

No Caribbean tourist trail for U of A student

by Mario Trono

Gisele Magnusson is one of only thirty students selected by the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) from colleges and universities across the country to participate in an international seminar to the Leeward and Windward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean. She was the only U of A student chosen.

To many, a five week stay in St. Aleutia, St. Kitts, and Martinique would quite simply be a dream vacation. But Magnusson will be spending little time at the beach.

She will be studying food self-sufficiency and the role of the part-time farmer in an area of the world where only the most myopic tourist would fail to see an economy struggling to survive.

"I've been told that if you get off the tourist line it's definitely third world," said Magnusson.

"They have their big hotels to attract tourism but those are one of the few economically viable things they have. They have some of the lowest incomes in the Western hemisphere as well as very low levels of technological development in agriculture and industry."

The islands are small and have severely limited farming capabilities, meaning that most of their food is imported. To acquire a desirable level of self-sufficiency looks to be a herculean task and much of the help needed must come from the outside.

Magnusson said that her reasons for rising to the challenge are twofold. She admits to a humanitarian impulse but believes that Canada has a vested interest in developing nations.

"A lot of people including myself believe in a world economy. If you can bring third world countries into the global market-

place you will see quite a few problems work themselves out, not only abroad but here at home. A lot of Canada's future markets are in the third world, but these countries will be unable to buy

anything if they can't export."

Magnusson would like to help bring about change and is committed to rounding off her knowledge of third world problems with some work in the field. "It

seems foolish to me to be studying only the academic side of things without experiencing the reality of it all. The WUSC seminar will give me the chance to see if I have what it takes to make a difference."

Asked if she thinks Canadians are doing enough, she replied, "We're doing more than a lot of countries, but that doesn't mean a lot. There's a lot of interest but I think people need to be more aware of what they can do. Not everyone can go overseas."

Magnusson will be travelling to a distant land to meet a troubled economy head-on, but she feels that she will be best able to make a difference upon returning to Canada.

"That is one of the expectations of the seminar, that you become involved in making people aware of the problems in developing countries. They are enormous and you have to think long term but the increasing interest amongst Canadians is encouraging."

She is no stranger to the farm. "I come from an agricultural background and when you see the potential of some foreign agricultural communities you can't help thinking about how great it would be to help them, to tell them about this or that method of farming."

She will be taking part in group seminars, helping out in development programs already underway, and will be doing an individual research project.

"We're pretty lucky here in Canada and it's not always because we're doing everything right. We're fortunate. Why not share some of our good fortune?"



The Billionaire Bitches always get what they want — or so they wished at an auction Friday night. Members of the U of A womens business club bid on their dream boys to raise funds for the Edmonton WIN House.

Rob Galbraith

Mac boys boiling over Baptist frat ban

by Kevin Law

There is a challenge brewing to a longstanding ban on campus fraternities at McMaster University in Hamilton Ontario.

A student organization at the university called the Society for Off Campus Students (SOCS)

plans to challenge the prohibition against fraternities that goes back at least since 1957.

The ban originally stemmed from the fact McMaster was at one time a privately run college, according to David Beer, editor

of the campus newspaper *The Silhouette*. At that time, the school's Baptist overseers decreed that fraternities and sororities were unacceptable.

"When we changed to a larger administration, the bylaw was

never changed," said Beer. As for the reason behind the ban, Beer noted, "the best answer we get is the Baptist college was afraid frats meant an "Animal House" syndrome."

As for SOCS establishing a fraternity on campus, Beer said it will not happen. "They will not be allowed to have a frat on campus; the University administration will not budge, so it (the frat) will move off campus."

Beer noted an off campus fraternity house could be a problem too. He said there was a city bylaw passed last year that makes it illegal to have a house with five or more unrelated people living in it. "The group (SOCS) has not dealt with the city on that matter yet," Beer said.

The residential area around the campus is upper middle class noted Beer. He speculated the reason behind the bylaw was a fear of property values decreasing.

However Beer said property values have actually shot up because many area residents rent suites to students and charge high rents.

Such commercial gain has not been lost on McMaster students according to Beer. "Students are buying houses as well and renting them," he said.

Since the acquisition of a frat house is at a touchy stage right now, the SOCS group is hesitant to put a name on their fraternity.

Beer said the group will probably get their fraternity, and it will likely be "very low key and quite small."

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