

Students elect gay leader

David Ward

THE National Union of Students yesterday elected its first openly gay president when Stephen Twigg, a former Oxford University Students' Union welfare officer, topped the poll at the union's conference in Blackpool.

Mr Twigg, aged 23, has been a member of the NUS executive for two years and was previously vice-president (education). He graduated in PPE from Balliol College in 1988.

He is a Labour Party member with Kinnockite views and has been an active member of the Labour Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

He said yesterday: "It's a positive thing for the NUS to have a gay president, but I am not a single-issue person."

On student loans, the new president, who takes over from Maeve Sherlock on July 1, said: "If we can delay the implementation of the loans scheme, that would be a major victory. If it goes ahead, then we shall campaign vigorously at the next election to have the legislation repealed."