

# news

## DUNMUNS does N.Y

by JD Hicks

On April 4, 32 students from Dalhousie and King's College will leave for New York City to participate in the week-long 1993 National Model United Nations Conference. For the twelfth consecutive year, the Dalhousie-King's Model United Nations Society (DUNMUNS) will send a delegation to this major international simulation exercise. In the past, the team has played the part of countries as diverse as Norway, Iraq and France. This year they will represent two countries: India and Bhutan.

At the Conference, delegations from 130 major North American and overseas universities will represent various member countries of the UN. Mock committees deal with the same issues as the real UN: global security, famine and overpopulation, to name a few. Head Delegate Dave Redwood says that the conference is a very accurate simulation of the real UN, from the rules and procedures to the speeches and headaches.

What attracts students to a week of carrying the world's greatest problems on their shoulders? Rookie delegate Tracey Boyd-Brown says, "I think this is a great opportunity to learn about the UN and practice debating skills. Also, I might be interested in a career in diplomacy, so this might give me some idea of what it's like."

Redwood says that DUNMUNS members have worked hard to fundraise and prepare academically for the Conference. "This is definitely the most enthusiastic edition of DUNMUNS in three years", he claims. Redwood notes that most of the students from US schools are getting academic credit for their preparation and performance at the Conference. DUNMUNS members

work in their spare time. Still, the team won an Honourable Mention and a good reputation for its portrayal of Iraq in 1991. In addition, Dal student Aaron Yarmoshuk has earned the prestigious honour of serving as Director of the Special Political Committee at the Conference. Last year, Yarmoshuk was an Assistant Director.

Improving King's and Dal's inter-

national academic reputation is not the only goal for DUNMUNS this year. The society has sponsored several lectures during the year to increase student awareness about the UN and India. However, the New York Conference remains the focus for DUNMUNS, and Redwood rates his team's chances at an award this year as "very realistic".

## UNDOing the UN

by UNDO

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever does.*

-Margaret Mead

With this in mind — and with your help—the UNDO grassroots project will succeed.

The definition of the individual often forgets many people. The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights makes use of such a definition. UNDO (United Nations Discrimination Obliteration), a working group of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group, is lobbying to have the Declaration updated.

UNDO's goal is to amend the Declaration to include: gender inclusive language; the protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; and a specific reference to individuals with mental health disorders, the aged, the physically challenged, and the mentally challenged to emphasise their rights to dignity and quality of life.

The Declaration, adopted in 1948, represents the United Nations' philosophy and commitment to universal equality and justice. It forms the base for much of the work of the UN and serves as a paradigm for the constitutions of many countries worldwide. Ideally, a committee of experts representing relevant groups would eventually be formed for the purpose of drafting proposed amendments to the document.

For now, UNDO is working to raise awareness and spread the word about its concerns. Next week, the Dalhousie Model United Nations Society will be bringing the UNDO petition to the annual National Model United Nations in New York in order to collect signatures and rally support.

If you are interested in getting involved with UNDO in terms of anything from writing articles about the issues at hand, tabling, planning events to promote publicity or simply collecting signatures on a petition, just drop by or call the NSPIRG at Dal office, Rm 310 of the SUB 494-6662.

We look forward to hearing from you!

**Brenton**<sup>st.</sup>  
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