

# International Development Week

## Stressing the sustainable

by Judith Avery

International Development Week is held each year during the first full week of February. It is meant to increase awareness of the developing world through highlighting local initiatives. It is expected that people in Canada will be exposed to the daily challenges of those living in the developing nations (Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean) and that we will be introduced to the richness of these cultures and societies.

However, it is not enough to be exposed to situations in the south or to watch a few dances, listen to some music and appreciate some art. If we are really to recognize that our common future de-

pends on the willingness of everyone on the planet to work together we have to change our approach.

I recently attended a talk by a where the person spoke on his experience in and observation of an Asian country. In his commentary he stated that he felt in the near future it would be impossible for this country to achieve "western" standards.

I thought to myself, "Great!" — but I knew that this was not how the statement was meant to be interpreted. Many people involved in administering, teaching, or learning of "international development" base progress on how close a country is to resembling "the north" or us.

Presently, the system the world is run under is out of whack. The challenge is

not to come up with more free trade zones, to set up new aid programs, or to find new resources to be sold. The challenge is to bring global interaction to a fair and equitable model for all. This model begins by people in the north looking in our own backyard.

We who consume and make decisions have damaging habits and desires that impact on our local economy, the economies of developing countries, the global environment, local community structures, and community structures internationally.

Development, economic and trade policy must be based on sustainable communities, the creation of healthy citizens, environmentally sound transport systems, equitable distribution of wealth, access to

human rights, diversity and cooperation. We ought to become accountable for our planet in everything from the purity of the water, to access to education, to fair wages, to healthy soils, to shelter. There are choices that can help us move in a positive direction, even if sometimes these actions feel like baby steps.

International Development Week must employ these steps. We have to be motivated to take action for change through noticing linkages between issues, listening to the voices of communities, supporting alternatives and in holding those who affront our goals responsible for their actions.

Let's make this International Development Week different. Let's make change!

### INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEEK 1995

#### February 6-12

Throughout the week watch for: educational displays on Dalhousie's international development projects and from local development non-governmental organizations in the Student Union Building (SUB) Lobby. CKDU 97.5 FM will carry international development programming.

#### Monday, Feb. 6

- 3 p.m. Penny Sanger of the Canadian Friends of Burma will speak on human rights and establishing democracy in Burma, Council Chambers, SUB.
- 7-9 p.m. NSCUBA video and discussion, *Cuba Va*, Room 238, Life Sciences Centre.
- 7 p.m. NS Gambia Association's 10th Annual African Dinner, McInnes Room, SUB.

#### Tuesday, Feb. 7

- 12 noon DAL-Outreach Brown Bag Lunch Seminar Series, *Participation, Poverty and Politics: Working in International Health into the 21st Century*, with David Fletcher, Council Chambers, SUB.
- 12 noon Oxfam Video Series, 2099 Gottingen Street.
- 12 noon IEC Brown Bag Lunch, *Chile: Transition and Empowerment of Women and Popular Organizations*, Saint Mary's University.

#### Wednesday, Feb. 8

- 12 noon IEC Brown Bag Lunch, *Current Development Issues in China*, Saint Mary's University.
- 12:30 p.m. *The Mysterious Case of Disappearing Environmentalists* with Fred Gale, Political Science Dept., Room 319, Arts & Administration Building.
- 3-5 p.m. WUSC *Global Change Game and other popular education techniques*, Room 224/6, SUB.
- 7 p.m. WUSC Symposium, *Education for All: From Rights to Reality*, Saint Mary's University.

#### Thursday, Feb. 9

- 11 am-2pm International Education Centre Open House, Saint Mary's University.
- noon-2 p.m. (drop in anytime) DAL-Outreach presents *International Programs Information Session*. Find out how to work or study in developing countries, room 224/6, SUB.

#### Friday, Feb. 10

- 2-4 p.m. School for Resource and Environmental Studies International Projects (SRES) Open House, 1318 and 1338 Robie Street.

#### Saturday, Feb. 11

- 9 p.m. *Let's Dance: Folk Dancing from Around the World*, (lessons included from 8 to 9 p.m.), Great Hall, University Club. Tickets \$4.

#### Sunday, Feb. 12

Buffet dinner, *A Taste for Change: Global Village Dinner Theatre at The Church*, 5657 North Street. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$4 and can be purchased at Dal SUB Enquiry Desk. Advance tickets only please.

For more information on any of the listed activities, please call Kristine Anderson at 494-2038.

# Beijing not far

by Sandra Widner

During International Development Week our attention is drawn to issues of international concern which link our lives with those of people all over the world. Given the increasing interconnectedness of the process which shape our lives on a global scale, there is a great need for forums which allow everyday people from various countries and life circumstances to create a vision for the future.

The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women which will take place in Beijing in September 1995 has these ideals at the heart of the planning. This gathering has been in the works for years and promises to have an attendance of 30,000 women. The last conference of women this size was the Third World Conference on Women in 1985 in Nairobi.

At the Nairobi conference the sessions were focused on the three themes of the United Nations Decade for Women: equality, peace and development. As well, three sub themes of employment, health and education were addressed. The document which came out of Nairobi identifies the obstacles which impede women's advancement, and suggests basic strategies for overcoming these obstacles and measures for their implementation. The overall outlook, as it usually is from UN conferences, was hopeful and the outward attitude for the future was positive.

The ten critical areas on the agenda at Beijing, as identified by

the UN Commission on the status of Women are:

1. The persistent and growing burden of poverty on women
2. Inequality women's access to education, health and related services
3. Violence against women
4. Effects of armed and other kinds of conflict on women
5. Inequality in women's access to and participation in the defini-

tion of economic structures and policies

6. Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision making at all levels

7. Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women

8. Lack of awareness of, and commitment to, internationally recognized women's rights

9. Insufficient use of mass media to promote women's positive contributions to society

10. Lack of adequate recognition and support for women's contribution to managing natural resources and safeguarding the environment

A most glaring omission from these ten areas is concern with the oppression experienced by women as a result of racism. With this addition and if these issues were seriously addressed and implemented by the world, the world would become more equitable for women. But as a long term vision for lasting positive change, perhaps we should move beyond merely integrating women into the existing system and create a different way of organizing ourselves.



by Louis Lambert

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# The global experience

by Kristine Anderson

The University has recently established a fund, as part of the Student Assistance Program, to provide financial assistance to students who wish to undertake international placements as part of their education experience.

The fund is open to all Dalhousie students who have completed one year of full-time study or its

equivalent at Dalhousie, who are in good academic standing, who intend to return to Dal for at least one term following their international experience, and who qualify for financial assistance (on the basis of need).

The Study/Work International Fund (SWIF) offers to provide support to study, work or practicum placements of at least four weeks in duration for which degree credit at

Dal is given.

SWIF will also consider providing a reduced level of support for placements with service or educational programs sponsored by the university or recognized organizations.

Check it out! Make an appointment. Contact Nancy Hayter at the Lester Pearson International, 1321 Edward Street, 494-2038, for more information and an application.