

New Faculte immersion program

by Shaun Cody

The Faculte St. Jean is launching a new French immersion program in 1986. After seven years of involvement in French immersion, the Faculte St. Jean has moved its immersion program to the Universite du Quebec in Rimouski.

Lucien Larose, the coordinator of the Faculte's Language Section, commented on the many special features of the new program. "The

Faculte is very optimistic about the new program. The student is our main point of interest. We want to serve the student. We see this (the immersion program in Rimouski) as the beginning of an ongoing program," Larose noted.

What about the location? "Rimouski is really a beautiful area. It's two and a half hours from Quebec City and is - I wouldn't say isolated - but the traditional French Cana-

dian culture is really preserved." Rimouski is a community of about 40,000 located on the Gulf of St. Lawrence. "Rimouski has a high concentration of French speakers. It is in an area where little English is spoken," Larose said.

"The program will be taught at the Universite du Quebec campus in Rimouski. It's actually in a convent building the Ursuline order of Nuns donated to the Universite du

Quebec. The community is very involved and enthusiastic. They have been very supportive. Also, the program will bring revenue into the community.

What's new about the program? "First, the students will be living with French families. This will really promote French language and culture, particularly culture, because the students will eat with the families, spend time with them, and

learn how a French Canadian family runs," Larose pointed out.

What level of student has the Faculte planned for? "A wide range of students are planned for, from the student who can only say 'Bonjour' to the student who is reading 20th century French literature," Larose noted. "On the first day in Rimouski, students will take a placement test and be split into groups. They will be evaluated on oral expression (speaking), oral understanding, writing, and reading. Students can move up or down if the placement test is not indicative of their abilities," stated Larose.

"The program will be very carefully implemented. For instance, eight students who are fully bilingual will go along as liaison people, counsellors: facilitators really. They will form a list of workshops and clubs, plan tours of the town, and be involved with the social aspects of the stay in Rimouski," Larose said.

What are the objectives of the program? "Culture is stressed because we look upon this as not just a course, but also a cultural exchange. Students from all over Canada, except B.C., are represented. Special exercises and programs for handicapped students are already in place. Not only French immersion is offered - we also have computer and visual arts courses that are offered in French. It will be a standardized international French that is taught, but the nature of the program will preserve the local flavour," said Larose. "Also, we want to evaluate and improve on this year's program. We want to make it better each year," he said.

"A student's learning will depend upon aptitude, attitude, motivation, his ear for the language - many factors. We hope to give all the students basic tools for communication."

There are still openings in the program and some bursaries remain available. For more information, call Lucien Larose at 468-1254.



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Save S. Moresby Caravan leaves

by John Watson

The Save South Moresby Caravan left Toronto today at 12:30, and will arrive in Edmonton Friday.

But tonight at 8:00 the Concert to Save South Moresby, featuring BIM and Connie Kaldor, is being held in SUB Theatre.

South Moresby is a group of islands at the southern end of the Queen Charlotte Islands off the B.C. coast. The Haida Indians call it "Haada Gwaii" - Island of the people. Their ancestors have lived on the islands for 8000 years.

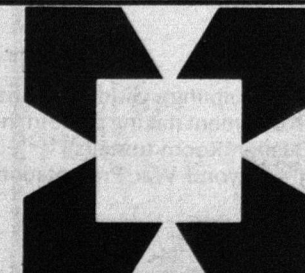
But the Haida are now fighting to stop Western Forest Products, the company which holds the lease to log on the islands.

The Caravan - actually the regularly scheduled VIA train - will be carrying people from across Canada and the U.S. to Vancouver in support of the Haidas.

"The original idea was to go to the Queen Charlottes," said Dave Dodge, one of the organizers, "but we didn't want to become part of the problem out there."

The caravan idea began in an Edmonton lounge in October. Dodge and Thom Henley, both members of the National and Provincial Parks Association, were discussing what could be done for South Moresby.

From there "probably a hundred different groups - and I expect a very conservative 2 million Canadians," have become involved, said Dodge.



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