

# Board rejects UI appeal

by Mark Simkins

A three man board of referees has upheld the Unemployment Insurance Commission's ruling that 19 people must pay back money a UIC computer mistakenly overpaid them. 5058 people in Nova Scotia and thousands across the country have been affected by the computer error. The Halifax Coalition for Full Employment and Dalhousie Legal Aid who represented the 19 people at the appeal have vowed to fight the decision to the highest level.

Ginny Green of the Halifax Coalition for Full Employment said, "The decision did not challenge any of the legal,

moral or political arguments presented at the appeal, it merely reiterated the line of the Unemployment Insurance Commission." She said, "the board is trying to squash the appeal before it becomes a national issue and dissuade people from questioning the authority of Unemployment Insurance Commission, we intend to appeal to the highest authority. The next step is arranging an appeal to the Umpire, who is a federal court judge".

Gary Tanner, one of the 19 claimants said he was disappointed at the outcome, but not discouraged. "I know we have a good case, but I'm

concerned that if a well prepared group with a comprehensive brief, and solid arguments can be turned down by the board, where will this leave the individual appellant?"

Bill Powrz of Dalhousie Legal Aid said, "the board in order to disintegrate people from funds, the Unemployment Insurance Commission must establish fault and in this case the claimants are not at fault. However, this is not just a legal exercise, though it is winnable on legal terms, it is a political and moral battle which will challenge the direction of the Unemployment

Insurance Commission in the future. This case should bring to the fore-front the power relationship between the unemployed and the middle class.

The Unemployment Insurance Commission is in the midst of a campaign to tighten up control over those who get benefits, he said. "Such programs as the 'cheaters' advertising campaign are efforts to implant the idea that most people who receive benefits are cheaters, when the actual percentage of people who cheat is about 3% and those who do are usually caught." "This campaign allows the

Commission to tighten up its benefits while unemployment actually increases. The result will be a transference of people from UIC to the Social Service rolls, which are provincially funded."

The board that heard the appeal was made up of Harold Curry, a businessman representing employers, Sinclair Allen, representing labour and George Findlay, a political appointee, who chaired the board. Findlay said, "no comment, no comment whatsoever" on the decision of the board, while its other members were unavailable for comment.

## Conservatives score stunning sweep

by Nigel Allen

In an unexpected victory, the Progressive Conservative party led by John Buchanan won 31 of the 52 seats in Tuesday's provincial election. The Liberals, who held power in Nova Scotia for the past eight years, were cut down to 17 seats, while the NDP gained one seat, for a total of 4, all in industrial Cape Breton.

Analysts attributed the defeat of Premier Gerald Regan's Liberals to anti-government sentiment, rather than to the P.C. platform itself. Throughout the campaign the Liberal record became the major issue, praised by the Liberals, and attacked by the Tories and NDP.

NDP leader Jeremy Akerman said that people voted for "the anti-government party with the best chance of kicking out the Liberals," while Regan thought the election results indicated a general trend against entrenched government.

Observers agreed that recent federal financial cutbacks increased anti-government feeling, and contributed to the size of the P.C. victory.

Regan himself was only re-elected by 134 votes in his riding of Halifax Needham.

Many of his ministers were less fortunate. Eight of the sixteen members of the Liberal cabinet were defeated. Among them was Education minister George Mitchell, whose riding includes Dalhousie and Saint Mary's Universities. Mitchell lost to P.C. candidate Terry Donahoe. Final standings in the Halifax Cornwallis riding were: Donahoe 4,363, Mitchell 3,098, and Muriel Duckworth (NDP) 2,266.

Dalhousie economics professor Michael Bradfield, NDP candidate in Halifax Citadel, lost to P.C. Art Donahoe. Bradfield received 2,009 votes, compared to 3,525 for the Liberal candidate, incumbent Ron Wallace, and 3,780 for Donahoe.

Economically depressed Cape Breton did not elect any P.C. members.

Conservative policy statements suggest that the new government will attempt to create jobs by supporting local business, rather than concentrating on large-scale industrial developments.

