

Conference will discuss improved foreign aid

By **SUSAN LUNN**
and **LEANNE SCOTT**

ON FEBRUARY 1, OMEGA Bula and other delegates will form a workshop to discuss how Canada's foreign aid could be improved.

One of the main aims of the conference, which is part of the Ten Days for World Development Program, is to develop an awareness of the situation in Africa. This program was created by the five major churches in Canada as an ecumenical program. Discussion will center mostly on the issue of hunger and what can be done in practical terms.

Omega Bula, a Zambian Social Worker and Sociologist, heads programs for the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Zambia. They offer leadership courses for women with the aim of "developing leadership in a fashion of teaching women so that they can go back to others at the community level," says Bula.

The church is one of the hindrances to these programs. "Religion is in history," says Bula. "If you step out of the traditional, they tend to ignore you."

In Africa, the major food producers are women. They deal with food preservation and food distribution. In the church, women make up the majority. Yet the men are making the major decisions. Women, such as Bula, are trying to change this but, "the rate isn't as fast as it should be according to the number of women."

But the problem is not all in Africa, as Andrew Sherin pointed out. Sherin is one of the organizers of the conference.

Sherin wants the groups to informally discuss International Aid and how Canada could do better. He wants the groups to establish, "ideas of what constitutes quality aid."

One of the ideas Sherin is putting forth is to send resource people with experience to create a self-sufficient country which can

produce its own food to lessen their dependence on other areas of the world.

The conference delegates are going to Ottawa to present their ideas. They will meet with officials from External Affairs and officials from Parliamentary Affairs and National Defense.

One specific aim of the conference is to establish one common definition of what is development. "One organization has different ideas from another," says

Sherin. A unification is necessary to reduce duplication in effort. We must work, "smarter instead of harder," says Sherin.

In dealing with the Canadian Aid Policy, Sherin pointed out two main areas of concern. One was that the most effective projects are those that build communities and local resources such as Omega Bula's resource program. Emergency Aid is fine but the future must always be kept in mind.

Secondly, even though these

projects are humanitarian, Canadian businesses benefit. This is fine but who benefits more. Food Aid gets rid of surpluses but countries should try to build an independent food culture. As well, mega project proposals are not always practical or appropriate.

These are some of the ideas that Andrew Sherin and Omega Bula will propose at the conference for Ten Days for World Development.

Tough but rewarding

By **CHERYL TIBBETTS**

DAL'S MBA IS A WORKHORSE program, but most students think it's worth it.

"You get a lot of tough joy from a program like this," says first-year student Layth Matthews. "It's like swimming across the English Channel. It's not

easy, but you're glad when you get to Paris."

Dalhousie is generally recognized as a leading Canadian business school, so it can afford to be demanding, says MBA coordinator Eileen MacDougall.

"It's probably among the top five," MacDougall says. "Dalhousie's star may just be rising,

too. Observers call it the most improved Canadian business school in recent years.

"I think they have the wrong idea about what makes a quality program," says first year student Dave Wright. "The administration seems to think there is a correlation between excessive workload and a quality education."

Other students say the work itself isn't too difficult, but there's so much of it that it's hard to get it done properly! A part-time student and systems analyst says that some parts of the program are not relevant until much further in one's career.

A few students said the MBA program is too tough. One student said the program would benefit from taking a more nurturing attitude.

"They don't inspire confidence, they inspire paranoia," he says.

Quite a few students failed courses at Christmas. "It hurts," says one student who failed a course. "They failed a lot of people on technicalities."

The MBA administration feels the workload is justified.

"It's demanding for a good reason," says MacDougall. "We try to prepare students for a demanding job." She adds that everything in the workforce is not always challenging and students have to be prepared to do a lot of mundane pencil pushing.

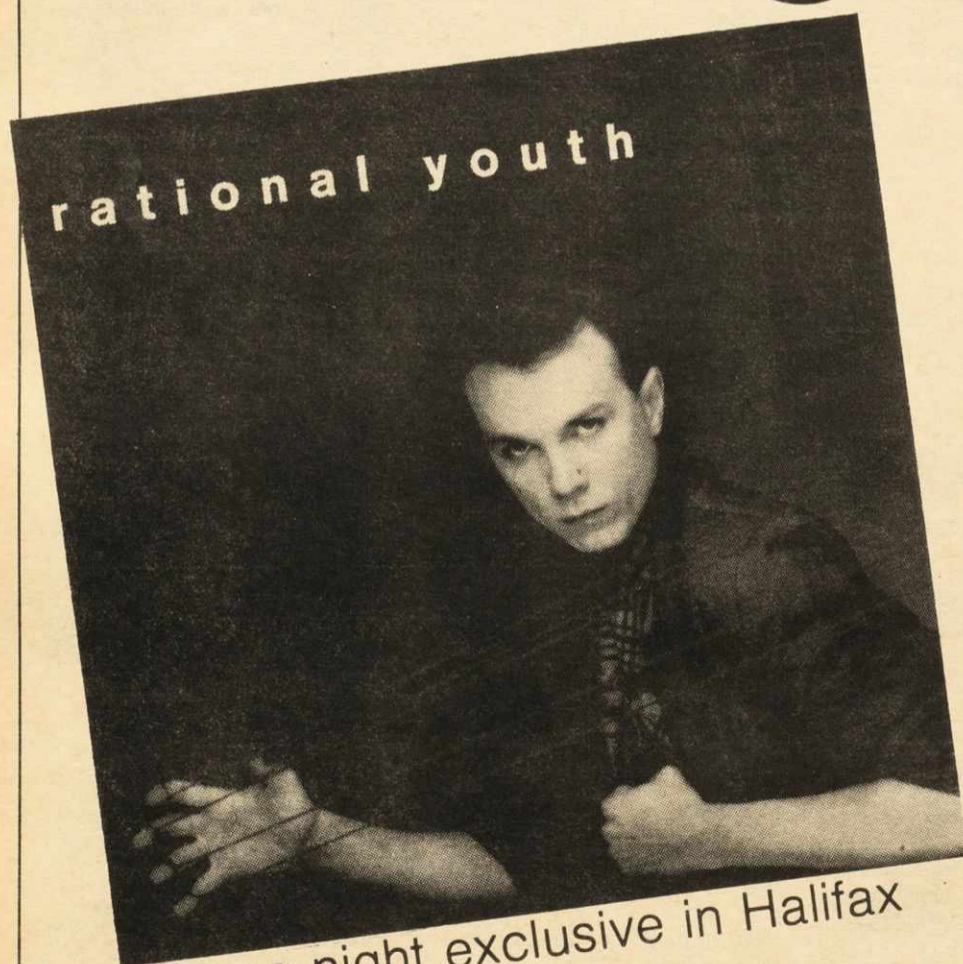
Some students agree with the administration's tough stance. One student says it's good that they have high standards because it makes for a better job market.

MacDougall says the job placement rate in the school is excellent. Last year 63 per cent of students were placed at graduation. In the past, almost all students have found jobs within a few months of graduation, says MacDougall. She adds that a lot of employers recognize the difference between a commerce degree and an MBA and are willing to pay a premium for it.

First year student John Benson says, "It's worth it. It's big bucks."

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