

Students encouraged to apply for CUSO jobs

By SUSAN MILLER

Representatives of CUSO were on campus last week to inform students about the organization, and encourage them to apply for the jobs available. Many of the positions to be filled this year concern teachers of math, physics, chemistry and English.

CUSO is a non-profit organization with a field staff in many countries of South America, Africa and Asia. Each country decides what its priorities are and what kind of people will be required to

achieve these priorities. Regional meetings of associated countries are then held to discuss the decisions; and finally the field staffs meet in Ottawa to inform the Board of Directors of the jobs that must be filled.

There has been a change in the requirements of these countries over the past few years. Though the main emphasis is still on teachers, CUSO finds itself having to go off campus more and more to recruit professional, technical help. The teachers who are sent

over are more involved in training local teachers rather than directly instructing the native students.

When a student receives a job through CUSO, he signs a two-year contract with the local government of the country in which he will work. He is paid a salary established for that position by the local government, not a salary corresponding to a Canadian pay scale. For the duration of the contract, he is covered by medical dental and life insurance. Before the student leaves Canada, he will participate in a ten-day orientation programme, and an additional month or more of orientation awaits him in his new country.

At last week's meeting, CUSO representatives showed a film depicting the experiences of

volunteers in countries of East Africa. They found the work challenging and satisfying, the people friendly and cooperative, the countryside itself fascinating. When one of the students present asked a return volunteer if the film was representative of all CUSO experiences, he replies that "...generally, yes, it is; but some people do have unpleasant experiences. Usually, though, there is a tendency to regard you as the Great White Redeemer, and if you attempt something that doesn't work out they are all very surprised."

Students wishing to join CUSO may obtain application forms from the Placement office or at Room 312 in the STU Academic Building. Students must be able to provide

six references, and must undergo a medical examination.

At the interview for the job, the student talks with returned volunteers and a professor in the area of his specialization. Heavy emphasis is placed on the student's motivation - his reasons for volunteering to join CUSO.

Leadership Conference March 4

The fourth leadership conference in two years will be held this Sunday, March 4, at the Garrison Club on the Woodstock Road.

Its purpose is to facilitate communications between the leaders of the various clubs and organizations on campus as well as the SRC executives and student senators. The conference is sponsored by the alumni.

At a meeting held two weeks ago it was decided that a special effort would be made to make the conference truly representative of the campus. Response so far has been excellent, according to organizers Pat Flanagan and Gary Cameron, a big turnout is expected.

On the agenda for the conference are such matters as the recently appointed information officer and a special effort to increase organization memberships.

Transportation to the conference will be available at the SUB cafeteria at 9:30 Sunday morning. The conference begins at 10 am and there will be a lunch as well as bar facilities.

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