

feature

Six pack for adventure with Youth Challenge

by Heidi Radford

Six Dalhousie students are preparing to embark on an adventure of a lifetime. Their destinations include Guyana, the Solomon Islands and Baffin Island. They are participants in the Youth Challenge International program which provides students with an opportunity to sojourn in developing countries.

"We are looking for people with initiative, who work well in a group and desire to help others," says Andrew Macdonald, Eastern Selection Coordinator for Youth Challenge. Two years ago, Macdonald spent three months in Guyana, South America and has been involved with Youth Challenge ever since.

"It is so rewarding to give people the opportunity to work with other cultures in other countries," says Macdonald.

Dalhousie's Laura Montgomery is one of the six selected students who will benefit from Youth Challenge's increased interest in Maritime universities. She leaves for the Solomon Islands on April 16. This is Youth Challenge's first year in the Solomon Islands. Joining her are Dalhousie

students Kelly Flynn and Jennifer Rouell. The remainder of the six Dal students include Leesa Hamilton, Mitch Filmore and Shailla Vaidya.

"I am doing this because I wanted to travel, but not in the conventional sense," says Montgomery. "I wanted to work in a community on a project which ties in well with my International Development Studies at Dal."

Students may be able to receive university credit for their involvement in the Youth Challenge program. But this depends on their current course of study.

Macdonald says students who participate in the Youth Challenge program implement projects within the country they have chosen to visit. These projects fall under three key groups: Community service, medical activities and environmental/scientific projects. Over the past few years, Youth Challenge students have worked in malaria prevention, they have renovated schools, built medical centres and some have even created eco-tourism parks in Costa Rica.

Students who apply to Youth Challenge undergo a 48 hour outdoor interview involving problem solving and group work testing.

Macdonald and Montgomery both say this rewarding weekend is a test of individual strength, mentally and physically. They claim this weekend in itself is an adventure.

The next selection weekend will be preparing for Costa Rica visits scheduled to depart in December 1993. Participants in the Youth Challenge program must be between the ages of 18-25. Macdonald assures students that no experience is necessary.

Each Youth Challenge participant

is responsible for the fund-raising of \$3000 to help with the cost of their three month trip. All remaining costs are funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and corporate sponsors.

Any students interested in Youth Challenge are invited to attend a free information session and slide presentation about upcoming destinations on Wednesday, February 17 in the Haliburton Room at King's College. Students may also contact Andrew

Macdonald (425-4118), the Dalhousie Multidisciplinary Centre (494-3814) or drop by the Lester Pearson Institute on campus for more info.

Just a note: There will be a Youth Challenge fund-raiser on Feb. 14 at 8:30 pm at the Palladium. Local bands playing in support of the fund-raiser will be the Purple Groove Monsters, The Fourth Wall and the Mittens. Tickets are \$7 and will be on sale Thurs. noon in the SUB.

Seeking members for change

In the past few years more men have become aware of gender issues. In response to this new interest, men's groups have been forming in Halifax and throughout the country. Over the last year on campus a group of students have organized Dal Men for Change. Our wish is to increase awareness and raise consciousness in ourselves and other men concerning issues of feminism and masculinity. We have been and want to remain in dialogue with women's groups in campus and in the general community.

One of our actions last term was to hold a workshop on classroom dy-

namics after showing the video "A Chilly Climate", which is about the experiences of women on university campuses.

We also made a presentation during the Week of Reflection including a viewing of the video "After the Montreal Massacre", with a discussion on violence against women afterwards. This was facilitated by ourselves, a member of B-GLAD! and a member of Dal Women's Collective.

For the future, we hope to have speakers on masculinity and pro-feminist issues, and we hope to attract new members. An increase in participation

would allow Dal Men for Change to diversify our ideas and actions.

The group does not require in depth knowledge of the issues, and people who come just need to have interest in talking and learning about these issues.

For any men interested in reflection and action on these issues Dal Men for Change meets every Thursday, at 6 pm in the Dalhousie Student Union Building. The room numbers will be posted on the Inquiry Desk. All new members are welcome!

written by Dal Men for Change

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