

## One Must Think About Global Problems

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

"One must think about global problems. But the only way you can act is locally."

Joseph Collins, co-author of "Food First" and Co-director of The Institute For Food and Development will be lecturing on that subject in Room 26 of the SUB, Feb. 18 between 12 and 1:30 p.m.

The organization is attempting to inform the public of the problems in the world today concerning food and land scarcity. In a flyer entitled Food First several Myths about the causes of these problems are discussed.

**Myth I:** People are hungry because of scarcity - both of food and agricultural land.

Researchers discovered that when agriculture is viewed as a growth industry in which the control of the basic inputs guarantees big money, a catastrophic chain of events is set into motion. Competition for land sends land values soaring. Higher rents force tenants and sharecroppers into the ranks of the landless. Large commercial growers mechanize to avoid troublesome labour mobilization. Those made jobless join a hopeless search for work in urban slums.

**Myth II:** a hungry world simply cannot afford the luxury of justice for the small farmer.

It is not simply enough to defeat the myth that justice and production are incompatible. It has been proven that the smaller farmer often has a better production ratio than that of the larger landowner. The only solution to hunger is a conscious plan to reduce inequality at every level. Then and only then the hungry will eat what is produced.

**Myth III:** We are faced with a sad trade-off. Population pressure means we must now use marginal land even at the risk of irreparable erosion.

It is not people's food needs that threaten to destroy the environment but other forces: land monopolies that export food and luxury crops, forcing the rural majority to abuse marginal lands. Colonial patterns of crash cropping that continue today; hoarding and speculation on food; and irresponsible profit seeking by both local and foreign elites.

**Myth IV:** Hunger is a contest between the Rich World and the Poor World

There are various links between the plight of the average citizen in the metropolitan countries and the poor majority in the underdeveloped countries. Multinational agribusiness shifting production of luxury items - fresh vegetables, fruits, flowers and meat - out of the industrial countries in search of cheap land and labour in the underdeveloped countries. The result is that farmers and workers in the metropolitan countries lose their jobs while agricultural resources in the underdeveloped countries are increasingly diverted away from food for local people.

**Myth V:** An underdeveloped country's best hope for development is to export those crops in which it has natural advantage and use the earnings to import food and industrial goods. The success of export agriculture

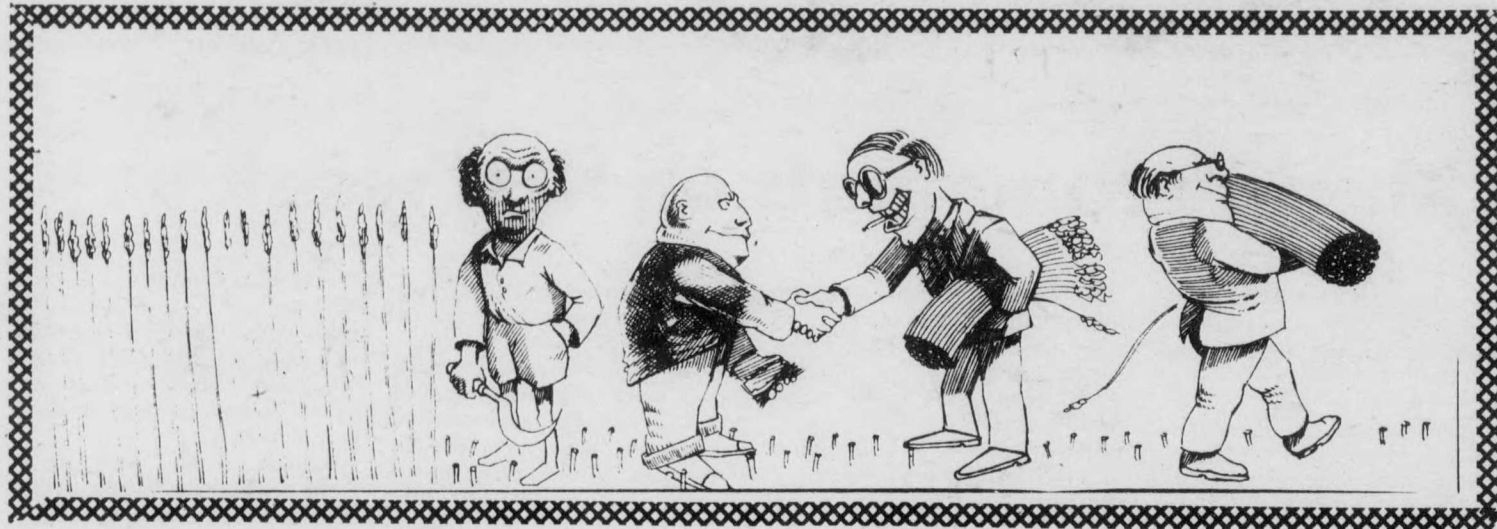
can undermine the position of the poor. When commodity prices go up, small self provisioning farmers may be pushed off the land by cash crop producers seeking to profit on the higher commodity prices. Government in underdeveloped countries opting for a development track dependent on promoting agricultural exports may suppress social reform. Governments have been only too willing to encourage their exports reforms by exempting plantations from land reform.