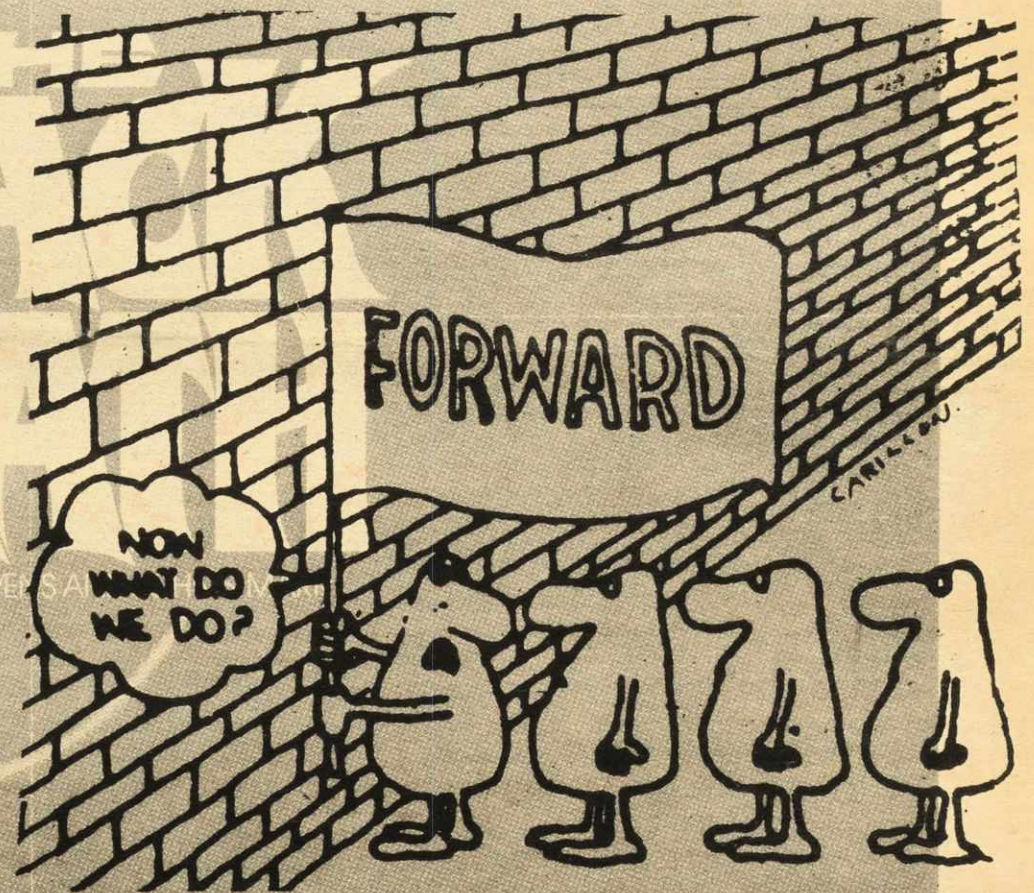
In a pre-election statement, Donahoe said "increases in minimum wages are of no use to the unemployed", and urged support of local business as a way to create jobs.

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## Student housing funds chopped

OTTAWA (CUP)—Recently announced budget cutbacks by the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation have effectively eliminated all federal government funding for student housing.

The cuts announced by Treasury Board president Robert Andras September 8, will see the current budget for student housing slashed for \$2.4 million to \$1.6 million. The 1979/80 budget for student housing, which was to have been \$8.5 million, is to be entirely eliminated.

"Student housing, as far as the federal government is concerned, is finished," according to CHMC representative John Dowell.

The \$1.6 million has been

committed to projects already approved and underway, he said.

"If there is any project underway, it will not be cut in mid-stride," he said, but added that there is "zero money" for any future projects.

Dowell said there was a slight possibility of money being made available from other federal sources, but that groups seeking to build student housing would have to either approach provincial governments or private sources, such as banks, for money.

Several campuses have tried to obtain money as non-profit organizations, but the budget for non-profit housing will also

be eliminated, Dowell said. "Red River Community College tried to get money under the non-profit guidelines, but will have to go elsewhere now."

### High rises out of sight

by Mark Simkins  
If you're a homeless student and you're looking expectantly to the towering high rises of Halifax's South End, forget it, unless you're rich.

Bill Collins, a regional economist for the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation did a survey of those complexes and came up with the following figures: bachelor apartments average \$240

National Union of Students' spokesperson Len Taylor was "dismayed and disappointed" at the announcement.

"Students are being hit from all sides by the cut-

backs," said Taylor. "There are many campuses that do not have any student housing whatsoever, and now have very little chance of ever getting any."

a month, one bedroom apartments \$275, and two bedroom apartments \$335. This is, of course, without lights or parking.

Collins also did a survey in May of the costs of low-rise accommodation in the South End as listed in the want ads of the Chronicle Herald. If you can find them now, bachelors go for an average of \$190 a month, one bedroom apart-

ments for \$220, two bedroom apartments for \$263, and three bedroom flats go for \$325 on the average.

Although the CMHC helped fund those high rise complexes, don't expect any help for student housing. The federal government cut all funding for student housing in its orgy of cutbacks on Sept. 8 (see accompanying story).