

Maritimers to Observe Nicaraguan Health Programs

by Alec Bruce

Six Atlantic Canadians will be travelling to the battle-scarred Latin American state of Nicaragua this February. They are part of a national delegation of health care professionals invited by the Sandinista government to observe the function of Nicaragua's new health care system.

Taking part, from the Maritimes, are: Dr. John Savage of Dartmouth; Patricia Coty, a respiratory technologist from Halifax; Donna Davis, a nurse from Inverness; Baleria LaPoint, a lab technician from Charlottetown; and Judy Mills, a physiotherapist at the Dalhousie Medical School in Halifax.

The tour, sponsored by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Health, is organized by the Toronto-based group, Medican Aid to Nicaragua, (MATN). MATN, which for the past three years has sent supplies, money and medical personnel to Nicaragua, is working closely with the Maritime Latin Information Group, and the Nicaraguan union of health workers, (FETSALUD) to make sure the delegates' time is well spent.

"Already, the Latin American Information Group is stock-piling cameras, typewriters, tape recorders, batteries and film," says

Geoff Martin, member of the Halifax-based group. "These items are essential to health education programs and these items will be sent to Nicaragua along with the delegation. We're accepting donations which should be dropped off at the Oxfam office on Barrington Street in Halifax."

The delegates will be treated to an intensive review of Nicaragua's newly created health programs. High on the list of activities is an introduction to the country's successful universal vaccination campaign, designed to wipe out disease in the countryside. Delegates will also observe medical training programs, and the public health education system.

All delegates have said how eager they are to begin their three-week sojourn, and to see first hand Nicaragua's innovative health care system. Still, Nicaragua remains an underdeveloped nation — a nation reeling from the ravages of civil war. Most delegates realize many more resources are needed before Nicaragua develops a truly effective national health program.

After all, it wasn't long ago when the Somoza regime made health care available to only 30% of the population.

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Sodales takes tournament

by Richard Payne

Sodales, the Dalhousie debating society, won the Acadia University Debating Tournament last weekend, defeating the team from the University of King's College. Brian Robertson (3rd year law) and Gray Giovanetti (3rd year biology) successfully argued "Greatness belongs to those who grab the most" against King's opposition of Jame LeBlance and Joey Walker.

Speakers prizes were awarded (in order) to Ann Mowatt and Brian Robertson from Dal, James LeBlance and Joey Walker from King's, and Chris Hale and Gray Giovanetti, also from Dal. Teams from Acadia and Mount St. Vincent participated as well.

Sodales has a busy schedule

planned for February. Next weekend a team will go to Royal Military College in Kingston, Ontario, to participate in a French-language tournament. The following weekend, a team will go to the McGill University Invitational in Montreal. In mid-February, three Dal debaters will travel to Newfoundland to debate at Memorial University and stage a series of exhibition debates at local high schools.

Dalhousie will be hosting an in-club tournament for its members and those from SMU, MSVU and King's on February 12. Although last week's recruiting meeting was reasonable successful, more members can still be accommodated. Sodales meets at 7:30 pm, Thursdays, room 112 in the Weldon Law Building.

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