Export oriented agricultural operations invariably import capital investment technologies to maximize yields as well as to meet product and processing specifications. **Myth VI:** Hunger should be overcome by redistributing food. The problem lies in seeing food redistribution as the solution to hunger. Distribution of food is but a reflection of the control of the resources that produce food. Who controls the land determines who can grow food what is

grown and where it goes. Through their studies of various countries and their food distribution and production, the organization has come to several conclusions. These include the knowledge that there is no country in the world which cannot feed itself, and that agriculture must not be used as a way to export income but as the way for people to produce food to feed themselves. They also discovered that inequality was the greatest block to development, and elitists

in the various markets threatens food security.

The Flyer was instigated in part by S. Collins. There are a number of suggestions to alleviate the world food problems. These will be discussed at the lecture on the 18th and would be well worth attending. The group do not consider themselves a "hunger" movement but rather "molders of the future". They believe that with work and application, problems considered insurmountable can be overcome



## If potential were everything in life, Suzanne would have it made.

When Suzanne's parents gave her the collie she wanted for her twelfth birthday, they also gave her her first thoughts of becoming a veterinarian.

She got there the hard way, with long hours of study and the discipline to say no to fun when she couldn't afford to be diverted.

Today, on staff at one of Canada's best veterinary clinics, she has every potential for success. But she also has a problem.



Suzanne's become quite the social butterfly. Everything she does, she overdoes, including drinking beyond her limit too often. She doesn't realize there are equally good reasons for self-discipline now as there were when she was a student.

Suzanne's at the crossroads. She can protect her future by opting for a moderate lifestyle, including the sensible enjoyment of beer, wine or spirits. Or she can gamble.

If you were Suzanne, which would you choose?

Seagram's  Distillers since 1857

## CBC u

OTTAWA (CUP) — The National Gay Rights Coalition (NGRC) organize pickets of Canadian Broadcasting Corporation buildings in major cities across the country Feb. 19 to protest the corporation's policy of refusing to accept public service announcements for gay groups.

NGRC has also sent letters of protest to prime minister, Trudeau and secretary of John Roberts.

The CBC reviewed its public service announcement policy following a Halifax Gay Alliance For Equality (GAE) intervention before the Canadian Television Commission hearing on renewing the licence for Halifax CBC outlet, CBH.

In its intervention, GAE protested CBH's refusal to accept a service announcement for

## Social Clu

By TOM EVANS

The College Hill Social Club (C.H.S.C.) held a special meeting to fill three vacancies on the Board of Directors on Jan 31. The vacancies were the result of resignations.

The new directors are Campbell, Robert Potter and Charles Ackerman. The membership also ratified the reapplication of the club's licence.

At present the Auditors report on the club's financial position is not complete. It is expected to be ready about a week.

Effective February 14 a new door policy will be enforced. The rules are (1) one guest per member will be allowed after 8:30 p.m. members only when club approaching capacity (3) soliciting of members to

## New from Paterse

