

# Organization recruits "older" volunteers

If you are a student about to graduate and are interested in volunteering in a third world country, CUSO is not, or at least not yet, the organization you'll want to contact. If you've heard otherwise, your information is outdated.

The organization that was once known as the Canadian University Service Overseas dropped its university affiliation in 1981. CUSO is now the name of the organization and an acronym no more.

As it moves into the 1990s, this independent Canadian organization which sponsors and helps administer development projects in some 42 third world countries throughout the world is recruiting from a more experienced group of people who may or may not possess academic qualifications. As is stated in their 1988-89 Annual Report, cooperants, as their volunteers are termed, "tend to be older, more expe-

rienced," and "many have trade skills or a background in farming, fisheries or forestry."

According to Brenda Kuecks, the CUSO Toronto Coordinator, while in the 60s most of the people CUSO sent were young graduates just out of university who didn't have any work experience, the organization now has to meet frequent requests for people with many years experience and, in a lot of cases, real specializations. Accordingly, the average age of a CUSO volunteer has gone from 22 in the 60s to 37 in 1987.

Cooperants are now required to have a minimum of two years of direct work experience in Canada in the field in which they are serving overseas and that has not, according to Kuecks, created any shortages of volunteers. CUSO sends approximately 125 new volunteers overseas every year. An average contract with the organization is for two years.

M.C. Yaacov

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independent, self-respecting role models to show women a different way" and we applaud this sentiment. All of us, not just women, need some new role models. Without new role models and the mutual understanding they must proffer, sexism will never subside.

As we finish our letter, we are glad to see, in the letters section of the January 18 issue of *Excalibur*, that others have already written. We are encouraged to see so many people ready to identify discrimination and to react against it in whatever guise it may be found. *Excalibur* should also be commended; while the paper made a serious error in judgement in printing Mr. Nayman's original discriminatory "opinion" the editors showed better judgement in devoting so much valuable space to the indignation of their readership.

Dave Lomax  
Brian Poser

## CYSF made statement on massacre

Dear Editor:

In your January 11 issue of *Excalibur*, a complaint was made by Mary Jankulak concerning the CYSF's behaviour in regards to the 14 women massacred at the University of Montreal. The CYSF would wish to inform the students of York that three members of its Council attended the Scott Religious Centre's December Memorial Service to pay respect to the victims and their families.

The York Student Federation is a council made up of 19 members. Many have different responsibilities that are placed under their portfolios, however all of these individuals represent York equally.

On December 11, 1989, the CYSF issued a letter both in English and French offering condolences and assistance to the University of Montreal's student association. The CYSF did feel it was important to make a statement to the York community on this unfortunate tragedy. This was accomplished by the placing of an ad by the CYSF in *The Lexicon's* special edition on the massacre at the University of Montreal.

The CYSF regrets that Mary Jankulak feels that the York Student Federation did not act appropriately, however all these steps were taken during the winter break.

We hope this letter clarifies our position on this very unfortunate tragedy.

Council of the York Student Federation

## correction

In the letters section of the January 18 issue, the letter entitled "Nayman's observation shallow" by Peter Degroot contained a typographical error. The sentence should have read: "The fact that you seem to find no difficulty understanding such deranged behaviour would certainly put me on guard in your presence, regardless of my sex." We apologize for the mistake.

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