

## NEWS

## Overseas teaching tips

BY ROBERT CURRIE

With the scarcity of jobs for university graduates in this country has come a willingness to experiment with less traditional forms of employment. One such path that has gained favour recently is teaching English abroad. While there are a wide range of opportunities available, there are also pitfalls.

Imagine finding out that the family you will be staying with in Czechoslovakia expects you to do the housework. Or that your Japanese employer can oblige you to serve out your employment contract, no matter how horrid you find your job?

Such misfortunes are far from the rule, but they have happened. More common is the culture shock

involved in learning a new way of life in a country and language with which you are unfamiliar.

Reactions are as varied as the countries. A teacher of English in Japan writes, "You realize pretty quickly that you will never be part of the mainstream. You also realize that the mainstream is something you do not want to be part of."

Or, in the words of an English teacher in Czechoslovakia, "Cold, lonely, cold, hungry, cold, good beer, cold, beautiful castles, love my students..."

Currently, Japan and Taiwan are the most common destinations for students who wish to make money out of the venture. Some teaching opportunities in Japan pay well, although the cost of living can be a shock.

Eastern Europe is experiencing a great demand for English teachers as they move to integrate into the world economy, but their precarious monetary situation means little chance of making a year financially profitable.

Education for Democracy, an organization which sends English teachers to Czechoslovakia, requires that participants pay their own airfare, but pays a small living allowance. However, the stipend is paid in Czechoslovakian currency, which is worthless outside the country.

Other organizations actually require you to pay for the privilege of working for them, along the lines of a development project volunteer.

The Middle East, Saudi Arabia in particular, is also a centre of demand, although these countries often require formal teaching qualifications.

Because of the variety of countries and programs, choosing a particular path can be difficult. Economic and political changes mean that written information goes out of date very quickly.

Jane Jackson of St. Mary's University recommends talking to people who have taught in the countries you are considering. "Even though experiences may be very different, at least you can get at feelings that people sometimes don't write down."

For those considering teaching English as a second language as a career, Jackson recommends getting professional credentials, such as St. Mary's Master's of Education degree in teaching English.

"The market is changing. There are fewer jobs for people with just a degree in their native language."

St. Mary's program, the only one of its kind east of Montreal, requires that students possess a Bachelor of Education degree.



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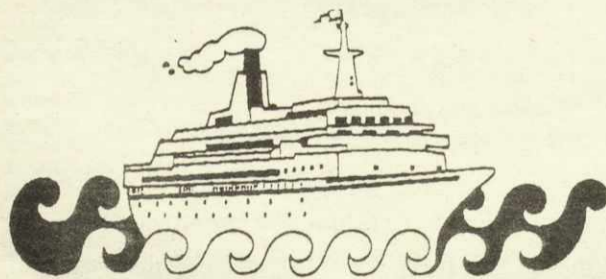
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Recommended - "Where to eat in Canada"

"Curry is the flavour in Kingston, Ontario's most British of Cities" - The Globe & Mail, Wed., Nov. 8 1989  
"Exotic Eating - Dining a delight at Indian restaurant" - Summer Sun, Thur., Sept. 4, 1986  
Suggested by Japanese tourist book

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## WEEK OF REFLECTION

## • TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

6 P.M. *Adam's World* — SUB Rm. 316

— film about Elizabeth Dodson-Gray

— guest speaker about women and the environment (sponsored by CEAG)

7:30 P.M. *Not A Love Story* — SUB Rm. 224

— film and discussion about pornography

## • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Noon and 12:30 P.M. *Spicy Commission* — SUB Lobby

— presentation by Dalhousie's Women and the Law Group

1:00 - 1:30 P.M. *A Gathering In Memory* — Atrium, Law School

— featuring Rose Vaughn Trio and Allison Outhit

3:00 P.M. *What Is Feminism?* — SUB Rm. 307

— panel discussion featuring Andrea Currie, Stepping Stone; Karen Thomas, Byrony House; Bly Frank, Professor, Acadia University; Hermie Abraham, Dalhousie Women's Group

7:30 P.M. *Sandra's Garden* — SUB Rm. 224

— film about surviving incest

## • THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14

1:30 P.M. *Sexual Harassment and the Rape Shield Law* — Main Lounge, Sociology Complex, Seymour & South Sts.

— discussion hosted by the Sociology Students Society

7:30 P.M. *How Safe Are You On Campus?* — SUB Rm. 307

— panel discussion featuring Barbara Harris, President's Advisor on Women; Hilary Wells, Executive VP, DSU; and a representative from SSAV

## • FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

4:00 P.M. *Open Mike* — SUB Green Room

— share your thoughts about violence against women

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