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## Student request 'inappropriate' says spokesman

OTTAWA (CUP) - The request the NUS request will be considered discussions or activities. by the National Union of Students at the October meeting of the "Here are a bunch of the october meeting of the "Here are a bunch of the october meeting of the oct (NUS) for student representation Group, but stated that he opposed on the Canada Student Loans including students in the group. Plenary Group is "an inappropriate suggestion", according to the

chairperson of that group. David Levin, the chairperson of the CSLPG and the director of the federal finance department's Federal-Provincial Relations Division, said in a September 30 interview

at the October meeting of the including students in the group.

The plenary group sets the rules governing who will get student loans and how much they will get. It presently consists only of student aid officers from the federal and provincial governments. provincial governments, meets annually in closed session, and releases no information about its

"Here are a bunch of administrators - civil servants - getting together trying to scratch their heads on how to improve the (student loan) program working within the constraints they have to, and I don't think it would help the work we do to have students or any other group of people involved in our work. At that stage we're in a different world", Levin explained.

shut down the newspaper altogeth-

er, citing financial constraints as

the cause. At the beginning of the

school year they relented, deciding

the paper could re-open providing

the operation was self-supporting,

and providing the student council

The staff argued that neither

condition can be met. They say it is

not financially possible to run a

break-even paper in a small college, and they object to making

the editor responsible to the

council. Previously the editor was

elected by and responsible to the

They also point out that the

could elect the editor.

newspaper staff.

He described the role of the the change has been decided, Levin Plenary as being "to arrive at nationally acceptable standard practices with respect to the administration of student loans" but conceded that "administration" included "substantive policy matters" determining the nature

of the program. While noting that the "bulk of the decision-making" about student loan policy involves the plenary group, Levin said he sees no role there for student representatives. "Student organizations always have the opportunity to make representations with respect to particular program changes" he said, suggesting that NUS should 'submit brief" if it wanted, rather than seek representation.

Submitting briefs, he said, is 'part of our traditional way of doing things" and stressed that it is not usual to include people affected by government programs in the decision-making process itself, citing areas of health care and welfare policy as examples.

According to Levin, if students have anything to say about student aid, they should direct their attention to the provincial governments, not to the plenary group he chairs.

"I equate students with the ministers not with the civil servants", he said. "Where there are basic policy issues that have to be decided, proposals to be put forward, then students have to have contact with the (provincial) ministers of education.'

The process he favours has student groups submitting student aid proposals to provincial ministers, who may decide to raise them at the plenary group. If they do, and if the plenary approves the proposal, it is then returned to all the provinces for approval. Finally, if the provinces approve, it minister for final decision. Once to finance department sources.

known to the students and the

According to Levin's scenario, the federal government plays only a passive role in student loan policy formulation, even though it is a federal program, while the initiative for policy development comes from the provinces.

He agrees that students "might have a point" in arguing that they cannot make adequate representation about possible student loan policy changes since the present secrecy blanketing the decisionmaking process prevents them from knowing what, if any, changes are being considered.

But although the existing procedures "may be imperfect" as far as student input is concerned, Levin feels "if students are dissatisfied with the opportunities they now have to communicate their concerns, then they have to go to the provinces and say "as you people formulate suggestions for changing this programs we want an opportunity to participate". Levin said this is "a way of improving the input of students"

As for students being seated on the plenary group, that will be on the agenda for the upcoming meeting of the group, and is in the hands of the provinces, Levin said. When asked if NUS would be given an opportunity to address the meeting, as requested, Levin replied:

"I don't think we could do that There's firstly a matter of time The agendas are fairly long usually and, as I say, my own view is that it is not a good thing to do. It is not done in these kinds of situations and would create a bad precedent. It would really foul up the discussions of the plenary.

The plenary is scheduled to meet is returned to the federal finance in Ottawa on October 22, according

## SMU Journal's problems continue

HALIFAX (CUP) - The St. Mary's Journal, the student neswpaper of St. Mary's University may have two editors this year paper and one by the student council, with neither recognizing year. the legitimacy of the other.

The Journal's problem stems partly from the financial dilemma faced by the student council. While the council expects to receive only one elected by the staff of the paper and one by the student will be used to pay debts from last

At first the council decided to

McGill faculty opposed to course evaluation

to establish an autonomous course ticking" evaluation by students have been met with resistance by professors evaluated by an independent and administrators at McGill "referee". Professors "should

officially sanctioned.

Several student groups have launched trial course evaluations in the real test of a course is its utility in later life," he said. in the past year, but Professor H. Senior of the history department takes a "completely negative" view of their efforts.

Senior calls them "unnecessary paper work and a waste of time, good. Very few of them are of good

MONTREAL (CUP) -- Attempts itself to "interdepartmental poli-

Senior feels courses should be avoid collusion between the referee At present only the administra- and the player, especially since the tion controlled evaluation has been value of the ... course is rarely evident while a student is taking it.

The history students association has distributed the results of its unofficial evaluation, and plans to continue lobbying for improve-

which often does more harm than proposed course evaluation last January, during the elections for officers. "The idea was to give history department objected to the they're going to take than is given trial history students course in the course bulletin," explained

constitutions of the Journal and the student council both state the editor will be elected by the

ment in the evaluation of courses. The association began the

evaluation by saying it was of poor association president Marc Casa-quality and had a tendency to lend vant.

newspaper staff. Now the council has set up an applications committee to screen hopeful editors, while the staff has called a meeting to elect an editor. The two prime candidates are Sarah Gordon, supported by the

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staff, who says the paper can run on as little as a \$4,000 subsidy; and Pat McLaughlin, thought to be supported by the council, who says he can run the paper on a profit-making basis.

Last year McLaughlin was responsible for organizing the Winter Carnival at St. Mary's, one of the major money-losing operation of last year's council, accounting for over 30 percent of the total deficit.

## U.N.B. BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY

"Home's in Again"

with

**David Greenbank** 

Lecturing on: Radar tracking of moths (applicable to spruce budworm)



Time: Tuesday, Oct. 21, 8:30pm Where: Rm. 146, Loring Bailey Hall

Everyone Welcome!!