

AFS/FEA

Unanimous decision to protest govt cutbacks

by Allan Zdunich

"We don't think we're being radical, we have to be tough with the government" Dalhousie Student Union President-elect Robert Sampson stated at a meeting of the Nova Scotia caucus of the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS/FEA) in Truro last Saturday.

Despite inclement weather conditions representatives of six of Nova Scotia's eleven post-secondary institutions were present to make a unanimous decision to protest recent actions of the provincial government to restrict access to post-secondary education.

"The reduction in government funding means increased tuition fees. An increase in tuition fees means that only the rich will be able to afford a college education" AFS/FEA secretary/co-ordinator Don Soucy told delegates.

After discussing the effect of tuition increases in the range of \$50 to \$150 student leaders decided to make the financing of post-secondary education their main priority this spring. By unanimous consent, leaders agreed to attempt a second meeting with government leaders representatives after the aborted meeting in February, when Education Minister stepped out for half an hour and never returned, some members were hesitant about giving the Minister a second chance.

Some delegates expressed concern over the decision of the Nova

Scotia government to disregard the recommendation of the supervisory body on post-secondary education (the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, MPHEC/CESPM) and instead increase operating funds by 7%. MPHEC/CESPM recommendations had called for 11.5%.

As the other priority for the Atlantic Federation of Students (FEA/AFS) this spring, student leaders decided to oppose the introduction of academic criteria in the bursary program. The government would be tampering with academic freedom by deciding which students would be eligible for provincial assistance regardless of the decision of the student's university. Student leaders decided that the government was turning the bursary program into a 'scholarship program' by determining bursary eligibility by academic performance.

Unanimous decisions of delegates were made to seek support from the university community and the general public to oppose the transformation of the bursary program into a scholarship program. The Board of Governors on each campus will be approached for support.

Other business at the AFS/FEA caucus meeting included discussion of the annual conference the weekend of April 21st in Sydney, preparations for it, the new constitution, and caucus financing.



Student leaders at AFS / FEA caucus meeting in Truro, Saturday.

Photo / Zdunich

TV kids cannot adapt

by Jennifer Robinson and Marc Cassini

MONTREAL (CUP) -- Claiming that the TV generation is rebelling against the set norms of western society, Marshall McLuhan extended the "brain hemisphere" theory to explain the roots of many of our social ills.

Key speaker at a Montreal symposium on "Life, Death and Psychical Research", McLuhan, renowned communications theorist, captivated a standing-room only audience March 4.

Central to McLuhan's argument was his differentiation between the functioning of the right and left brain hemispheres. Characterizing the left hemisphere as controlling logical, rational and linear thought, McLuhan stated that western culture is dominated by the left, rational hemisphere. The right hemisphere of the brain, he claimed, is more dominant in eastern and third world cultures and philosophy and is typified by artistic, disconnected and intuitive behaviour patterns. The Chinese ideogram is a characteristic of a right hemisphere-dominated society while the alphabet belongs to left hemisphere societies.

Prior to the appearance of the Roman alphabet, all societies were dominated by the more qualitative right brain hemisphere.

Referring to the findings of Harold Innis, a pioneer in the study of the effects of technology on human society, McLuhan asserted that the implementation of the alphabet and papyrus by Graeco-Roman cultures enabled them to send messages and thereby control their armies. McLuhan traced the origins of imperialism and military bureaucracy to the alphabet. The natural consequence of the Graeco-Roman societies was rationalism,

agnosticism, orderly linear thought and, thus, technology. Insisting that the dominance of either the right or left brain hemisphere is solely dependent on environmental influence, McLuhan explained the evolution of today's highly technological electronic Western society as opposed to the highly developed eastern and third world cultures that find their roots in less sequential thought.

He claimed that television viewing sensitizes the right hemisphere of the brain because it has the same effect as addictive drugs, adding that the TV generation was made up of predominantly right hemisphere people. The younger generation does not readily fit into the society created by left hemisphere thought and behaviour, nor do 'TV kids' adapt to the school system that was created for and by left brain hemisphere people. Misfits, or as McLuhan said, "Mystics are right hemisphere people plunged into a left hemisphere society."

McLuhan added that the western trend towards eastern philosophy was matched by an eastern trend towards more rational and linear thinking. This eastern trend he attributed to the imposition of the western alphabet, ideals, technology and imperialism on eastern and third world countries.

The contemporary school system is devoted to developing the left hemisphere of the brain, reflected McLuhan and added that it teaches the gifted right-hemispheric child the "correct" culturally dominated left hemisphere line of thought.

The symposium covered such themes as "Intimations of Immortality", "Psychic experience and the history of religion" ending up last night with a PSA Demonstration under the direction of Marilyn Zwaig Rossner.

South African women to speak at Dalhousie Friday night

Two women from the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) will be speaking at Dalhousie on Friday, March 25, at 8 pm. The lecture will take place at the Weldon Law Building, is free, and open to the public.

The women, Kate Molale and Mpho Thoaebale, are on a national tour speaking about the present conditions in South Africa. Thoaebale, 16, was in Soweto at the time of the recent riots...Molale was also forced to flee South Africa because of opposition to the racist government.

South Africa is the only country in the world where racial discrimination, economic exploitation and national oppression have been elevated to the level of State Policy which is rigidly enforced by statutes and the brutal force of arms.

The South African Government has for years remained adamant in defending and justifying its official ideology of Apartheid (separateness), an ideology that distinguishes South Africa from the rest of the world by placing that country outside the bounds of humanity.

The white-ruled government of South Africa possesses a sophisticated international propaganda machinery channelled through its embassies, consulates, trade com-



Kate Molale

missions and South Africa business organizations. This propaganda machinery has been working for a number of years to sell South Africa. Its main objective being to give apartheid a respectable mask and one which is acceptable to western governments, and in particular to investors.

The women are on a national tour sponsored by CUSO in order to combat some of the propaganda of the South African government and to give a first hand account of life for blacks in the country.

The tour is sponsored locally by the Southern Africa Information Group and Oxfam.

 * A SINCERE THANKS TO THE MANY *
 * PEOPLE WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE *
 * FOR THIS WEEK'S LABOUR *
 * SUPPLEMENT. — THE GAZETTE *

Day care committee active

by Elizabeth Beale

Since its formation in February, 1977, the Dalhousie Day Care Committee, formed through the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students and the Dalhousie Student Union, has been engaged in various activities. The Committee's objective has been to determine whether or not a need for day care services exists in the Dalhousie community, and to examine the nature of that need.

A survey, using a questionnaire, was conducted; the results of this are presently being compiled. The Committee has also been gathering information on various facets of day care, and contact has been made with different people who are concerned with day care.

The findings of the survey and other relevant information will be

put into a report; parts of this report will later be compiled and used in a proposal. The Committee anticipates forming an 'implementation phase' committee once the report is complete. The Implementation Phase Committee would work towards the establishment of a day care centre in the Dalhousie community.

We view the success of such an endeavour to be contingent upon the support of the university, the provincial government and various organizations within the Dalhousie community. The Dalhousie Day Care Committee seeks to obtain that support and fulfill the objective of establishing a day care centre in the Dalhousie community to serve members of that community as well as members of the public outside that community.