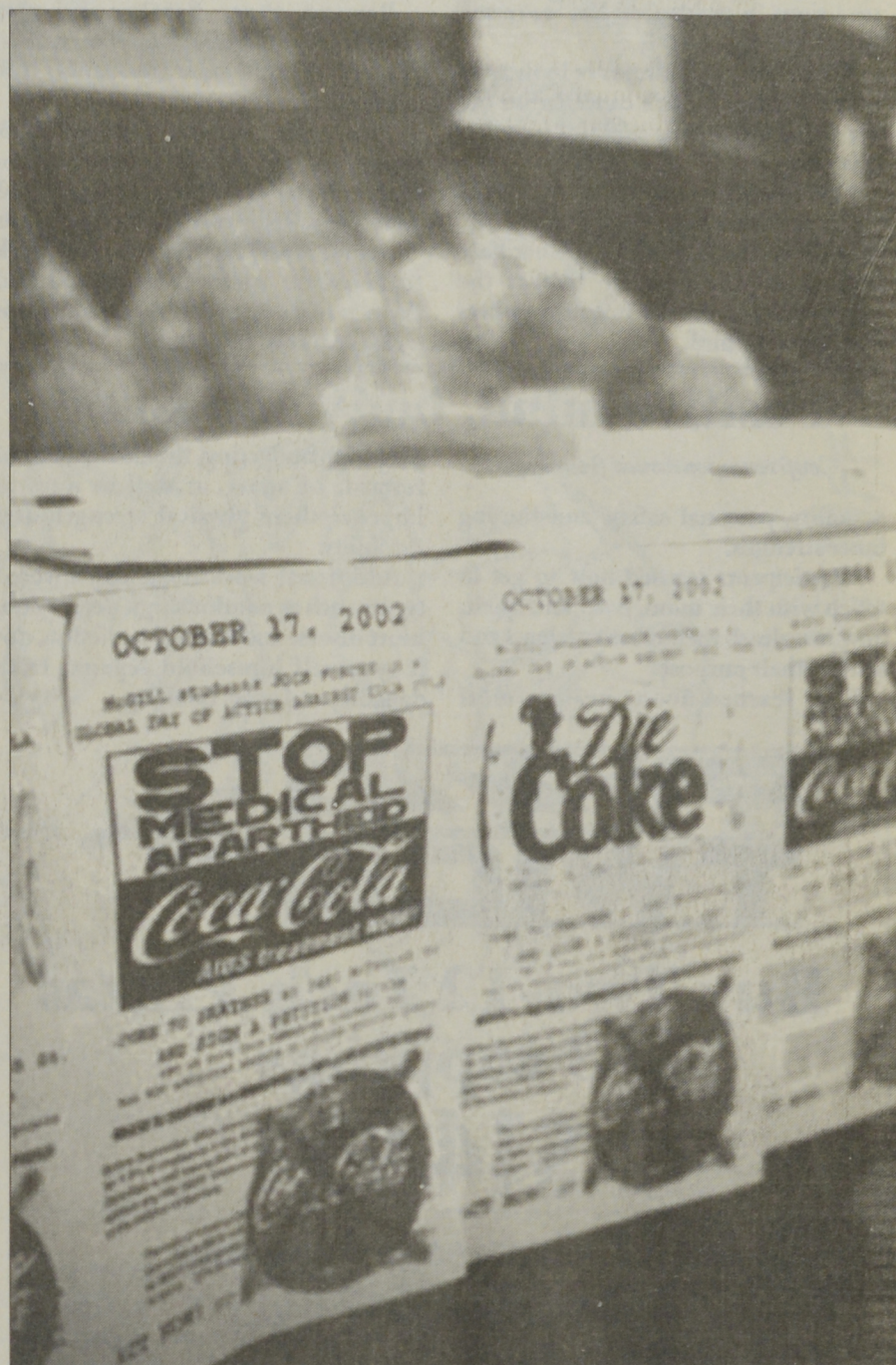
McGill students were the only Canadians to participate in Health GAP's Global Day of Action Against Coca-Cola. Protesters in the United States marched in front of the Coca-Cola buildings in Atlanta and New York, and employees in bottling plants throughout Africa walked away from their jobs to march outside the plants.

Coke responded to the slew of protests by releasing a statement reiterating its commitment to HIV/AIDS education, saying the company "provides full coverage for its 1,200 employees in Africa, while assisting its bottling partners in expanding their existing programs."

