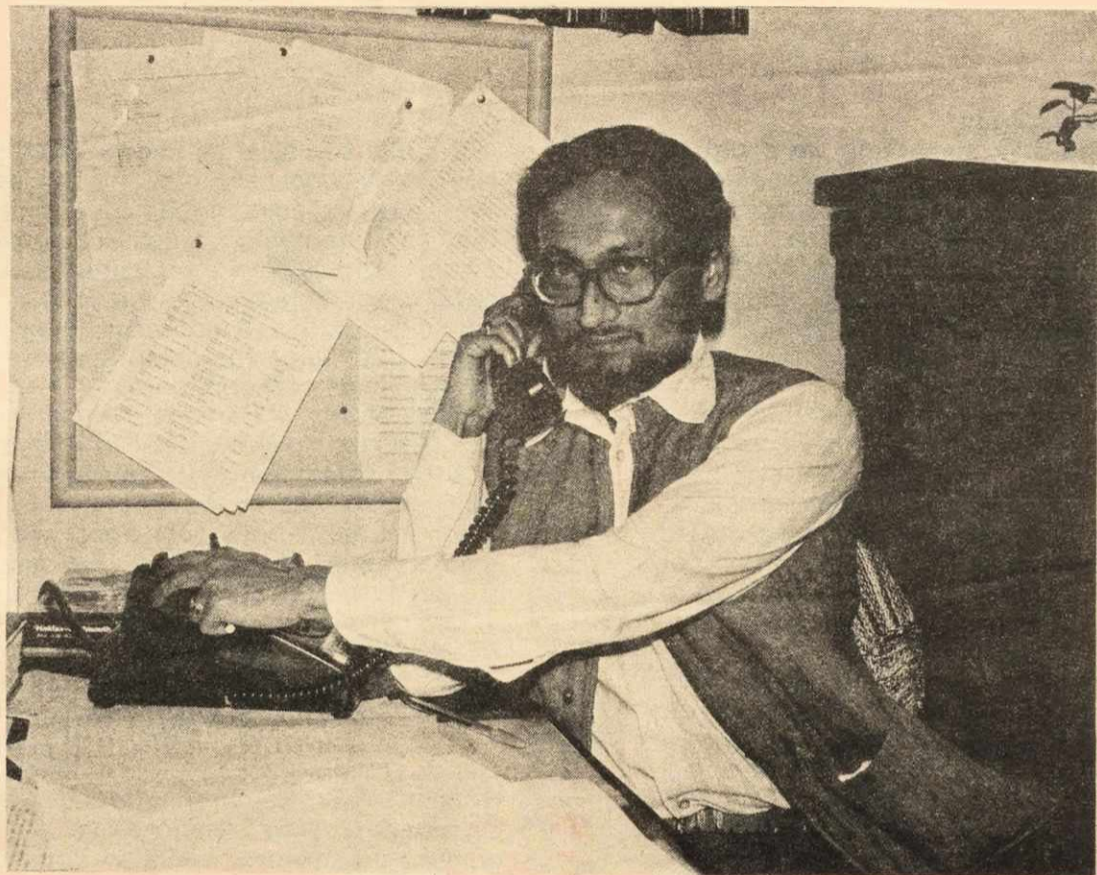


ISA: Coordination Key to Program



Bikash Roychoudhury, President ISA

by Pam Berman

"The primary aim of the International Students Association (ISA) is to have all the foreign student organizations under an umbrella structure, so that the stronger groups can help maintain the weaker ones", said Bikash Roychoudhury, President of this year's ISA.

Constitutional safeguards will have to be created, however, Roychoudhury added, to ensure that each member still has a strong voice in each of their own area of concern. The ISA executive itself will have to be neutral except where specific problems concerning all foreign students arise that need broad representation. This structure will therefore require constant communication and cooperation between executives of the ISA and every group involved.

Success of this organization also depends on whether or not the Student Council decides to accept the ISA as a true representative of foreign students. They have not as yet agreed to allow the creation of a foreign student representative on council.

"They (Council) have tabled discussion of the idea until after the Constitution Committee investigates it", said Roychoudhury.

It has been argued however, that the Overseas Coordinator represents adequately and that the ISA does not truly represent foreign students. Bikash Roychoudhury responded to these statements by saying that the Overseas Coordinator is an appointed administrator and so could not really be a

true representative. The ISA, moreover, includes automatically every foreign student and its executive is elected by its members.

