

# College film offerings tackle current issues

By Leah Shaw

OBSERVER CONTRIBUTOR

The Okanagan College film club is again teaming up with the Salmar Classic for another season, this time with a real agenda.

Tim Walters is an English professor at OUC and one of the film organizers on the newly formed college Eco Committee.

"To be sure, these aren't politically neutral films," Walters says of the winter season, adding that all 10 picks have been chosen based on their environmental, social justice or

curriculum category.

He says they want movie-goers — students, and members of the public — to view the films as, "a starting point to make people think about the way they could be living differently in this community."

The season kicks off this week with a theme around the peak oil crisis. A documentary was aired on Monday, *A Crude Awakening*, and this Friday, *Syriana* will be shown. That is a big-budget, dramatic thriller about corruption in oil-producing countries.

Walters says this is an opportunity

for faculty, students and community members to watch some great films in a great venue.

He says that last year, before the agreement was struck with the Salmar Classic, students would crowd together in a classroom to watch the films.

"We thought that if 60 people came out to watch on a little screen, maybe we'll get at least that to watch them on a big one."

And they did. In fact, this year's expanded repertoire is partly due to the success of last year's attendance.

Walters says many of the films they

are showing are available from any movie rental store but, with the staff introduction, brief discussion, and the very low fee, he thinks these showings are an excellent value.

Walters also has an unashamed passion for films, and his personal agenda is easy to spot.

"It's more an attempt to begin a discussion in the community than it is a night out at movies," Walters suggests, adding that he's, "in love with the idea" and this second season at the Salmar Classic brings Salmon Arm and area, "one step closer to having a repertory theatre."