

In order to provide our readers with the incisive election coverage of a truly professional journalist the Gazette once again sought the services of Bull Schmidt, editor of the Chronically Horrid. The following editorial was written shortly after Bull's reinstatement with the Horrid.

Looming elections likely ; victory possible

Well, we're having an election in Nova Scotia. This is clear. What isn't clear is why I'm back at the Horrid writing a column. At first I thought it was the publishers generosity. Then I remembered he fired his son-in-law for necrophilia and liberal sympathies (not in that order) and so he needed an ace reporter to fill in. I'm the man for the job. Most people thought that the Horrid bought me off. Paid me lots of money to disappear. They were right. But I sneak out to the Spartan once a day for coffee and a carton of smokes. Anyway I'm back. For now. Will I leave again? No way. Not until we have more union trouble, which isn't likely since we've hired a hit man. I say it's another victory for the monarchy. Not that we're

pro-monarchy and anti-union. We're as objective as the next guy. Course his name is Diefenbaker. But I'm here to write about the election. Personally I don't think Buchanan has a chance against Trudeau, and Tommy Douglas is right out of it. What alerted me to the election was a highways crew paving a road to my front door. They ruined my carpet. It's too bad for the liberals that I live on the 8th floor of an apartment building. It's too bad for the liberals that my vote can't be bought with tar. Now silk stocking may be a different matter. But I digress. . . . I'm really here to attack the N.D.P. And any other anti-american communists running around this province. To my mind we should budworm spray all of Cape Breton. That may finish off the red hordes before

they spread to the mainland. Did you ever notice that the NDP leader's initials are JA, which I'm sure you'll remember, once prefaced Mein Herr! The way I see it is a close race. The Liberals will probably win, on the other hand the conservatives have a very good chance. And I wouldn't be surprised if the NDP took all the goodies. If I was a betting man I'd say we'll probably have a government elected, with one of the parties in opposition and the other as the official opposition. But I still want odds. As you see despite not having wrote a paragraph, a sentence, or a word in 8 months. I can still write good as anyone else on this newspaper. Just as logically. Just as literate. My publisher agrees too. I just wish after 8 months they would have fixed my typewriter. It's still stuck on indent. Bull Schmidt

Local candidates discuss issues

by Valerie Mansour
The three candidates for the Halifax / Cornwallis riding, which includes both Dalhousie and Saint Mary's Universities, spoke at a forum in the Dal Grad House September 6. George Mitchell, Liberal, presently Minister of Education; Terry Donahoe, Progressive Conservative; and Muriel Duckworth, New Democrat Party; began with brief comments concerning education.

"We have recognized tuition fees in Nova Scotia are the highest in Canada", said Mitchell. "Students have made themselves known through marches, and we've often met with the Atlantic Federation of Students. The Liberal Government has successfully urged universities to hold a line on tuition increases." Duckworth said fees are too high now. "Universities have to be absorbed into the community and be accessible. At present, the university reaches only three per cent of the population. This, of course, creates a great deal of resentment from people in the community," she said. Most people turn to the possibility for themselves and the children. Children of the working class seldom get to university. We must have an educated



Muriel Duckworth, NDP, George Mitchell, Liberal, and Terry Donahoe P.C., the three candidates in the Halifax-Cornwallis riding attended an open forum in the Dal Grad House last week.

society. We can never close the door and tell someone this is the end of your education." Donahoe said: "You're not going to be students for the rest of your lives. The entire economic situation of the province is not good. It's often impossible to find employment in your particular field of study. Changes are needed. I'd like to see the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) be more effective in the elimination of overlapping course offerings. Dalhousie should be considered the center of graduate studies." International Students Questions from the floor led to discussion on a variety of issues. All three candidates spoke against imposing differential fees on visa students when one observer mentioned that Nova Scotia should adopt such policies. Mitchell said: "It enhances universities to have different people around. We must be as least provincial as possible. Foreign students contribute their culture and language. They add rather than detract. Only 5% of students in this province are from outside the country. Perhaps if that number were to greatly increase, I would look at it differently." "If we want to limit foreign students we should use a different formula," Duckworth said. She emphasized that foreign students be

