

Feature By: Kira Schoch & Tim Judah

# SWAP WELL WORTH THE EXPERIENCE

Picture this...It's 5:30 p.m. on a Friday and you've just finished another week's assignment as an office "temp" in London. You take the "tube" to Convent Garden where you're meeting some friends at the Punch & Judy with its balcony overlooking the street entertainers in the square below. A few drinks, a bite to eat and then off to a party at a flat up in Camden Town. You're in London! You're a SWAPPER!  
(description taken from SWAP pamphlet)

SWAP NOW TAKES YOU TO BRITAIN, IRELAND, FINLAND, BELGIUM, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, FRANCE, and THE UNITED STATES



Our Apt. In England.....Tight quarters!

For first time travellers, going abroad on the Student Abroad Program is definitely an asset. This past summer through SWAP, three friends and I went to live and work in London, England for two months. I really enjoyed living there because there was so much to see and do - the theater, Leicester Square, the National Gallery, the markets, shopping on Oxford street, the many pubs and clubs, and basically just being in Picadilly Circus watching all the people.

SWAP was helpful! commoda-

right from the beginning; upon our arrival, we were assured of two nights action in a youth hostel. It was great knowing that we had a place to go and stay as soon as we arrived because we were very tired after the plane ride (the time difference had an effect on us too). Most of the other people who were in the hostel were also on the SWAP program; we had a chance to meet other Canadian students before going to the information session the next day.

The meeting at the SWAP office was very informative. We were given all the practical information needed to get settled and adjusted to living in London. It was through this meeting that we were able to find a flat in about three days, as well as finding a

job. I worked at Harrods, the biggest department store in the world. Many other students from all over worked there as well, so it was a great place to meet people from other countries.

SWAP is also a means of meeting other Canadian students living in London.

It was through this program that we found our other roommates - one was from Toronto,

the other from Quebec. SWAP also held dances at the University of London Union, and well as softball games where all the Canadian students could gather together.

Through working and saving money (as well as some extra money from home), it was possible for me to backpack through Europe for six and a half weeks. Three friends and I started our trip by touring through Scotland, Ireland and down through Wales. We then went to the Continent and stopped in Amsterdam, Paris, Munich, Luzirn, Italy, and finally Greece. In Greece, we spent our time on two islands - Iso and Paros.

I feel that the summer was broken onto two parts: living in London and experiencing one of the most exciting cities in the world, and backpacking through Europe and being able to see so many different cultures. These memories and experiences will last a lifetime; I have also made friends from all over Europe.

*"These memories and experiences will last a lifetime"*



This past summer four UNB students - Mike Wilson, Mike Clowater, Kirk MacQuarrie, and Carman Misener - worked in London, England on the SWAP program for twelve weeks. They worked at YMCA, McDonalds, and Harrods (the jobs were to come by.) The pay was eight dollars an hour, which is the regular salary that a student in Fredericton would be making, except there is a lot more fun involved. Another great experience was that they travelled all through Europe, while the others travelled to France and Spain. They went to Italy, Greece, and Amsterdam. The only complaints they have about their trip is they never received their damage deposit back, which consisted of two hundred dollars. They were also disappointed that the pubs in London closed at 11:00 pm.

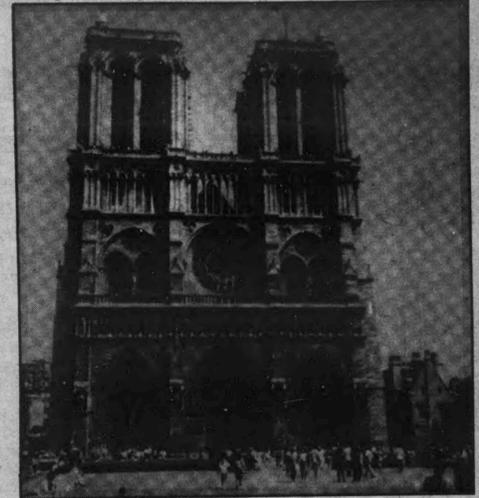
ABOVE: Running with the Bulls Festival in Pamplona, Spain.  
BELOW: Our apartment in London, England.

SWAP was established in 1975 with a reciprocal work exchange programme with New Zealand. SWAP Britain soon followed as did programmes with Ireland and Belgium by the late-seventies. In the mid-eighties Australia and Japan became SWAP destinations as did Finland in 1989. Through the Belgian programme was lost with the collapse of our partner organization, there is some hope that a new SWAP with that country will be introduced in 1990.

Since 1975, thousands of Canadian students have participated in the Student Work Abroad Programme. SWAP is operated by the Canadian Federation of Students and its wholly owned travel company, TRAVEL CUTS. The SWAP concept of a "working holiday" allows Canadian students and youth to combine periods of employment with time for leisure and exploring the host country. Through close contact with local people, there is far greater opportunity to learn about their life and culture. Of course, travel budgets are extended with monies earned abroad so participants can stay there longer that even short term international work experience is extremely valuable when one returns to Canada and starts a career search after studies are completed.

Past SWAP participants have found work in short term office jobs, retail stores, bars, restaurants and a host of other casual employment areas. One would most likely make more money working in Canada, but the experience might be just a bit more interesting in places like London, Sydney, Helsinki or Tokyo.

Please note the funds made while working abroad should cover expenses (rent, food, entertainment) while living there. SWAP does not recommend using the programme as a means to save money for the academic year.



Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, France

## CONDITIONS

Each SWAP participant must:

1. Be a Canadian citizen or a citizen of the country to be visited on SWAP and hold a valid passport.
2. Arrange and purchase round-trip transportation through TRAVEL CUTS. (Dependent of airline or military staff qualifying for free flights are not held to this condition unless a group flight is involved.)
3. Pay a registration fee which varies by country and is not refundable if the participant cancels. The fee is refunded in full to applicants who are not accepted on SWAP.
4. Provide proof of sufficient personal support funds at the time of visa application. This amount varies by country.
5. Possess a valid International Student Identity Card (I.S.I.C.), if eligible. This card is free to all full-members of CFS at the student union.

Canadian Federation of Students - Year in Review

This year saw the successful introduction of Finland as a SWAP destination. Our partner organization in the U.K., BUNAC, has purchased a new home for itself and SWAP in London which will assist us in providing even more services for Canadian (and other) SWAPPERS in that city. Australia had a slow start in May with only 100 participants, but we had to arrange more seats to send over 350 Canadian's "down under" in September! Numbers of participants are down somewhat in Japan but this we hope to correct in 1990 by directly marketing to graduates and students in Asian studies. New Zealand filled up it's quota and we arranged in 1989 to obtain visas for both Australia and in New Zealand for interested students. We are introducing a SWAP South Pacific (combining both) as an official SWAP option in 1990. Ireland is enjoying some growth in the number of participants and more Canadians are now working in office jobs in Dublin rather than just hotels and restaurants.

## NUMBER OF STUDENTS SERVED

	OUTGOING	INCOMING
Britain	980	705
Ireland	75	285
Finland	45	30
Belgium	-	20*
Australia	450	100**
New Zealand	100	100
Japan	75	***

\* 20 Belgian students arrived on SWAP as a demonstration project. The Belgian government is currently considering a programme for SWAP in 1990.

\*\* More Australian youth choose to "do Canada" on their own rather than join SSA's SWAP Canada.

\*\*\* There is no organized out-bound programme from Japan but SWAP provides a free "welcome orientation" to around 1000 Japanese visa-holders in Vancouver and Toronto.