

## Students for literacy

*A new program at UPEI to encourage literacy*

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS

A Canadian college has proposed to set up a program at UPEI to encourage literacy and to help teach people how to read. Frontier College, as it is known, also currently is looking for help from about 60 students for summer employment.

A few weeks of training are provided through the college so students are aware of how they should be teaching. Training usually ends in May, and most employees begin work immediately afterwards.

While working for Frontier, the students are hired onto a farm to labour for 10-12 hours per day. In the evenings, the students teach English classes to illiterate townspeople. Food and transportation are provided through the college.

While one is working for the farm and teaching, the college does not forget the individual for the services. Frontier maintains communication, and sometimes people from Frontier visit the farm to check up on the progress.

A yearly conference is held between people from different universities who are involved in the program. The students get together and discuss how the program is working for each school.

Kerry Maze, a UPEI student, has worked for this program, and fondly describes her experience with the programme.

Maze was sent to a farm in Ontario, near Niagara Falls, in June, where she earned about \$6.50 per hour. She enjoyed her time with the program, and still keeps in contact with Frontier College and many of the people whom she taught to read. She finished her employment with the program in the last week of August.

All college or university students may offer to help with the program.

## Local WUSC goes to Sackville to represent UPEI

BY EMILY LEDWELL

On the weekend of January 30 to February 1, three members of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) Local Committee went to Sackville, NB, to represent UPEI at Mount Allison's WUSC Symposium "Globalization: Should We Buy Into It?"

WUSC is an organization which involves Canadian communities in social and academic development at home and abroad. Because of WUSC's goals, the idea of globalization is an important one for discussion and debate.

The symposium highlighted a diverse and impressive variety of speakers. Sid Pobihushchy and Eric Claus of Co-op Atlantic, and economists Frank Strain of Mount Allison and Richard Nimijean of Carleton spoke about globalization as an economic phenomenon of global production and profit.

On one hand, globalization can be good. It breaks down barriers to trade, and encourages geographical expansion of the market system.

But on the other hand, globalization can be a danger. It limits the role of the state, replaces political rules with market rules, and may result in the extension of capitalism on a world scale. It is a process evolving in unpredictable ways.

The keynote speaker of the symposium, Innu chief Daniel Ashini, furthered the discussion by reminding the audience of the impact globalization has not only on the economy, but on cultures, communications, and education as well. For Ashini and the Innu people, economics, while important, are merely one aspect of our cultural systems, which are merely aspects of our ecosystem and natural order.

As globalization creates complex (and fragile) societies, the challenge this complexity puts to young people is to maintain the balance between our economies and our cultures, to sustain our lands, and to be self-sufficient. The rest of the day's speakers, professors and community workers from Atlantic Canada, explored the different ways one

can maintain this balance. "Live simply so others can simply live," Ghandi said.

The final event of the symposium was a panel discussion about the Multi-Lateral Agreement on Investment (MAI), which is perhaps the most complicated and pressing symptoms of globalization.

The treaty, negotiated by the OECD countries, opens Canada's national borders for investment and allows Canadian Transnationals to invest in other countries, but critics are concerned it will impact negatively on Canadian culture, social services and sovereignty. A debate took place between Tony Clarke and Fred McMahon, during which many of these criticisms and solutions were discussed.

It was a slightly overwhelming but successful weekend. If you have any questions about the symposium or about WUSC, contact Kerry Maze or Jolyn Campbell at [kmaze@upei.ca](mailto:kmaze@upei.ca) or [jycampbell@upei.ca](mailto:jycampbell@upei.ca), and keep your eyes open for WUSC upcoming events.



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