

# NUS organizes in Toronto

by Avarð Bishop

Representatives of six of Canada's student federations met in Toronto last weekend to discuss a strategy for a common program on the financing of education and proposals for the restructuring of student organizations.

At the impetus of the Ontario Federation of Students and the National Union of Students, representatives of the B.C. Students' Federation, the Federation of Alberta Students, the Universities of Saskatchewan and Regina, the Atlantic Federation of Students and the aforementioned OFS and NUS met in Toronto on February 14 and

15 to organize themselves. ANEQ, the Association Nationale des Etudiants de Quebec, did not attend because of lack of notice.

The Atlantic Federation of Students was represented by two delegates: Jim MacLean from UNB, immediate past Chairperson of AFS and Avarð Bishop, External Affairs Officer for Dalhousie and current Chairperson of AFS.

## Financing of Education

The financing of education is clearly a concern to students across the country, although it manifests itself differently from province to province. In Nova Scotia and New

Brunswick, for example, the problems and importance of the Student Aid issue is a major concern, whereas in Ontario, the government employment cutbacks will leave an estimated 85,000 students without work this summer. In the Prairies, increases in tuition fees take up a good deal of the time of the student unions in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Student unemployment in British Columbia, as in Ontario, is a major threat to the continuation of education for many students. In that province, 10,000 of 11,000 jobs have been cut out of the provincial summer employment program.

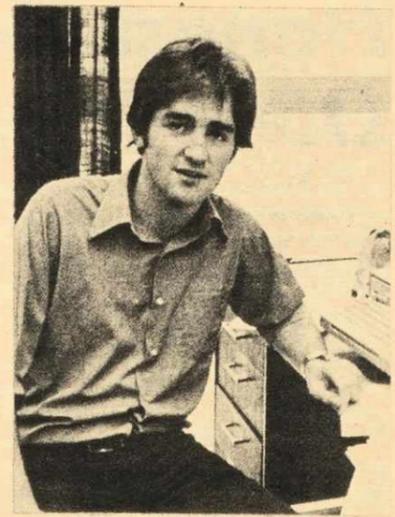
The item dealing with the need for a common program appeared on the agenda under the heading of "strategy for the common program on the right to education and accessibility," and while the delegates agreed generally on the view, and specifically on the usefulness in each province of concerted action, they were not keen to adopt the 'right to education' as a motto for the program. The possibility of organizing a national day of concern was discussed extensively, and posters and pamphlets, with a generally uniform format, leaving space to the various provinces to develop their particular concerns will be produced.

Dan O'Connor, who is the executive secretary of the National Union and a past president of Dalhousie Student Council (as well as that of St. F.X.), suggested the motto of the day of concern should run along the lines of "Will you be here [at university] next year?"

The national student newspaper, the "Student Advocate," published in French as the "Partisan Etudiant" will contain stories on issues in each province or region. Although it will only be published once this academic year, the paper will appear on campuses across Canada. The purpose is principally educational: students are surprisingly unaware of the issues of the day and the activities of other universities.

## The Restructuring of Student Organizations

At the present, the six "mainstream" organizations of students are constituted and act independently of the others. In particular, the National Union, which does research into a number of areas, specifically those concerning student/federal government issues, and maintains a staff of three full



Dalhousie student Avarð Bishop represented the AFS at the NUS conference. Dal Photo / Grandy

time workers, has no formal link with the regional/provincial organizations.

Three proposals were brought forward, dealing with the composition of the central committee of the National Union, the powers of the regional organizations, and the necessity of mandatory dual membership (in both the National Union and the regional organization).

Clearly there are problems associated with the proposals, problems which were not avoided by the representatives present. The Atlantic Federation does not collect its income on a per capita basis, as is done in Ontario and British Columbia, but relies on lump sum payments from the relatively restricted budgets of the student unions. Many members of the Atlantic Federation, as of other provincial/regional federations, are not members of NUS, and some councils do not feel their interests would be served by such a large body as a National Union. The organizations present, however, at the same time as being quite aware of this state of affairs, felt that such an involvement is inevitable. In every region or province, the proposals on restructuring will be discussed. In any case, the restructuring would not take place before one or two years, at least. Saskatchewan and Manitoba have no provincial organizations, and the Atlantic Federation is keen to solidify its own strength and usefulness before looking overly outward.

The meeting dealt with the proposals as motions, with the understanding that they would be considered both informally and at

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The percentage of women decreases as the level of study increases. How accidental is it? Dal Photo / Jensen

## Women in higher education

by Elizabeth Nijenhuis

During the 1970's women have been demanding an increased share of opportunities and responsibilities in all spheres of Canadian life. At this point it is interesting to look at their position within the university community. Just this was done when a statistical compendium on Women on Canadian Universities was released at the annual meeting of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada in October, 1975.

The figures, compiled by Statistics Canada in the period from 1971 to 1974, show that across Canada women faculty are under-represented, paid less and promoted more slowly than their male counterparts.

Women, who represent only about 13 percent of the full time university teaching staff, are concentrated in such traditional fields as nursing, domestic science and social work. Their representation in engineering is listed as nil.

With regard to pay and promotion, the extreme variation in male/female ratios between different academic programs makes aggregate averages meaningless. Yves Fortin of Statistics Canada, who presented the study, attempted to make meaningful compari-

sons by excluding male and female dominated areas and concentrating on education, the humanities and the social sciences.

Between 1960 and 1972 the proportion of women receiving graduate degrees in these areas increased from 19 to 30 percent of the total. Yet the percentage of women teaching in these areas increased only marginally from 13 to 14.7 percent. Those women who did receive appointments were promoted less frequently. A study of teachers, who received their doctorates in 1958, showed that by 1974 70 percent of the men had achieved the rank of full professor. The figure for women was 31.2 percent.

Fortin noted that in 1972-73 the average starting salary for a man appointed to the rank of full professor was higher than that of a woman, who had been at that rank for 5 years. For all ranks the average male faculty salary in 1974 was \$17,184. Women received only an average of \$13,886.

As students in 1972-73, women represented 38.3 percent of the full-time undergraduate population. Women represented 25.4 percent of graduate students but only 17.2 percent of doctoral candidates.

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