

WUSC news

W.U.S.C., or World University Service of Canada is a non-profit, non-governmental organization involving the Canadian academic community in social and economic development at home and abroad. Our last meeting, held Sunday Nov. 22, featured guest speaker Tom McIlwraith, Director of Social Action for the Diocese of St. John. Attention was focused on the film: "Guatemala: A People Besieged".

Guatemala is a small, Central American country just north of El Salvador with an area slightly smaller than N.B. and N.S. combined. Three centuries ago, the Spaniards did not find gold there, so the fertile lands of Guatemala were organized into large plantations where the indigenous Mayan peoples were forced into slave labor. Today, the same situation exists despite independence in 1821. According to figures provided by the Canadian Catholic Organization on Development and Peace; over 70 percent of cultivated lands are in the hands of 2 percent of landowners with most of these plantations growing coffee, cotton, bananas, and sugar for export and dominated by U.S. agribusiness. Although these export crops gave Guatemala a G.N.P. of 7 billion dollars in 1980 alone; over 50 percent of the population earn an average 85 dollars per capita yearly. Since over 65 percent of the population live in rural areas and are illiterate; monopoly ownership of land by a few is the key to the country's massive social problems. As more and more land becomes dedicated to export crops (which now stands at 80 percent); local production becomes more insufficient to meet local needs, thus resulting in massive malnutrition. A look at corn, the staple diet, shows that since 1952, (the official being of American investment); the amount grown diminished by 10 percent, while the population doubled.

Guatemala's economic development model, based on exports, has led to an ever greater concentration of wealth into the hands of a few. The rich get richer, the poor get poorer; there is no middle class. Such vast disparities in income and living conditions are maintained by an intensive military regime. A strong coalition exists between the Guatemalan military, the landowning elite, and U.S. agribusiness. Organizations such as the Inter-church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America, Amnesty International, and the Catholic Conference on Peace and Development have clearly illustrated evidence that there is a severe repression of human rights in Guatemala. All trade union leaders, popular clubs, priests, missionaries, and academics who arouse "public awareness" and are dedicated to supporting the struggles of the poor and oppressed are in danger of death. In the past 2 years, 9 priests have been killed, 25 threatened, and 42 forced to leave the country. Over 4,000 persons have been killed in 1980 alone, with hundreds still missing. The Guatemalan government attributes such killings to independent groups outside its control, but Amnesty International has received evidence that they are carried out by the army and the police. Perhaps the most popular case for us in New Brunswick is the murder of Raoul Legér from Buctouche; a social worker working for the Quebec Foreign Mission Society who was "branded" a terrorist and subsequently shot by police.

Repression of human rights is bound to intensify for the U.S. government has a far greater stake in Guatemala than in the rest of Central America. A significant number of American corporations have investments in Guatemala's resources: the 5.3 million hectares of valuable hardwood forests; spices, metals such as chrome, silver, nickel; valuable fishing banks of shrimp, tuna; and oil resources which are just beginning to be exploited. Seven Canadian companies also operate in Guatemala (more than any other Central American country). The largest single foreign investment and industrial enterprise in Guatemala is the giant nickel mine in Quiché province being operated by INCO (International Nickel Company of Canada).

At our next meeting on Sunday Nov. 29, 8 pm Room 103 at the SUB, we will further discuss the role of multinationals and their relation to such issues as hunger, human rights, and the unequal distribution of the world's wealth. We will also be showing a film. Everyone is Welcome to Attend.

CARAVAN sale held

The recent W.U.S.C. CARAVAN sale, held on Nov 17-19, at the SUB blue lounge was a huge success. The 5 percent commission that our local committee earned will be going towards our refugee fund while in accordance to W.U.S.C.'s "no-profit policy", the rest of the profits will return to the refugee work projects, producer-run co-operatives, and profit-sharing handicrafts centres of the respective countries who were involved. The principle aims of the CARAVAN SALE were to arouse Canadian interest in the crafts and cultures of other countries and to provide a market for the products of craftsmen in developing countries and thus help their unemployed or underemployed communities. Our sale featured goods from such diverse countries as India, Bangladesh, Equador, Kenya, and Peru.

The CARAVAN SALE also featured 5 films on development issues: 'Tools for Change' (dealing with appropriate technology for the Third World) 'Rich Man's Medicine, Poor Man's Medicine' (a comparison of traditional and modern ways of medical care)

'The Demy Nation' (of the MacKenzie River Valley N.W.T.)

'The Two Faces of East Africa' (featuring a coastal region family and one living in the



Bernadetta Bouma of WUSC wears a poncho from Ecuador and a hat from Peru while inspecting articles from other developing countries.

mountain region of East Africa) 'In a Nutshell' (an animated film produced by C.I.D.A.) W.U.S.C. would like to ex-

end a special thanks to Prof. Gorge Hidalgo for the use of his records, and to all those who helped make it a success.

Computer time restricted

As most of the members of the University community who use the IBM computer in Head Hall may have already noticed, there is now in place a system known as "allocation." As a result, some have found themselves "cut off" from use of the computer resulting in frustration in not knowing the reasons behind the system, and in not knowing whom to complain to.

The concept of the allocation system was brought forward in response to a need for improved use of the presently existing computer resources, without which growth of the resource is deterred. Over the summer, the Computing Centre put together a proposal for Senate and implemented the system that now exists "in all reasonable haste."

The allocation system has brought about two major changes in one's view of the computer. Firstly, what could be called a "computer budget" system was created, stemming from the Vice President to departments, to "sponsors" (profs, and the like), to "users." As one goes down the

hierarchy, the total allocation is broken down into smaller and smaller chunks, with the use of each chunk being determined at a given level. This allows for those who see the computer being used from day to day to decide on how it is to be used.

Basically, allocation is an allowance of "computer". As one uses the computer, i.e. uses time and memory in running a program, one uses the given allocation. When the amount of computer use is such that it exceeds the allocated value, the user is "cut off" until more allocation is given out. The accounting is performed daily, in order to prevent the potentially aggravating situation of the computer saying, in effect, "you just used all your time up, too bad." One can see the difficulties that might arise should the program be the one that prints up the payroll cheques. The idea behind the system is that if the use of the computer is monitored, then unreasonable uses (i.e. Star Wars) will be considerably

lessened, and the amount of useful work will increase.

Also, there is the option of saying what importance a given users task can be given. Thus allowing for large scale tasks to be done on off-hours and at off-hours-rates.

As the system reflects constraints that are being felt everywhere, not only at UNB, and also as it is the first of its kind, "it is not engraved in stone," according to Bill Mersereau. The questions of allocation levels is of what basis is the allocation to be distributed (by student or by department) and others are being considered as an ongoing process of changing the philosophy of charging for the computer. The system as it exists is probably only temporary, and with luck an improved allocation system will be in place come next September. For those with complaints and/or suggestions, there is a suggestion box by the main computer room, or one can get in touch with the Computer Centre.