

World Health Organization condones torture

by Pam Berman

The World Health Organization (WHO) has adopted legislation that condones doctor participation in the torture of political prisoners, said Dr. David Shire, an associate professor of Family Medicine at Dalhousie University.

The WHO changed the Declaration of Tokyo (a document of the World Medical Association (WMA) that stated no physician should be a party to the torture or the punishment of prisoners), to say that being involved with torture is not unethical where the law permits and recognizes the use of torture.

"This added rider is ridiculous: either something is ethical or it is not, you cannot legislate ethics," Shires said.

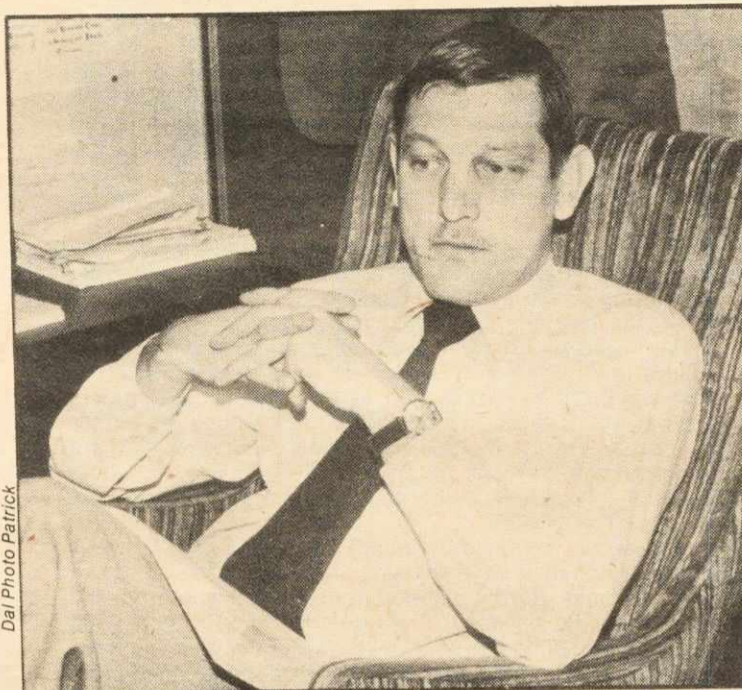
The WMA sent a telegram to Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General of the United Nations, protesting the WHO's changes

in the Declaration. Shire said the changes have taken the moral force out of the Declaration of Tokyo and allowed the practise of torture to go on with the continued involvement of doctors who can prolong the interrogation process by reviving the captives.

Dr. Shires attended the 33rd annual assembly of the WMA in Venezuela, where the forced contravention of medical ethics and the part physicians play in the practise of torture was discussed.

"Perhaps you cannot stop the torture, but doctors should not be involved in its prolongation," Dr. Shire added.

With regard to admitting torture victims into Canada, no set of guidelines had been previously worked out to decide if someone had been tortured and could be admitted into the country under



Dal Photo Patrick

a refugee status. With this in mind, a set of criteria was established by physicians and lawyers in Toronto who were

involved with a group of Chilean refugees.

"Canadian doctors have not had much experience in dealing with torture victims and looking for proof of abuse. The protocol is particularly important since section 76 of the Immigration Act specifically allows for people applying for immigration who have experienced persecution. The outline could be useful for Halifax doctors considering that this is a port city and a possible entry point for refugees", said Shires.

The Canadian Medical Association Journal outlined the protocol which included spine abnormalities, skin lesions, hearing deficiencies, x-ray evidence of fractures, damaged teeth, joint abnormalities, inverted nipples, displaced fingers, disturbed memory, impaired motor function and inability to concentrate.

