

Aiding student refugees

by Tom Sinclair-Faulkner

In 1993 CAUT council unanimously adopted a resolution encouraging its member associations to support the Student Refugee Sponsorship Programme of World University Service of Canada (WUSC). This column is the first of a series of regular reports for the CAUT Bulletin on WUSC and its work with student refugees.

Since 1978, WUSC campus committees have sponsored about 400 student refugees from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

In co-operation with Canadian immigration and United Nations refugee authorities, the Ottawa office of WUSC screens applications and interviews candidates in their country of asylum, then submits the applications to local WUSC groups who choose a student refugee for sponsorship.

The local WUSC committee helps the student refugee to find suitable accommodations, gain admission to academic programmes, and get advice and support as needed. Under the best conditions this means the university administration, student union, faculty association and other campus groups agree to share the costs of fully supporting the refugee student for one year. After one year the student refugee is expected to be financially independent.

The programme has been highly successful. Capable students who are bona fide refugees find themselves in good academic programmes in Canada with adequate financial support and an active network of campus friends who can help them to adjust to Canadian life. One year is usually enough for them to be able to proceed with their studies in Canada without further WUSC sponsorship. The local WUSC committee keeps a friendly eye on their progress, but usually moves on to sponsor other new refugee students.

Many university administrations and student unions make substantial financial contributions to the WUSC

Student Refugee programme on their campus. And many individual faculty members make personal donations. But comparatively few faculty associations have made contributions.

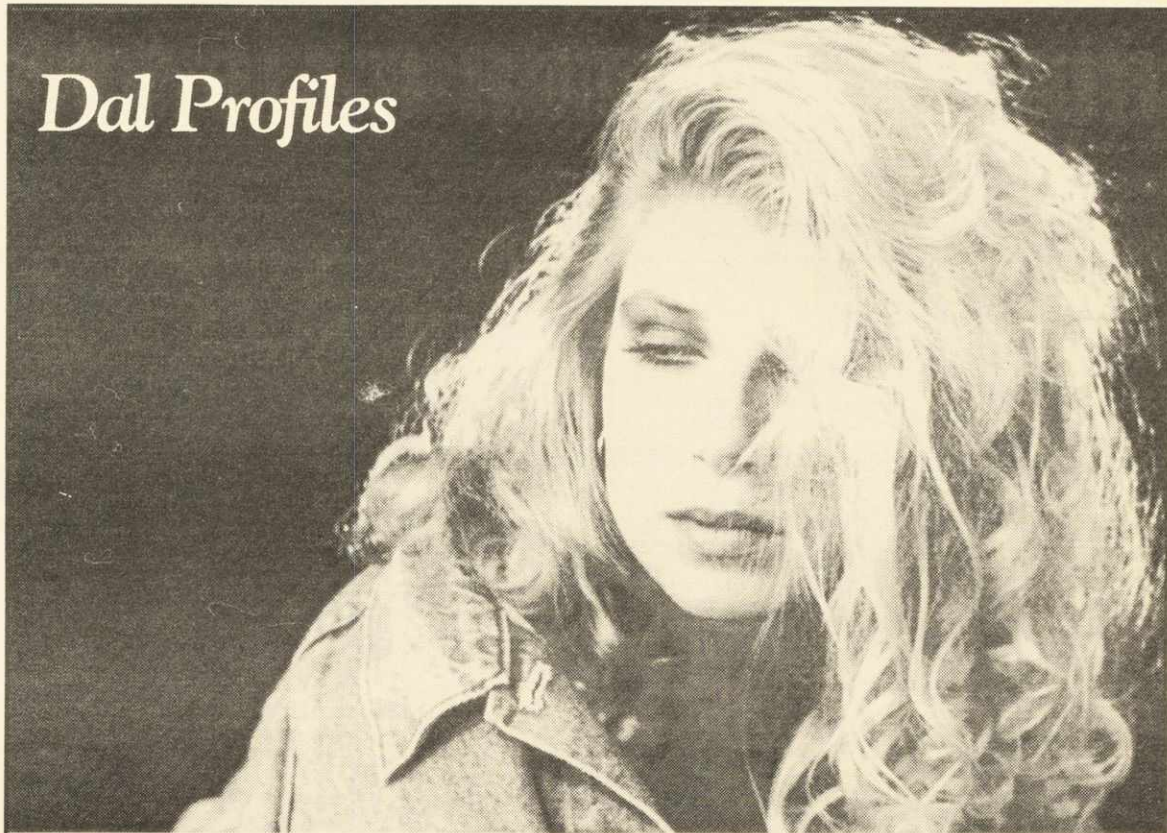
There is good reason for this. Faculty associations collect dues and mobilize volunteers in order to serve their members. They promote academic freedom and better working conditions for faculty and librarians. Despite numerous appeals from various charities for donations, most faculty associations channel their funds and energies into actions that benefit their own members directly. And members may have legitimate reservations about their association diverting resources into other activities, no matter how worthy a particular charity may be.

