

UPEI Students Hope to Raise Money at Benefit Concert, Finally

by Marianne DOWLING

While watching news coverage of the poverty in Afghanistan, Sobia Ali made a decision to get involved and do something about the devastation she saw on television.

"I felt I couldn't just keep on living my life as usual while people are dying such cruel deaths," Ali says.

What started as compassion for strangers living thousands of miles away has turned into action with a benefit concert to be held at the barn on March 9th after delays due to poor weather. Ali is proud of how the concert has come together but says that, with no prior experience in advertising or booking bands, the job was daunting in its initial stages.

"It was very intimidating. At first, some people scared me [by] saying it was a huge project, but once I got a few people together to help, it didn't seem as difficult."

Those "few people" included other UPEI students Jenn Galle, Stewart Neatby, George Marshall, and Melissa Mokler, who helped with advertising, booking the bands and venue, and meeting with the student union. It was definitely a team effort,

with each member of the committee sharing the responsibilities, according to Ali.

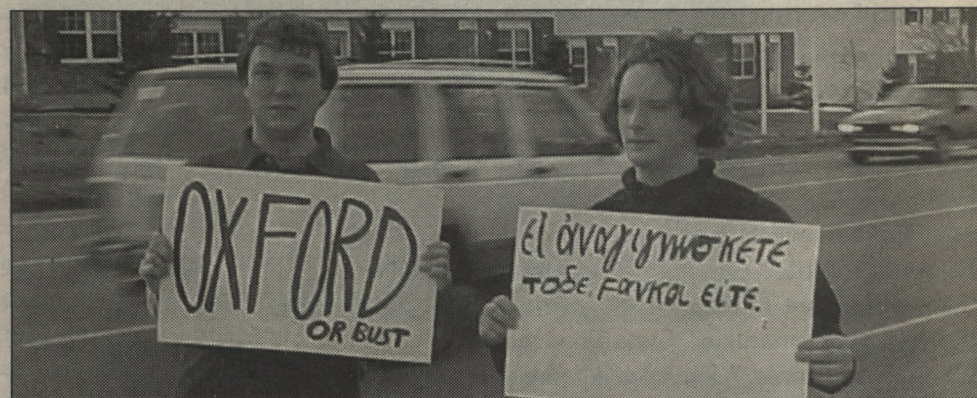
Incredibly, although some questioned whether the concert idea would ever materialize, Sobia says that organizing it—even without experience—was easier than she thought, and she encourages anyone who has ever thought about raising money for a worthy cause to do so.

"If people want to fundraise . . . all they have to do is come up with an idea to raise funds and contact the Red Cross or other legitimate organizations and let them know. They're very helpful and all you have to do is tell them [the organizations] what you plan to do and arrange a time for them to pick up the money. At first I thought there would be lots of paper work, but not at all. It's really very easy."

Bands scheduled to perform at The Bard on March 9th are Port Citizen, Split Lip, Maximum 90, Taste Like Burning, Dr. Bookertable, and The Swindle Project. Proceeds to go to the Red Cross.

Ask the Sexy Religious Studies Majors

by George and John



If God is omnipotent what is the point of intercessory prayer ?

- Dr. D. Buck

Intercessory prayer is when one prays for the welfare of another. For example: let us say your best friend is studying classics at Oxford University. You realize this is a vast academic undertaking. So before you went to bed last night you said a little prayer to whatever God you worship that your friend does well on his or her Greek Civilization exam. That prayer was an intercessory prayer.

If you worship a God like the one worshipped by Jews, Christians, Platonists, or Muslims (and any other like-minded religions) then what was the point? After all, the God of these religions is all-knowing and all-powerful. Before you prayed, God already knew: all about your friend, all about you, all about your prayer before you made it, the outcome of the exam, and God already knew if He/She/It/Whatever was going to help on the exam in some way or not. Here is a pair of possible answers as to why we might pray anyway:

It's Good for You

Intercessory prayer may do nothing for the person you're praying for, but it can help you. People often make intercessory prayers in times of trouble: we pray for sick family members, world peace, or good marks for our friends in UPEI's Greek 102 course. God may not make these things all right, but the person praying

becomes closer to God. This contact with the Divine will bring solace, comfort, strength, and hope to the prayer maker. Comfort is just one aspect of how intercessory prayer can help the prayer maker. Turning to the Divine in all situations enriches the spiritual life of the person who does so; making them an all around better person.

It's all part of the Plan

What if I formed a new religion tomorrow and went on to make the claim that just by praying to my God, all of the students enrolled in Dr. Buck's classes will get 100 percent on their course. If I make my prayers and it comes to pass that all the students get 100 percent, then I may have a few new converts to my religion. Of course, the God of my religion is happy that converts have been made.

Intercessory prayer may be a method of God proving his power or advancing His/Her/Its/Whatever's plan. God is the one who inspires some one to make an intercessory prayer (hence a person isn't somehow changing the mind of God with a prayer, but following the mind's directions). God then fulfills the prayer He/She/It/Whatever inspired, either to prove divine power or to fulfill some grand plan.

If you have any questions on any aspects of religion (or want to join John's new religion) email sexyreligiousmajors@hotmail.com or drop them off at the Cadre office.

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