treated the same as Canadians, indicating that such was not the case in Nova Scotia. "In order for them to receive medical coverage in this province, for instance, they have to be here for 13 months," she said. "If they leave for summer employment, they won't be eligible." Daycare Mitchell defended the Provincial Government's involvement in daycare funding, while the NDP and PC candidates accused the Liberals of not offering financial support to people wanting to run daycare programs. "They don't have a sympathetic ear for people concerned with the issue," said Donahoe. "There has been no encouragement. Many males cannot find proper jobs now and their wives are forced into the workforce. There should be extended funding and a change of attitude." "It's impossible for students with small children to continue their studies", said Duckworth. "I think it's criminal for women not to be out there exercising their rights", she added. The economy "Small businesses must be encouraged", said Donahoe. "They can't borrow money at rates competitive with big industries. We have to be supportive of young people starting out. Taking a few risks will pay off in the long run." "I'm not convinced government is the best body to run industry", said Mitchell. "The private sector can do it better. Of course, Hawker Siddeley is not a good example." "We should be able to sustain the population", said Duckworth. "There shouldn't be handicaps for people like fishermen to organize. And the people of Nova Scotia should have taken over the Halifax Shipyards. The company that bought it is from outside and is related to foreign own subsidiaries." Provincial powers Mitchell feels a strong federal government is important. "But Nova Scotia should have more control over the fisheries and seabeds." "Resources belong to the province", said Donahoe. Every region of the country should be treated equally. It makes me mad to see Quebec purchasing power from Newfoundland and then selling it to the U.S. at a profit."

Voting is difficult

President at Saint Mary's University, puts it, "This is an awful hassle for students to go through. The government hasn't taken students into consideration. Proxy vote are not the ideal situation. There must be a master list of all voters in the province, so why can't they set up polls on campus?" "Most students aren't coming to town until the week of the September 11," Landry continued. "The election will be the last thing on their minds. I don't think there will be many students voting." Muriel Duckworth, NDP candidate for Halifax/Cornwallis, the riding which includes both Dalhousie and Saint Mary's Universities, said students who left the province to find summer employment vote because they could not afford to keep up their residency in the province 12 months immediately preceding the day the election was called. "I consider this very unfortunate", Duckworth said. "It has resulted in disenfranchising many students." Officials at the electoral office said if a student left the province for temporary employment and returned before September 8 they could try to get their name on the voters list. The 1977 amendments to the Elections Act permit a student registered and in attendance at an educational institution to vote either at school or at the family home. However, on August 12 few students were at school. In Halifax over 3500 Nova Scotia students from Mount Saint Vincent, Saint Mary's and Dalhousie Universities could be affected. While at Acadia University there are about 1820 Nova Scotian students from outside that riding. Student Councils are distributing proxy forms on their campuses, but as Roy Landry, Student Union

Nothing new The premier speaks on education . . .

Valerie Mansour, bureau chief for the Atlantic region of Canadian University Press, spent last Sunday afternoon at Province House where she was received by Premier Gerald Regan. The following is a transcript of their conversation. Unfortunately the leaders of the two other parties contesting the provincial election were unavailable for similar interviews. by Valerie Mansour Atlantic Bureau Chief Canadian University Press The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) forecasted tuition will increase with the cost of living. Do you see this happening in the next few years? "At some point in time tuition will increase like everything else. But, I know the feeling of the MPHEC is that we should hold tuition down in this area until it becomes level with tuition in other parts of the country, particularly because tuition in the Maritimes has been running pretty high in relation to the national picture. Since we've held it this year, and there's an increase in other universities, they're starting to move closer to our level." What do you think the role of the MPHEC is? It's one element of Maritime cooperation aimed at developing facilities across the three provinces on a coordinated basis and to avoid duplication. New needs are often developed from a university's empire-building attitude. The MPHEC looks at the different demands and decides how the available pie should be divided up. The

MPHEC with academic, and now student representation, can make decisions rather than having elected representatives doing it. Whether it works well or not, the theory should result in a quality education. Do you think the cutbacks that are happening on Nova Scotia campuses are affecting the quality of education? "I am not sufficiently expert to answer that but I suppose when we talk about the question of quality of education that any reduction in the amount of money people have will have to affect it in some way. The fact that there is a buyers market in relation to professional services in the country probably is reducing the chance of a reduction in efficiency. We are each year increasing the number of dollars we are committing to higher education. The cutbacks are in relation to the amount the universities say they require. I think the universities like every department must do their share and find ways to save dollars. Do you expect the number of international students enrolled in Nova Scotia institutions to increase in the near future due to the implementation of differential fees in Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec. And, is this done happen, will differential fees be implemented in this province? I don't think there'll be an increase. I'm philosophically opposed to differential fees. I think a university, almost by definition, should be a place where students come from a variety of backgrounds. The presence of foreign students enriches the atmosphere of the university.