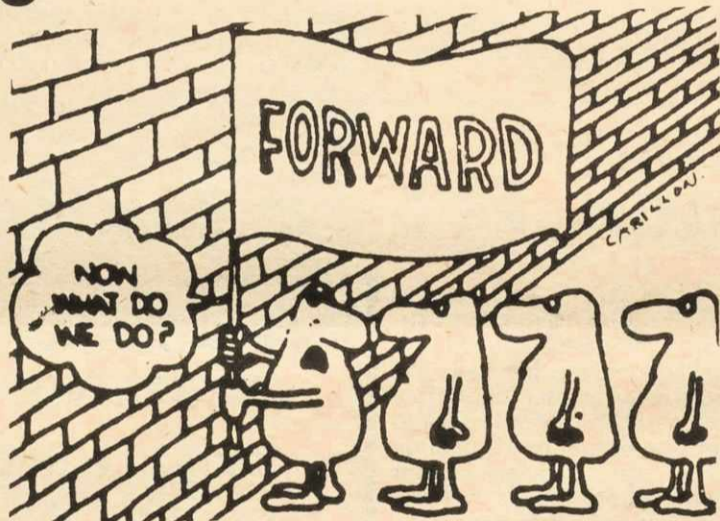
Ontario gov't announces tuition hikes

OTTAWA (CUP)—Minister of Colleges and Universities Bette Stephenson has wished university students in Ontario a Happy New Year by announcing a general 7.5 per cent increase in tuition for next year.

The general increase, made public on New Year's Eve, was accompanied by an announcement that an additional 10 per cent hike could be added on to the increase for particular programs at the discretion of individual institutions next year.

According to the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), full use of these increases could result in a \$126 increase in tuition for general arts students, \$137 for engineers and up to \$156 for the province's dentistry students.

Federation opposition to the increase is partially due to its size and partially due to the manner in which it is being implemented.



"This change (the optional 10 per cent increase) will create two classes of education in the province," said OFS chairperson Chris McKillop.

"Soon schools will increase their tuition by the additional 10 per cent especially in those faculties that have limited enrolment. Those will be the

professional faculties—law, engineering and architecture. Those faculties will now be restricted to the well-to-do because they will be the only ones who can pay," he added.

McKillop also said that the "substantial additional increase in basic tuition fees will only further restrict accessibility to middle and lower income students".

Dr. Edward J. Monahan, executive director of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), also expressed mixed feelings about the increase and the level of funding that the province's universities are presently receiving.

"The increase in university revenues from government grants and increased tuition fees is expected to be 7.3 per cent. However, this is still significantly below the increase of 9.2 per cent recommended by the Ontario Council on University Affairs, the

government's own advisory body," he said.

Monahan added that, even if all of the province's universities utilized the 10 per cent option, there would be a gap of \$20 million between what the OCUA judges the universities need to operate and what the government is granting in assistance.

The OFS says that it will attempt to stop the increase on a campus-by-campus basis by helping its members organize against the additional 10 per cent increase.

Search for new dean continues

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can prepare themselves for a future way of life. Dr. King said that he is concerned about the general students who are not preparing for a profession, and consequently, are getting a "cheap degree". Dr. King is in favour of improved communication between students and faculty, and among faculty themselves. If appointed, he wishes to have a "mini-cabinet" made up of assistants to help him organize co-operative programs and discuss issues.

Dr. King is an engineer professor who is very interested in research and is very devoted to his work. If appointed dean, Dr. King said that he would still teach one course and keep up his research so he will be well informed in this fast changing world. Dr. King is not afraid of hard work and he is willing to devote the time which is necessary in order to be a good dean.

The **Gazette** was unable to contact Dr. Betts, a professor of physics at the University of Alberta, for an interview.

The desired qualifications for dean of Arts and Science were outlined by Dr. A.M. Sinclair, the secretary of the Search Committee. "In our advertisement, we asked for a person who would be able to give good advice to the president and vice-presidents."

In response to the advertisement, as well as a request for nominations within the university, about twelve people applied from outside Dalhousie and about as many were nominated internally.

Dr. Sinclair said the selection is "a time-consuming process." While the president makes the final decision, the Search Committee must present their recommendation to him. Sinclair hopes this will be accomplished some time this month.

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