

Get WUSCed away to Indonesia

by Aaron Yarmoshuk

The school year is just beginning, but if you are looking for an unusual experience next summer now is the time to start making plans. World University Services of Canada (WUSC) recently announced its 1993 development seminar will be held in Indonesia.

The goal of the seminar is to give its participants "their first experience in a developing country and to create greater awareness of international development issues among the participants, the academic community and the wider public."

WUSC fulfills this objective using a time-proven programme that allows the students to experience many facets of the host country's society. At the same time students focus their attention on development issues of interest to them. Students will report their findings to a variety of organizations within their community upon returning to Canada.

While the precise itinerary varies between seminars the 1993 programme will include: meeting government officials, talking to members of Non Governmental Organizations (NGO's) and living with an Indonesian family for up to one week.

Each student on the seminar will

conduct an independent research project while in Indonesia. Topics can be chosen from a wide range of subject areas allowing students from almost any discipline within Dalhousie to select one of interest. The topic does not have to be related to the students' academic studies.

When considering any topic it would be advisable that seminar participants first consider the nature of Indonesia's society and the length of the seminar. As a recent article in *The New York Times Magazine* noted, Indonesia is "a country where Muslim morality, ancient Javanese courtly ritual and powerful economic cartels create a complex labyrinth. An outsider must learn the incredibly nuanced social etiquette to avoid giving offense and decode critical information, often needing powerful friends to smooth the way through the corrupt bureaucratic maze." Since the seminar lasts only six weeks powerful friends will be a scarce resource for students.

The experience of doing some primary research, travelling in a developing country and exchanging ideas about development with fellow Canadian students will prove rewarding. Some students find that the seminar triggers an intellectual metamorphosis almost immediately, others find that the effects of the en-

counter are revealed slowly. In either case, the seminar is an extraordinary opportunity which too many Dalhousie students fail to seek.

Thirty positions in the seminar are open for post-secondary students from across Canada. While Dalhousie has traditionally had at least one student participate in the seminar each year the number of applications from the Dalhousie student body is usually small.

Some students plead that poverty is the reason for the poor response rate for this programme at Dalhousie, but this is an erroneous argument in most cases. The only cost to the student is the possible money foregone by not working six weeks during the summer. Considering the experience gained from the seminar, it is worth this cost.

A planned budget for this year and next year and a spartan lifestyle would make the WUSC seminar possible for many Dalhousie students. While students are required to raise \$2300 to participate this is not difficult to do if you make use of the Dalhousie WUSC Local Committee.

All Canadian citizens returning to university in September 1993, with no previous experience in a developing country and who are fluent in the English language are eligible to apply. Moderately sound ac-

ademic marks and a proven interest in any facet of development will improve your chances of being accepted.

Applications for the WUSC seminar are now available in the Student Union Office and are due by 16 October 1992. The major application requirements are: stating why you are interested in participating in the seminar, a research proposal (of your

choice) and three references. These requirements may seem lengthy now, but like any investment you will thank yourself later.

If you require more information attend an information session on the seminar in the Political Science lounge (3rd floor of the Arts and Administration Building) on 28 September at 5:30 pm.



Letters continued

Fashion Policing

To the editor:

What people wear around campus—the styles, new fashions and trends doesn't really keep me awake at night. However, I am sure that even the casual observers will notice that Dal and especially University of Ontario (King's College) student's are generally much more fashion conscious than students at other Halifax schools. Some outfits can only be described as outrageously contrived, the wearer didn't get up that morning and just throw on his/her radical statement.

Yet since I own more polyester than a Shriner's convention I probably have no right to comment on a particularly disturbing (to me at least) fashion trend: I am referring to the neo-sixties garb creeping back into vogue. To those on the voyages of "Granolas: the Next Generation" I can only say: there is nothing wrong with dressing well and being fashion brave, just don't steal old

ideas and call them new.

Why do so many people insist on dressing like they just came from a protest to end the Vietnam war? I'm sorry to be the one but someone just has to point it out to you tired poseurs: beads, headbands, hippie sandals, peace symbols, fringed jackets, tie-dyed and ripped clothing, ponytails on men (getting passe), military jackets with the same tired slogans on them, aren't in, they are out in a big way. Who do you think you are kidding, some of your parents golf, play bridge, and may actually drive Volvos, BMWs and Saabs—why don't you wear those nice sweaters your aunt gave you last Christmas? Only kidding of course about the sweater, no one wants you to conform and look like an L.L. Bean catalogue, merely show some originality if you must be "different".

I know many do not want to wear anything that would pass as respectable or acceptable outside these ivory tower walls because for the next four years (or more if you become reality-denying "gradual" students) you want

to express your individuality before you hit the streets of the real world (if you ever do).

At the risk of sounding like a crank, I only want to point out that if many people wear the same style of clothing it becomes a sort of "de facto uniform" of which only outsiders can recognize its blatant absurdity. Remember the craze of Miami Vice in the mid-80s T-shirts with Armani jackets, two day old beards? Looks silly now but it was all the rage then.

This may be one of the most unusual letters I have ever written, but I can be silent no longer. PEOPLE ARE LAUGHING AND SNICKERING AT YOU. If you want to be original why don't you create a style for the 90's, or don't worry about style and concentrate on substance.

Don't imitate the past to capture the activist spirit of the Sixties. You don't have to quit hugging trees, get a business degree, vote Tory or even start liking Howard Clark. That may be asking the impossible.

Anonymous

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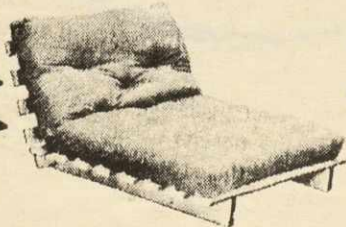


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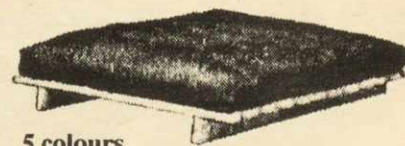
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