Roychoudhury emphasized that the more groups there are within the umbrella structure, the fewer clashes will occur and the schedule of cultural activities will be more organized.

"For a well rounded program of activities, coordination is the key", he said.

In the meantime, plans for coordinating functions and scheduling activities are going ahead. While a complete program will not be forthcoming until next year, this year's events will be more organized as several groups already have formally agreed to the umbrella structure.

The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) and the ISA are showing a series of international films starting this month in the MacAloney Room of the Kilm Library. The first two films on the 8th and 22nd of this month will be a Czechoslovakian production "Shop on the Main Street" and a Malaysian production "Pearl of the Orient".

"International Nite", an annual cultural event, has been arranged for next term on January 25. This will be a benefit function for Oxfam.

In coordination with the Canadian International Development Association (CIDA), a series of symposiums is being arranged on specific problems throughout the world. DAGS is also planning a series of activities concerning foreign students with the ISA.

Ackerman Attacks Approach

by Estelle Small

The Conservative Party is using antiquated views to appeal to voter nostalgia and to release the government from its commitments to social welfare schemes, Jeremy Akerman, Nova Scotia New Democratic Party leader, said in a speech to students at the Dalhousie Law hour

"We all have within us a desire to go back to when things were simpler," he said. "The phraseology it uses and the terms on which its proposals are couched responses to the appeals of nostalgia."

Mr. Akerman said the government is "trying to turn the clock back" by cutting back on some of its programs.

Mr. Akerman said the government will reduce its public service staff by 60,000 and cut staff in crown agencies by 17 per cent.

"People want to have fewer public servants like the way it used to be," he said. "That's fine unless you're a public servant with a wife and family."

"In the old days, it was a question of an honest day's work for an honest day's pay. So, they are moving to reduce unemployment insurance payments."

Mr. Akerman criticized the government for reductions in health care schemes.

He said in Alberta doctors are overbilling by 37 per cent and health insurance premiums have increased by 33.1 per cent. Ontario has the highest medical insurance. In that province it costs an average family \$480 a year for health care.

He said in Nova Scotia Medical Services Insurance covers 85 per cent of the

health care cost and doctors are overbilling by 42.1 per cent.

Mr. Akerman criticized the government for turning companies such as Petro-Can over to the private sector when taxpayers were "finally making a return for their taxes."

Mr. Akerman said the government is turning these corporations over to the private sector "whose negligence and lack of concern is the reason for their being set up in the first place."

He said the taxpayers are left for the high risk exploratory sector of the company.

"But that's the way it was in the good old days," he said. "If there was profit to be made, it was made by private individual entrepreneurs."

Oil is four dollars a barrel and there is no security against oil price increases, he said.

"But that of course is the market dictating," he said. "And, Tory philosophy says we have to do what the market tells us no matter what the market tells us."

He said the mortgage deductibility program will help the middle and upper classes.

The \$375 allowable has been taken up by the mortgage interest rate increase to 14 per cent, he said.

He criticized the Tory government for phasing out the Manitoba Development Corporation. He said since the Conservative Party has gained power in that province about 11,000 people have left Manitoba.

The province is paying 10 per cent less towards health care dollar than it was in 1974.

Daycare services have also been reduced, he said. In Ontario, the government has

failed to allocate money for day care services for the third consecutive year.

"If we go back to the good old days it will be good except for the working mother," he said.

"In Nova Scotia a unwed mother who won't live with her parents will not receive social assistance benefits," he said. "What if their parents won't have them?"

Mr. Akerman said in Ontario the province is contributing 10 per cent less to education while the extra cost has been taken on by the municipal taxpayer.

As well, that province has decreased its payments to teaching English to immigrant children by 25 per cent.

He said in Nova Scotia there has been a moratorium on all further school construction. The province has cancelled the cost sharing of the adult education self-improvement programs which he said are "one of the best programs we had."

University tuitions, up 10 per cent from last year, are the highest in the country, he said.

"Loans and bursaries are too low and not enough to compensate for the increase in fees," he said.

"But that is the way it was in the good old days," he said. "Because if you couldn't afford to go to university, it wasn't in your place to go."

Concluding his speech Mr. Akerman said, "When we remember the good old days, we remember things that are pleasant to us. As times are changing we have to learn to adapt. We will be continually beset by problems. That is the nature of life on this planet. Old times are good only when you've had them."

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