Last spring the provincial government overturned an earlier ruling which disallowed foreign students in the province to receive coverage under MSI. But, these foreign students have to be in the province for 13 months before they are eligible and a student visa is only for 8 months. Do you see this as a problem and if so what will be done about it? "I don't know. I think a student who is here for a reasonable amount of time should have the rights to MSI. I don't have a fixed opinion on how long that period should be. We're prepared to re-examine it. Does the Liberal government have a platform on direct job creation? Do you believe specific measures are necessary to curb youth unemployment? One of the biggest problems we have in relation to unemployment is the employment of the young. It's a problem we should more strenuously try to solve. As a result of smaller families and the smaller number of people entering the labour force each year it's a problem which will go out of existence before the mid-eighties. In the meantime every effort should be made. We've made substantial efforts this year in terms of interim jobs but the more important aspect for young people is how we can develop a greater number of assured placements. A large part of the solution has to lay in the private sector because that's where most of the employment is, and government's role there is to provide encouragement. What do you think generally of Trudeau's economic platform? The recently an-

nounced UIC changes demand weeks work in the previous two 10-14 weeks work in the previous particularly damaging to students consider these changes just? I feel many of the government cuts announced in the last month have been thought out. Provisions should be made for students who worked one summer couldn't find employment the next. They shouldn't be held to a qualifying period. The Federal Government plans away \$370 million in joint projects. Nova Scotia have to make up the share? It's hard to tell since they haven't announced what programs will be. Their proposed decision to close fisheries lab here in Halifax is absolutely insane and I'll protest it in the most possible terms. The Federal Government's Employment Programs Financing includes a payment which increases in relation to the Gross National Product. Thus, money for education depends on the ups and downs of the economy. Do you feel this is correct, or should education be based on objectives? I'm unhappy with the formula for the cost-share programs. The limits on the smaller growth areas. Any limits based on the economy are counter-productive. Presently, the Federal-Provincial agreement allows for regional disparities in 1981

the cash transfers will level off and regional disparity will no longer be accounted for. What will the province do at that point? "We will continue to protest any such provision. We have no power to change what they do although we'd hope we'd be able to. If not, we'll just have to manage our own resources in such a way as to recognize education as a priority. We always hear there isn't enough money. The province is cutting back on spending, and you're not obliged to spend a specific amount of the federal funds on education. Is it legitimate to say the money isn't there? For provinces like Nova Scotia and New Brunswick who don't have a tax base like a province such as Ontario, the problem is there isn't enough money. It's a constant problem in education and other fields. Do you feel the increase on the interest rate for student loans is justified with consideration to the unemployment problem? "I'm not plugged in enough to the federal governments financing to know whether it's absolutely required. Is daycare funding a priority of your government? We're the only government that has ever funded daycare. It is a priority . . . people are a priority. I can give you my speech if you like—we give grants to the elderly, grants for young people to build homes. I think people on campuses can plug into

existing facilities. If that isn't adequate, there obviously needs to be more. What are your views on accessibility to post-secondary education? "Post-secondary education is important to all who have the intellectual ability to take it whether they ever intend to do anything with it or not. I believe a person's life is enriched as a consequence of a higher level of education. I think accessibility should be almost universal. I can make as strong an argument today on why universities should be free as a person could make as to why high schools should be in the thirties. But I don't see the dollars available at the present time. Do you recognize the Atlantic Federation of Students as representative of Atlantic students? Do you prefer to deal with a body such as that or with individual student unions? "I'm not getting into that one!" It's up to the students to decide who their representatives are. We've dealt with both AFS and individuals. Due to the date of the election it will be difficult for students to vote. Was the early date necessary? The timing was because of the threat of a federal election. We had to get ahead of that. I think many students can go home for the weekend to vote in the advanced poll. Others can vote by proxy.



This photograph of Gerald Regan was taken several years ago when John Shaheen was promising prosperity for Nova Scotia in exchange for a mere \$20 million in tax payers money and Mercator was no more than a flicker in the recesses of Scott McNutt's mind.