

# Revolution should be women's main goal

By CATHERINE MORRIS  
of The Gateway

VANCOUVER—Women at the regional women's caucus held Thanksgiving weekend at the University of British Columbia here decided revolution, and not reform, should be the main goal of women's liberation groups in North America.

Women from six Western Canadian cities and five Western American cities rallied at the conference to discuss ways women are oppressed and possible strategies for overcoming the oppression of women in our society.

A consensus of the conference believed women cannot win equality with men under capitalism. It is hoped women's liberation organizations will play an integral part in the whole socialist revolution.

"Through liberating women we can liberate all oppressed people, since women are at the bottom of every oppressed group," said Laura Murra of Berkeley, California.

One view expressed was that women are psychologically oppressed by society's idea of what is "feminine" and what is a "woman's role" in society.

Women are chained to their roles as housewives and

mothers through the ideas inculcated into them since childhood that they are intended to be submissive to men.

The women's liberation groups in North America have divided their areas of strategy for gaining liberation into such issues as abortion, birth control and day care centres.

The goal of women's liberation groups is to obtain "repeal of all abortion laws."

"A woman should have complete control over her body," said Alona Cooke of Los Angeles. Miss Cooke is active in referring girls who desire competent and inexpensive abortions to an underground abortion clinic in Los Angeles.

Seattle radical women's groups last year organized working women for demonstrations at the legislative buildings when a bill to repeal abortion laws was put to Senate.

Although the bill was not passed, the women feel they gained much favorable publicity and forced the public to realize the abortion issue was not "just a women's issue."

The need for day care centres for working mothers was another topic discussed. One woman observed "some women pay half their paycheck for baby sitters."

It was proposed that women who want day care centres

for their children should be organized.

They proposed they "demand to participate in co-operative day care centres, demand that women be given time off work without loss of pay in order to participate in the centres, and demand facilities for day care centres."

"We should also think of demanding that men also participate in the centres," said one woman.

Campus organizing of women was another problem discussed at the conference.

Karen Kopperund, University of Saskatoon, said the main problem is to involve off-campus women. "We must speak to them on their own terms about their own particular problems," she said.

It was thought the campus was not a valid constituency for organizing women because "women on campus represent a privileged sector of society."

Most campus women's liberation groups in Canada have been concerned mainly with distributing birth control information and setting up birth control information centres. Miss Kopperund told the conference how the McGill University birth control booklet was to be distributed at U of S "tucked in the back of the telephone book."

if not us . . .  
who?

## The Gateway

if not now . . .  
when?

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# AAS knocks out policy at conference

## U of A avoids dominating role but smaller schools still wary



THINGS MUST BE BAD when nicotine and alcohol (as well as a little pussy on the side) are needed to pass a budget.

## Fear of domination hindered AAS

By BILL BOEI

Widespread fear of domination by university delegations almost led to the failure of the Alberta Association of Students Fall Conference on the weekend.

Typical of the problem was a charge by a Calgary nursing student, when she was accused by a university delegate of having an inferiority complex, that it was "the unwarranted superiority complex of the university students" that really bothered her.

The universities of Alberta, Calgary, and Lethbridge brought with them a reputation of being "political heavies" who would push for radical policies at all costs.

University delegates reacted by deliberately avoiding confrontations and withdrawing from debates, while representatives from nursing schools, technical institutes, and some colleges tended to

mistrust anything the universities did.

As a result, it took more than a full day of unresolved conflict before the barriers of mistrust were broken down and the different delegations could start communicating with each other.

U of A students' council president David Leadbeater said that the conference's slow start reflected "the class background of the various institutions."

His counterpart at U of C, Pat Pattison, explained that technical and nursing students are made to feel inferior to university people by the socialization processes at their schools, and therefore came "expecting to be intimidated."

University students are vastly experienced in handling conferences and have developed a "verbose rhetoric" that scares less experienced delegates, according

to NAIT representative Ray St. Arnaud.

"They (nursing and technical students) don't know how to change the emphasis and make AAS more relevant," he said.

One Calgary student nurse said her group was not prepared to communicate properly because of their attitude toward the other delegations and because insufficient emphasis had been placed on pre-conference research.

Most college delegations experience few problems, since they are regarded by both of the other camps as "friendly".

Eventually, however, the nurses and technical students found that university "heavies" were real people and could be talked with while university delegations relaxed their guard and started to communicate with the rest of the conference.

LAKE ISLE—The Alberta Association of Students Monday overcame disorder on the floor to struggle with clear-cut policy statements at its semi-annual conference here.

Shattering the quiet of a deserted crippled children's Camp He Ho Ha for four days, students from 16 provincial post-secondary institutions engaged in heated floor debate and even hotter informal discussions to reach these key resolutions:

- that nursing education be put under the Department of Education and nurses be given more representation on the government's proposed board to regulate most aspects of nursing.

- that AAS work immediately toward the abolition of tuition fees at all post-secondary schools in Alberta.

- that the association should concentrate on student issues while recognizing the social issues involved.

- a lobby be started for the elimination of all beauty contests, "slave auctions" and other activities which involve judging women on a superficial level, and to obtain economic equality for women.

- that member institutions prepare for a full-scale attack at the spring conference on the problem of discrimination against Indians.

- ratified its executive "informal" link to the Canadian Union of Students.

President Al Stein confronted the 100 delegates Friday night at the first plenary session with a demand for policy statements.

He caught many delegates off-guard because they were not prepared to offer what Mr. Stein and vice-president Marion Snethlage termed a "desperate" need for direction from the members.

But that direction was difficult to determine as members of technical schools and colleges shyed away from political issues and nursing school representatives expressed concern that "radical" resolutions would bring retaliation from their schools.

Nursing delegates did voice their unanimous opposition to portions

of the government's proposed Bill 119 which suggests a restructuring of the powers and composition of nurses' governing bodies.

The changes would include a central governing board with a minority of nurses on it which would have wide powers over education, licensing and discipline of nurses.

Nursing education would continue to be governed by individual hospitals subject to overall supervision by the board.

After several hours in caucus, the conference's nursing commission had still not reached agreement on the Bill and one section had called for rejection of the entire legislation.

After more heated plenary debate Sunday night, the conference rejected the representation and educational clauses in the Bill but said the remainder was acceptable.

"The Bill is based on a sound philosophy," said a Mount Royal nurse. "We feel that there are many good things in it."

But a nurse from Calgary's General Hospital claimed that "the whole idea behind the Bill is wrong. You've got to throw the whole thing out."

"We're still under the government with this Bill. We want to set up an autonomous body. Only when we have autonomy can we claim to be a profession."

The two factions coming out of the commission meetings kept the debate on the floor in spite of a motion that the commission should reconvene to hash out a policy acceptable to all nurses present.

The conference also accepted a heavily debated resolution to forge a link with CUS. Many delegates expressed fear that the resolution would imply acceptance of CUS policy by AAS.

"We've already had a referendum at my school and rejected CUS," complained one delegate. "How am I going to go back and tell them that AAS has accepted it. You've put us in a bad position."

"We already have an informal link," Mr. Stein countered. "This resolution would only reinforce

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