

Conference on Central America



Confused about the Salvadoran "elections"? Would you like to find out about social change in Sandinista Nicaragua? Or what the Church's role is in Central America? How bad is the human

rights situation in Central America? What is the role of our government in Central American problems?

These and other questions will be dealt with in a two-day con-

ference, to be held Friday and Saturday, April 6 and 7, at St. Mary's University's International Education Centre, says conference organizer Dr. John Kirk of the Dalhousie Spanish Department.

"The basic concept of the conference—free and open to all—is to deal with the myths and misinformation that surround this tragic area," Kirk said.

If you've ever wanted to find out more information about Central America, this is the perfect opportunity, he said.

The participants in the conference come from varied backgrounds.

Michael Czerny, S.J., is the Director of the Jesuit Centre for Social Faith and Justice in Toronto and has travelled extensively in Central America; Jaime Davila is the Counsellor of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Ottawa; Tim Draimin is the editor of the prestigious journal, *Central American Update* and Sr. Suzanne Dudziak, of the Sisters of Zion and of LAWG, is one of the organizers of last December's peace vigil to Honduras (where they were turned away by Honduran military).

Archbishop James M. Hayes represented the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in presenting a brief to External Affairs authorities, and Dr. George Lovell, of Queen's University, is a specialist in Guatemalan political history, and returned earlier this month from Guatemala.

Sessions will begin on Friday night at 7:30 p.m. with the film "Dream of Sandino," after which Jaime Davila and Tim Draimin will discuss the theme "Nicaragua and El Salvador: A Way Ahead and a Way Back."

On Saturday morning, starting

at 9:30 a.m., topics to be dealt with include "Human Rights in Central America," "The Church in Central America," "The U.S. and Canadian Role in the Crisis," and "The Future for Central America."

On the Saturday evening, at 8 p.m., in the SMU Student Union cafeteria, there will be a "solidarity fiesta," at which "Four the Moment," and Latin American musicians, as well as local mime and popular theatre groups, will entertain.

Rumour also has it that Ronald Regan will be making a guest appearance, Kirk said.

Amiable chat with Minister resolves nothing

by Peter Kuitenbrouwer for Canadian University Press

OTTAWA—Canadian Federation of Students representatives spent a cozy evening with the federal Minister of Youth, Celine Hervieux-Payette, in her deeply carpeted office on Parliament Hill, March 23.

In their first meeting since the Youth Ministry was created last December, student leaders and Payette discussed increased cooperation between the CFS and the new ministry, participation of CFS in the upcoming "International Year of Youth," 1985, and availability of education. The minister does not believe education should be universal.

"What do you think the role of the CFS will be in the International Year of Youth?" CFS Executive Officer Diane Flaherty asked Payette.

Payette said she'll be organizing committees made up of many youth groups to help prepare the events for the year, for which she has \$20 million budget.

She said she plans to ask Air Canada and Via Rail to offer discounts to students during 1985 to they can gather for rallies. She also wants to give money to youth theatre groups who want to tour their regions, paying for costumes and supplies, but not wages.

Though the CFS invited Cana-

dian University Press to the meeting and ministry officials asserted the federation could bring along journalists if they wanted, when the reporter arrived Hervieux-Payette announced anything she said would be off the record.

"You may not print anything which has not been printed before," she told the reporter.

Hervieux-Payette has made herself inaccessible to CFS since she assumed the new portfolio Jan. 10.

Hervieux-Payette told the student leaders her priority is under-privileged jobless youth and not students, and admitted she knows very little about post secondary education outside Quebec.

In Quebec, she said, the education system is as cheap and as accessible as it can possibly be.

CFS representatives told the minister they oppose Bill C-12, which would tie federal education funding to the federal six and five wage restraint program. They say the bill will cut funding to universities.

But Payette defended the bill, saying Ottawa had to make sure increased financing to education would not go to increase salaries of professors and administrators, but to increasing enrollment at universities across Canada.

Though nothing was resolved by the chat, CFS representatives left on an amiable note and promised to meet again.



DSU POSITIONS

Applications are now being accepted for the following '84-'85 positions:

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- JUDICIAL BOARD
- FINANCE COMMITTEE
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- SUB OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
- DAYCARE COMMITTEE
- VICE-PRESIDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE (ACADEMIC)
- VICE-PRESIDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE (PLANNING AND RESOURCES)
- ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
- INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
- ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRE

Some positions carry honorariums. Application forms are available in Room 222 of the Dalhousie SUB. For further information contact Rusty James, Room 210 of the Dalhousie SUB. All applications must be received in writing at Room 222, Dal SUB, before April 6th at 5 p.m. All nominees will be presented to council at a meeting on April 8th at 1 p.m. Council Chambers. Please attend.

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