

# Local girls visit Sri Lanka

Two participants from Fredericton, Ginny MacDonald and Liz Shaver, are among Canadian students who took part in a seminar to Sri Lanka last summer. The seminar, sponsored by the World University Services of Canada (WUSC) is an annual event taking place in different countries of the world. Ginny and Liz, as well as two other New Brunswick students from the Universite de Moncton, were part of the 31 students from across Canada and three professors who attended this seminar.

The seminar lasts for six weeks in addition to one week of orientation in Ottawa. Ginny reports that during this week the participants were introduced to different people from Sri Lanka, among them the High Commissioner. It is at this point that the ins and outs of the trip are explained to the participants and that they first get to know one another.

Each member is responsible for a research topic on some local aspect while on the seminar. For

example, Liz prepared a paper on traditional medicine while Ginny investigated the coconut plantations.

WUSC is an organization of university students who become aware of the problems that exist in the third world countries, who try and sensitize other students to these problems and who organize activities to help the people in the developing country. The World University Services (WUS) is the international organization of which WUSC is an affiliate.

WUS was established in 1920 as a result of the First World War. Its aim was to begin student aid programs and rebuild student facilities. Post-secondary institutions of fifty-two countries now participate in such activities as financial assistance to self-help projects and workshops on development and educational issues.

The study seminar is an

example of one of the activities undertaken by WUSC. It provides an excellent opportunity to learn about a new people and their country. Many people and resources are available to the participants of the program.

Participants become involved locally. Liz and Ginny described a local building effort they were part of for two days. This particular project employed only the simplest of tools, such as hoes. No machinery was used. Approximately 1000 people worked together with a feeling of enjoyment and community. In two days a length of about one mile was completed. Food for the workers was supplied by the village although the government did contribute the staple, rice. Dried fish and curry were two dishes frequently eaten. There was also a tea break during the course of the day.

This community project was organized by Sarvodaya, a Sri Lankan group which Liz describes as "the grass roots community". The group is concerned with people and their culture and maintains that any economic growth must come through and from the people. A community may apply to Sarvodaya for assistance. Different arrangements are with different communities depending on the aid needed. A trade might be taught to one villager who would then return home and share what he had learned.

Other activities of WUSC include Caravan which may be coming to Fredericton and UNB in the fall of 1980, and sponsoring refugee students. The caravan is a sort of travelling handicrafts sale and show. A selection of goods are brought from one particular country in the Third World. These

items, as well as talks and information constitute the caravan. Each local committee organizes the caravan's stay at their university community. An opportunity is thus provided for the students to purchase handicrafts and become a bit more aware of that particular country. The proceeds from the sale of the handicrafts are returned to the country from which they came.

There will be a refugee student coming to St. Thomas University and WUSC hopes to be involved. WUSC is also involved in many long-term projects in the Third World countries.

Funding for the various activities comes from a wide range of sources. Private industry and individuals contribute. Local committees have fund raising events and activities. C.I.D.A. matches contributions towards specific projects and undertakings.

## The medicine man

A rural hospital in Ontario has hired an Indian medicine man to treat its Indian patients especially those with emotional problems.

According to the hospital's mental health advisor, the facility's doctors are very positive about the appointment of 42-year-old George Counsellor because communication problems often make it difficult for white doctors to treat Indians.

Counsellor says his healing powers come from the Great Spirit, and although he has successfully treated both Indians and whites for physical ailments, his speciality is emotional difficulties. However, there are still two things Counsellor says even he can't cure - cancer and diabetes. (Newscrip)

## ELECTION DATE IS NOVEMBER 14, 1979 THE FOLLOWING SEATS ARE VACANT IN THE UPCOMING STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL ELECTION:

Comptroller		Vice President
2 Arts Seats	2 Business Seats	1 Graduate Student Seat
1 Nursing Seat	1 Engineering Seat	President
1 Education Seat	1 Forestry Seat	1 Rep-at-Large (half term)
1 Law Seat	1 Physical Education Seat	1 Rep-at-Large

All seats are full term positions unless otherwise indicated.  
Nomination papers are available at the student union office.  
Nominations close on October 31, 1979 at 5:00 p.m.

There are two (2) positions open on the senate for undergraduate students  
There is one (1) position open on the board of governors for undergraduate students  
Nomination papers for the senate and board of governors positions are available from the university secretary's office or the student union office.

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