But participating faculty associations have found the WUSC Student Refugee Sponsorship Programme deserves their support. They know it is a well-run project that serves scholars in the Third World who urgently require assistance. It benefits the host campus by bringing interesting and capable students to it, and it makes good use of local resources by involving individual members of the WUSC local committee.

The faculty associations at Dalhousie, UBC, and the Universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg have supported the WUSC Student Refugee Sponsorship Programme. Their members applaud the action because they know they can trust the programme to select student refugees with a real need, and to support those student refugees on their own campus long enough to launch them on a successful course of study in Canada.

This is not just another appeal for a donation to mitigate a disaster somewhere else. Faculty associations receive such appeals all the time. Instead the WUSC Refugee Student Sponsorship Programme is tailored for faculty associations to put part of their resources behind an experienced effort to aid university

Dal Profiles



Name: Ann Raskin
Age: 25
Childhood nickname: Anna Banana, Cheeks
Ambitions: Social work; Public relations
Ever been out of the country? Poland, Israel
What makes you happy? People that make me laugh
What is your greatest fear? Needles
Favourite smell: Coconut sun-tan lotion
Favourite word: silly
What is the best thing about being profiled? Getting to spend time with you, Tim

All-time favourite song: "Both Hands" by Ani DiFranco
All-time favourite movie theme song: Chariots of Fire
All-time favourite TV show: Different Strokes
Favourite talk-show host: Geraldo
All-time favourite movie: Rocky Horror Picture Show
Favourite cartoon character: Beetlejuice
Favourite TV dinner: Weight Watcher's Gourmet Chicken
Favourite breakfast: Nuts 'n' Honey cereal
Favourite food: Dairy Queen ice-cream cake
Favourite fast-food joint: Harvey's

Favourite brand of soap: Dove
Favourite Crayola colour: Baby blue
Favourite board game: Polyconomy (it's like Monopoly)
Best sexual fantasy: Wouldn't you like to know (ouch... temperamental)
Seen any good bumper stickers lately? Even if I had, they annoy me so I pay no attention to them
Worst gift you've ever received and what did you do with it? ...it's sitting in the basement, rotting
Funniest childhood experience: I bit the head off a goldfish and ran around with the tail in my hand, yelling "Yucky!"

by Tim Richard

people overseas in ways that only universities can.

WUSC has local committees on 71 Canadian campuses and is probably best known for its summer seminars. The first took students and professors to Germany in 1948. In 1957, Ghana was the site of the first WUSC seminar in a developing country. The 1994 seminar was held in Benin, and in 1995 WUSC will be travelling to Vietnam.

"GRIPE OF THE WEEK" LOOK AT THESE ILLOGICALLY SIZED SPACES LEFT OVER... THIS RESULTS IN (YOU GOT IT) ILLOGICALLY-SIZED SPACE FILLERS. MEMO: REMEMBER TO THANK JAN. "GEE. THANKS, JAN." E!

Pharmacy week

by Jeff Léger

National Pharmacy Awareness Week runs from November 1 to 7.

This week, sponsored by the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association, invites pharmacists to promote awareness of their role in the health care system, by educating the public about their services.

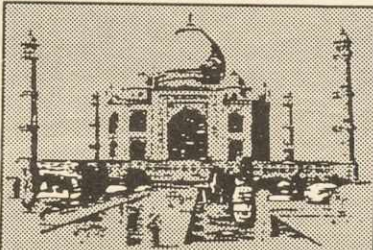
Members of the Dalhousie Student Pharmacy Society (DSPS) did their part by organizing a mall display at Park Lane Mall on November 1 and 2. The theme of the mall display is "Your Prescription for Care." Students and pharmacists will be on hand to answer any questions from members of the public.

The Dalhousie chapter of the Canadian Association of Pharmacy

Students and Interns (APSI) will be sponsoring several events at the College of Pharmacy.

One of these is the Patient Counselling Competition where students are judged on their ability to advise patients on the optimum use of their medications. The winner of this competition will represent Dal at the national competition to be held as part of Professional Development Weekend in January, 1995 at the Université de Montréal.

On Friday, November 4, Mr. Pat King, Executive Director of the Pharmacy Association of Nova Scotia, will be speaking to the pharmacy students on "Alternate Reimbursement—The Future of Our Profession." For more information, contact the College of Pharmacy at 494-2378.



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IT'S PISSING DOWN OUTSIDE. YOU'RE SOAKED. THEY TELL YOU TO "HAVE A NICE DAY."

