

# YM-YWCA to open alternative 'Cultures' boutique

Press Release

On September 27, the International and Settlement Department of the Fredericton YM-YWCA will open "Cultures" -- an alternative trade gift boutique. The store will offer a wide selection of unique gift items from throughout the Third World.

As a participant in the world-wide "alternative trade" movement, "Cultures" provide Third World artisans a means of selling their products in Canada. The artisans are equal partners who set their own prices at what they feel is a fair exchange for their labour within the context of their economies.

These suppliers are generally collectives or other groups (or their representatives in Canada) which are organized to insure that artisans benefit directly and fairly from their work. Their Canadian representatives may be other YMCAs, YWCAs, or the Mennonite Central Committee.

The idea for the boutique originated when the International Committee of the "Y" was looking for a stable and effective means of raising funds for their overseas projects. Like other charitable organizations, they were finding it increasingly difficult to generate the funds they needed to accomplish their work. The craft boutique will be able to help them in two ways: It provides their overseas partners in the Third World a direct source of income through craft production, and the revenue raised by the store will be returned to the International Program to support its projects

both here and abroad.

International Program Director, Rick McDaniel, examined similar boutiques run by the Montreal YMCA and the Toronto YWCA both of which have been generous in helping the new store get started. The name "Cultures" was registered by the Montreal Y and is used with their permission.

The Mennonite Central Committee, which operates the "Self-Help" stores, has also been very supportive and will be providing the boutique with items from their many sources around the world.

The products sold in "Cultures" are almost exclusively hand-made, and store manager, Barb Martin, adds that the boutique will provide a venue for the clients in the Y's Immigrant

Settlement Programs to market handicrafts and other items.

The store is in the 300 block of King Street, near Piper's Lane. It is located in the former warehouse on the right hand side of the Loading Dock on the alleyway that continues onto York Street.

The store will be volunteer-run and non-profit. Volunteers have been busy throughout September converting the old warehouse space into a boutique, and volunteers will staff the store during regular downtown operating hours.

Barb Martin describes the items carried by the store as "gifts that give twice" because each purchase directly helps

people living in the Third World. Products offered include jewelry, weaving, basketry, brass work and wood carvings.

International Department projects which the store will be raising funds for immediately

include providing a well for the community of Sainagua in the Dominican Republic and paying the airfare to Canada of a Iranian woman and her children who was a victim of torture and has been designated by the United Nations as a "woman refugee at risk".



## Fredericton Society of Saint Andrew Scholarship

Applications for the Scholarship offered by the society are being received until **October 8, 1993**. This Scholarship is available to students who have completed at least one year of study at the University. Application forms are available at the Registrar's office or by calling the Chairperson of the Committee, Mrs. Donna Wallace 453-4864 (day) or 450-2114 (aft. 6p.m.)

## Caribbean Circle News

by Aurelius Gordon

The executive and membership of the Caribbean Circle would like to thank everyone who helped in any way in making our 1993 Welcome Social the success that it was. Special thanks go out to the UNB and STU Student Unions, The Fredericton Caribbean Association, The International Students' Advisor, Mrs. Kay Nandlall, and others too numerous to mention. Thanks a million.

The first general meeting of the Caribbean Circle will be held on Sunday, October 3rd at 4:00pm in Room 103 of the Student Union Building. This meeting is to meet and greet all new and returning members, and to plan our program of activities for this Academic year. Also Caribbean Circle T-Shirts will be on sale.

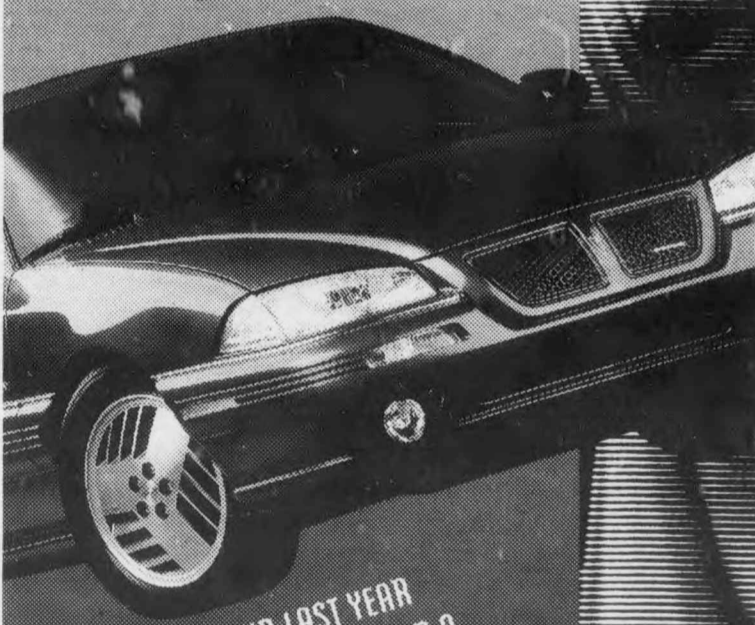
Students from the UNB and STU community who wish to register as new members are cordially invited. Come join the Caribbean Circle - The Spirit of the Caribbean at UNB - STU.

For further information please call  
 Anna Van Loon - P.R.O. Tel: 454-0080  
 Aurelius Gordon - Social Director: Tel: 458-5776, or  
 Mark Chandra-Secretary

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