

Szymanski's support, work honored by foreign students

The untimely and tragic death of Professor Albert Szymanski has evoked deep feelings and an incomparable sense of loss among many foreign students on the University campus.

Al, as we have become affectionately accustomed to calling him, was a principled man who combined his strong sympathy and unequivocal support for the just struggles of Third World peoples to attain more equitable and democratic societies, with a rare encyclopedic mind and scholarly abilities. He was able, whether in writing or speaking, to marshal one

socio-economic and political issues.

The current ominous rise of right-wing ideology in the West has been accompanied internally by an increase in racism, fewer public services for the people, and a narrow-minded ethnocentrism, while externally a dangerous military adventurism, which could lead to a global disaster, is gradually but surely taking shape. What makes Al's work of great importance and relevance at this juncture in world history is that he, single-mindedly and courageously, continued to expose the nature of such sinister internal and external policies and their socio-economic and political ramifications both within and outside of the advanced industrial world.

Ironically, Al may have thought his voice in his own country had been so far a lonely one in a wilderness of apathy and indifference. But for some of us, who came from lands ravaged by many painful years of colonial and imperialistic plunder and continue to be ravaged mercilessly until today, Al's voice resonated with great truth and meaning and found among Third World students many sympathetic ears.

His friendly and close relationships with many international students of various ethnic backgrounds, supplemented by his extensive travels to many parts of the world in order to acquire a first-hand knowledge about different cultures and societies, had endowed him with a deep sense of awareness, sensitivity, and appreciation of the human phenomenon and its universalistic dimensions.

The University, the American people, and humanity have lost a great man. The void he left has already touched many people. But our only consolation is that the loss of Al, the man, is compensated by what continues to remain of him, his brilliant work, to which he had dedicated most of his life. For all of us who learned from and admired this truly great American human being, the memory and meaning of Al Szymanski and his work will never be lost.

Mansour Ehsan
Foreign Student Organization

Commentary

fact after another to prove his arguments and assertions in the most convincing and articulate manner.

Whenever there was a demonstration, a lecture, a petition to be circulated, or a picketing about any issue related to the struggle of Third World peoples, whether in South Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, or any other area, there was always Al, with his confident supportive smile and his favorite phrase "Give 'em hell, brothers."

For those of us who had the privilege of attending his seminars, his lectures were not dry esoteric lessons about sociological theories, methods and facts but, and more importantly so, a learning and growing experience of great significance and meaning.

Through his critical and sharply focused mind, global and local issues, international and national concerns were interwoven together in a single and elegant theoretical construct. The logical outcome of such a panoramic "weltanschauung" was his important and provocative work "The Logic of Imperialism" (1981), whereby he analyzed in great detail the various theories of imperialism, its history and development, its *modus operandi* and its global reach.

He was a prolific writer. At the age of 43, he had already published seven books and numerous articles covering many critical

letters

About ROTC

I would like to address the accusations made by Shasta Hatter (ODE, March 6) and explain my desire to become an officer in the United States Army.

Hatter claimed to have researched the program. I am not denying this but I submit the research was not in depth. The Army rates cadets at Camp Adventure and here at the University. This information is sent in to the branch selection board and evaluated. The board tries to bring the cadet's desires and the Army's needs to a hap-

py medium. If per chance a cadet does not get one of his/her four preferences, there is a chance down the road (three to four years) to change branches.

Secondly, the reason the Army will not train me to operate in the upper ranks is for the simple reason that I am not entering the upper ranks. I will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, not a General working directly for President Reagan. As my career progresses, I will attend an officers advanced course, the Command and General Staff College, and if I pursue a 30 year career, possibly go to the War College.

My reason for becoming an officer is simple. I value my freedom to write to a newspaper and express my views. I also care enough about you, Shasta Hatter, to swear to defend your right to express your view. You have exercised your right to state your opinion, but you need to ensure your claims are backed up with truth before you state them. I invite you or anyone at the University to come to the ROTC and read every single piece of literature we have.

Anthony Helbling
ROTC

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