

Faculte St. Jean Quebec program

by Colleen Weber

Every summer the Second Language Bursary Program gives students the opportunity to learn French and experience Quebec culture. The program is offered at various universities throughout Quebec.

Lucien Larose, Language Coordinator at Faculte St. Jean, feels the Rimouski program, sponsored by the Faculte St. Jean, provides the best location for French immersion.

"Rimouski is a small town... and very French. I was there for seven weeks last summer and heard English twice."

Rimouski has a predominantly Francophone population of about 50,000. In 1986, according to Larose, "The presence of 180 English-speaking Canadians in their community had an impact."

Students get involved in all aspects of Rimouski life. They play in softball tournaments and even

dress up as clowns for local fairs.

Larose comments on another plus for Rimouski, "One of the really positive points last year was the families."

In 1986, 180 students lived in the community with one or two students per family. Host families were competing to see who could do the most for their billets.

The more fortunate students toured throughout Quebec, to Montreal and points beyond, with their French families.

Travel and activities are also part of the summer school program. Language classes are held in the morning. The afternoons and evenings are spent in workshops and socio-cultural activities organized by the students.

Larose hopes to see students invite local musicians and artists to attend workshops, "Workshops should be fun and promote community involvement."



Lucien Larose from the Faculte St. Jean photo by Colleen Weber

Workshops and clubs give students a chance to explore the

French language through their own creative means. "The rule is

French," says Larose, "and psychologically it's tough."

Initially, many students resort to drawing pictures in order to communicate with their host families and instructors.

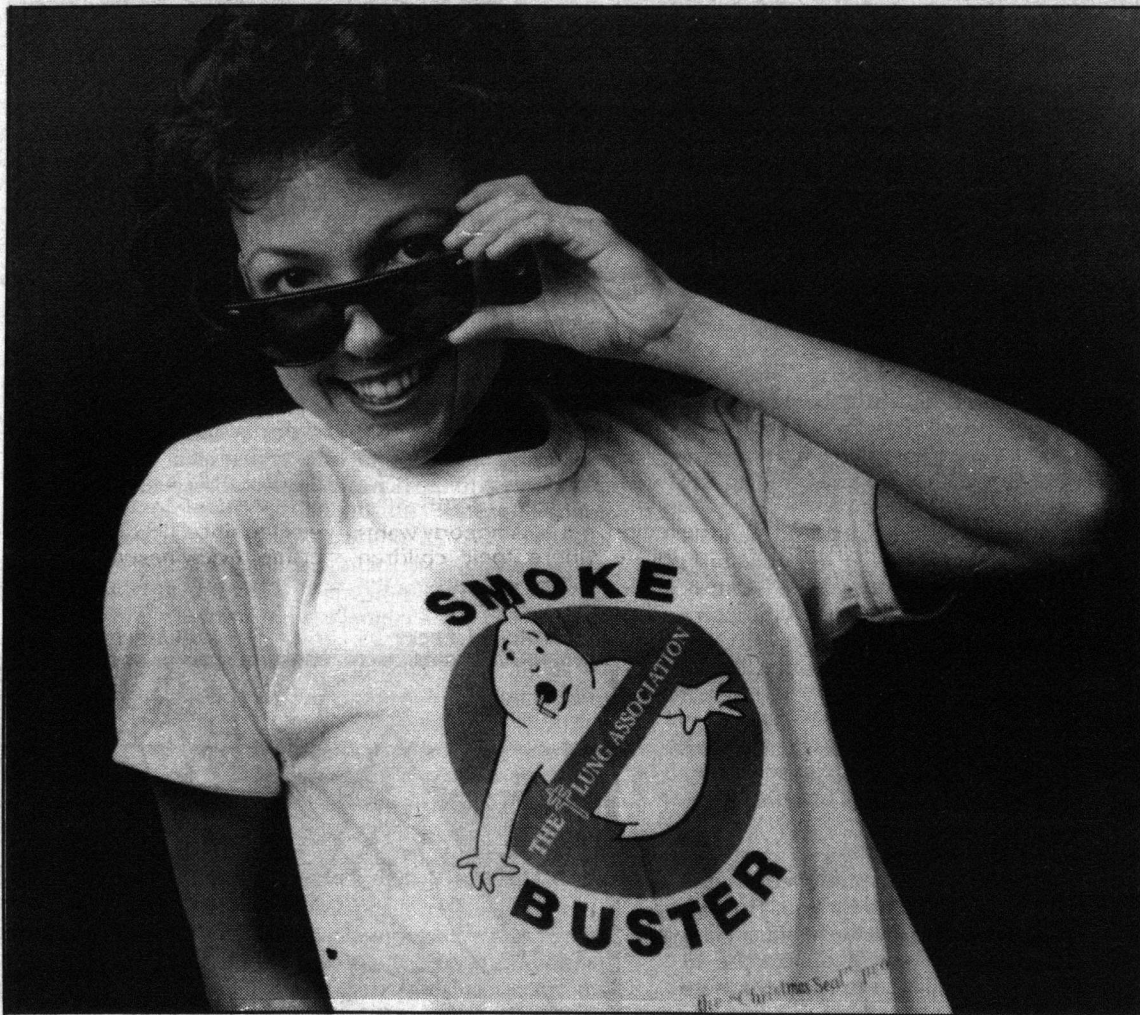
Larose says that the program can only benefit those who participate in it fully. It provides a real opportunity for cultural exchange.

"Last year we had about 120 (students) from Alberta and the remaining 65 were from across Canada with almost every province represented."

Larose stresses that the primary purpose of the Second Language Program is to learn French language and French Canadian culture. However, he also praises the spin-off effects of the program, people meeting people.

"I think we are really answering a need by having 200 people meet out there and get things going."

Who ya gonna call? Smoke busters!!!



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Soap opera watching in HUB reaches new heights of popularity with U of A students

by Kisa Mortenson

If you ever wondered what "real" university students do in their spare time, the answer is soaps. Daytime, primetime, anytime is now soap time.

HUB Mall is the place. Afternoons many students can be found eyeball to eyeball with their favorite soap celebrities.

Is it a new cult? Is it a new trend? Is it just some way to pass the time away? Is it reality or myth?

The reasons for watching soap operas vary from down-and-out boredom to addiction. Perhaps the generic definition for soaps as "candy for the mind" could be cited.

Reasons for watching include, "It's a good break... a time when a person doesn't have to think," or "... just something to do."

One individual compared watching the Soaps to watching the Flintstones, both being just "a mindless break."

Serious soap watchers admitted to needing their soaps and being hooked on the on-going sagas of

certain characters.

The soap opera's first home was radio, where they were carried from 1925 until 1950. The name "soap" opera stems from the fact that the major proportion of sponsors were soap manufacturers.

The intended audience for these programs were housewives.

Daytime TV was the next to experience the soaps. As *The World Turns* dates back to 1956, *Days Of Our Lives* to 1965, and *General Hospital* to 1963. In many cases, the original format changed to allow for greater viewing time.

As *The World Turns* went from thirty minute episodes to hour long episodes in 1975.

The popularity of daytime soaps soon bubbled up into night time TV. According to local TV listings, soaps span the broadcast day from just after lunch to three o'clock in the morning.

So, whenever the mood hits or whatever the reason is, remember there's always a soap out there just waiting for you!

photo by Ron Checora

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INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Barbara Paulson

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