National Day strategy NOVA SCOTIA Student aid

OTTAWA (CUP) -- Campuses across Canada organizing for National Student Day now have a book for suggestions on how to do it.

The National Union of Students (NUS) has published a 32-page manual for campus organizing committees advising local organizers on how to prepare for the November 9 Day.

The manual does not deal extensively with the reasons for the "day of discussion" other than printing the original resolution from the NUS conference last May by which student leaders agreed such a

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nation-wide action is necessary.

The motion notes that "students have been hit with cutbacks in the funding of post-secondary education, tuition fee increases, regressive changes in student aid and very high unemployment" and urges the building of a "grass roots movement" around these issues.

The manual, in it's preamble, emphasizes the concept of NSD as a coordinated local effort: "The coordinating level will be providing materials and ideas, but they are almost worthless on a campus where the local effort has stopped," it states, urging that the day "becomes an ever-present aspect of student activity.'

The idea that NSD action be decentralized is pushed even at the local campus level. The manual encourages student unions to involve all other student organizations on campus in the planning of and participation in the day's activities.

Conversely, the manual warns against sectarian" domination of the organizing committee, and advises that the committee always be seen as a "coalition which tries to appeal to a broad group of students."

Attention is drawn to broadening the focus of NSD beyond immediate student concerns, and includes suggestions on how to work with labor unions and community groups because of the "common problems in gaining more equitable policies.'

Similarly, the manual suggests ways to involve other groups on campus, including faculty, support staff and administration.

"Academic staff have not demonstrated a strong commitment" to broadening access to post-secondary education, but "they feel the



The Dalhousie Gazette Student Aid Supplement is still available to students with financial problems. The supplement offers advice on how to apply for or appeal Nova Scotia Student Aid. Gazette office, room 334 S.U.B.

effects of restricted government spending," while support staff have uncertainites "about their own children's access to post-secondary education" and "share with students a general sense of powerlessness in the institution," the manual states.

But "administrators support, and that of institutional authorities, must be handled with considerable fore-thought" as NSD "will contribute little to students' awareness of its themes and concerns if students participate because they are told

Insistence is placed on the need

for the local organizers to know as much about the issues of NSD as possible and the manual encourages local research around:

- tuition hikes;

- freezes on construction funds;

- cutbacks in faculty and higher student/teacher ratios;

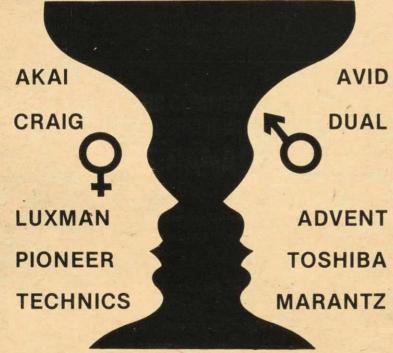
- possible enrolment ceilings;

- elimination of courses and

departments. The manual also deals with the involvement of part-time students, manpower trainees, graduate students (both as teachers and as resource persons) and nursing and

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Manitoba Student Aid criteria

WINNIPEG (CUP) - Manitoba student aid officials will be asking for change in student aid criteria when the Canada Student Loans plenary meets in Ottawa this week.

The CSLP is composed of student aid officials from across the country. It establishes the minimum criteria provinces must use for student aid under the Canada Student Loans Plan. All provinces, except Quebec, draw money for loans under the

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Bernie MacDonell, who were trying to tell high school students about National Student Day. But as high school student Stephen Mollon put it, "They gave the kick, and we kept going'

Another meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 21 at the Dalhousie SUB in the evening.

As Martin MacDonell şummed up the meaning of MEEOC "We are trying to give low income students an equal opportunity to attend university'

According to Manitoba Student Aid Director Rick Kleiman, Mani-

toba will press for three changes: - a revised repayment procedure

- a smaller percentage merit award deduction relative to the amount of loan provided

a new formula for calculating summer savings

The changes have been endorsed by Manitoba Continuing Education minister Ben Hanuschak

At present Canada Student Loans are interest free while students are in school and for six months after. Manitoba says students shouldn't start paying interest for a year.

It will also recommend that the ceiling on merit awards rise from \$300 to \$700.

In addition it says summer savings should be assessed as 45 per cent of the minimum wage for the number of weeks a student worked or 45 per cent of the reported earnings, whichever is greater.

To be included as criteria for aid the changes must be approved by the loans plenary and receive unanimous consent from the provinces.