According to Sharon-Ann Lynch, a member of Health GAP and an organizer of the worldwide protest, Coca-Cola only recently developed a plan to provide coverage for employees, and of these only 1.5 per cent have access to full coverage. Lynch said that even now only employees with administrative jobs are fully covered, and that the 100,000 workers Coca-Cola employs in its bottling plants remain uncovered.

Coca-Cola has established health care programs at its eight largest bottling plants in Africa, but these programs cover only the employees and their spouses, not their children. Employees are also responsible for 10 per cent of health care costs.

"Coke is a huge industry in Africa right now," says Karen Iny, a volunteer collecting petition signatures at McGill. "They spend a lot on advertising and make \$61 million of profit per year, so supplying adequate healthcare is a basic human right."



The McGill Daily

McGill students garner support for an anti-Coke petition in the Shatner Building last Thursday.

Horrific Nazi medical practices

Medical Historian discusses some of the gruesome Nazi practices

by Cossana Preston

EDMONTON (CUP) — A prominent researcher of Nazi medical techniques warned a full house of physicians and medical students to examine their social accountability, so horrors like the medical studies of Nazi Germany are never repeated.

Entitled "Dementia of the Academy: Medicine in the Third Reich," Dr. William E. Seidelman's lecture provided horrific facts and constant reminders of the medical injustice of our past. Currently a Professor Emeritus of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto, Seidelman has been one of the leading researchers in the ever-unfolding horror stories of the eugenic practices of Nazi Germany.

During the Nazi Regime, said Seidelman, the German health care system underwent complete eugenic reformation, a discriminatory process that medically weeded out the mentally ill and eventually races or religious groups considered to be sub-human in order to form the perfect Aryan race.

Every discipline of medicine was covered in this reformation, said Seidelman. Leading scientists, academics and clinicians formulated eugenic policies and programs and acquired subjects for their research both living and dead.

"Tragically, the same academic and research institutions which gave birth



Gateway

Dr. William Seidelman
"many have yet to claim responsibility"

to modern medicine, medical science, and medical education also fostered ... the greatest program of human destruction in the history of human kind," he said.

Seidelman pointed out that while many of these institutions were pioneers in the field of medicine, specifically psychiatry, many of them have yet to claim responsibility for the role they played in the horrors of the Third Reich. During his lecture, Seidelman used neuropathological studies as his guiding theme.

Heidelberg University, one of today's leading German medical schools, was the centre of the murderous neuropathological research.

Neuropathology, Seidelman explained, depends on brain specimens for analysis. During the Nazi rule,

murdering neurologically handicapped children considerably advanced Nazi research of the brain. Under Nazi law, any child born with a handicap was registered with the state. Pediatric wards were set up in psychiatric hospitals throughout the land for the intentional killing of these children.

"Children transferred to these pediatric departments were killed by intentional starvation and by the administration of high doses of medication such as phenobarbital," said Seidelman. "Two of those killing centres were designated clinical teaching units with instruction of killing of patients."

At one particular laboratory between 1939 and 1944, 1,651 brains were examined. Many of the brains collected were preserved as part of the largest neuropathological collection in the world. Seidelman said this collection remained until 1990, when the Max Planck Society of Berlin finally recognized the victims and the children's

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Doing your homework in the working world

Education continued from Page 1

for would be workers, Addicott says the desire to gain skills and experience is also important to students. Baker agrees. He advises students to consider more than just the bottom line when evaluating job prospects.

"I recommend looking beyond that, if possible, to the acquired skills you would get from those jobs or the benefit in your course of studies or help in getting summer employment," he

said.

Whether students base employment decision on potential experience or the lure of ready cash, Addicott said they should weigh any job prospect against the time commitment it involves.

"Every student is different, however we certainly recommend to students who have a full course load or are undergraduates that they try not to work more than 10 to 12 hours a week. When you make too much of a commitment to an employer you'll

jeopardize your relationship with that employer and you'll jeopardize your course work," she said.

While Hare agrees that a balance between work and study is the ideal he says that inevitably some students will be caught in an economic crunch where work must take priority over school.

"We're finding nationwide that students are working more hours than they used to. We find some students are having to scale back the number of courses they take to work more hours."

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Please contact me in person, by phone, or by e-mail if I can be of service to you. My ministry here — as part of the Student Affairs and Services team at UNB — is full time, and I am on the campuses every weekday.

I am teaching this semester at St. Thomas University. For the rest of this semester, I will be teaching at 8:30 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

At other times, I will be in the Student Affairs and Services Campus Ministry office in the bottom floor of the Alumni Memorial Building or I will be intentionally loitering around the UNB campus and STU campus. Drop in anytime, or make an appointment to see me if you prefer.

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