

# McDonough takes NDP helm

by Arnold Mosher

Alexa McDonough in a landslide gained the leadership of the Nova Scotia New Democratic Party last Sunday. The election, held in a packed convention hall in the Lord Nelson Hotel, saw McDonough collect 237 votes with other leadership candidates Len Arsenault getting 42 and Buddy McEachern 41.

The bitter election campaign conducted by all candidates seemingly concentrated on the MacEwen affair. MacEwen, who was kicked out of the NDP because of statements of Communist infiltration of the party and for other reasons, was still a member of the caucus, up until the convention.

McDonough and Arsenault, both of whom could be seen conversing together at various times during the convention, took the view that MacEwen should be excluded from caucus. McEachern the loner of the three felt that McEwen should stay in caucus.

MacEwen was described by one delegate at the convention as a madman, but nonetheless a man with charisma and a following. McEachern pointed

out to the convention that he did not support MacEwen against the party but merely noted that MacEwen had a good deal of support.

The alleged Cape Breton-Mainland split of the party, as can be seen by the solid support for McDonough never materialized. The convention voted to keep only members of good standing in the party as members of the caucus, thus MacEwen was effectively out of caucus.

McEachern's speech on Saturday, the main campaigning day, was met with subdued applause and at times an icy silence. His spirited gutsy speech lashed out at the party for not allowing a member of the party to have enough freedom of opinion. Allusions by McEachern to the NDP becoming like the Soviet Union and China in party politics were met with booing.

McEachern, who based his own qualifications on being a labour candidate, spoke of his "geographical background and class interest".

A congratulatory note by McEachern to Jeremy Akerman in his new job only received muted applause and

some jeers from the convention floor.

On Sunday, the last day of the convention, McEachern remarked to one of his supporters that he will "live to fight another day". In his wrap-up speech McEachern spoke of party unity and promised allegiance to who ever was elected, a promise well received by the delegates.

Arsenault leveled most of his attack at the Tories and Liberals rather than fellow candidates.

McDonough in her speech referred to the other two candidates' campaigns as being full of gloom and doom, with her own being more optimistic and forward looking. McDonough described herself as being more than just a daughter of the elite (her father L.E. Shaw was treasurer of the party and is owner of Shaw Industries) and an intellectual, but a pragmatic leader.

McDonough received standing ovations throughout her lengthy, yet polished speech.

Questions asked of the candidates during a bear-pit session steered away from the MacEwen affair and stuck to



Dal Photo Skinner

non-controversial subjects.

Such motherhood and apple-pie issues like support of labour were also aired during policy sessions. Support for the 14 month old Digby School Bus Drivers strike, and the condemnation of the Michelin Bill aroused the convention and, as one delegate said, made him proud to be a member of the NDP.

Another policy resolution was passed which re-established a youth wing of the party. The youth branch was struck down in the early 1970s with the help of MacEwen, during the era of the radical Waffle wing of the

NDP. The Wafflers were largely composed of the youth sector of the party.

McDonough, the first and only woman leader of a political party in Canada, now is faced with the task of leading the party from outside the Legislature. She is not likely to get a seat until the next provincial election.

While McDonough's mention of the NDP as a party on the move is debatable, for a party with only two seats in the Legislature, both of which are from industrial Cape Breton, a redirection of the party seems certain.

## CKDU FM report recalled

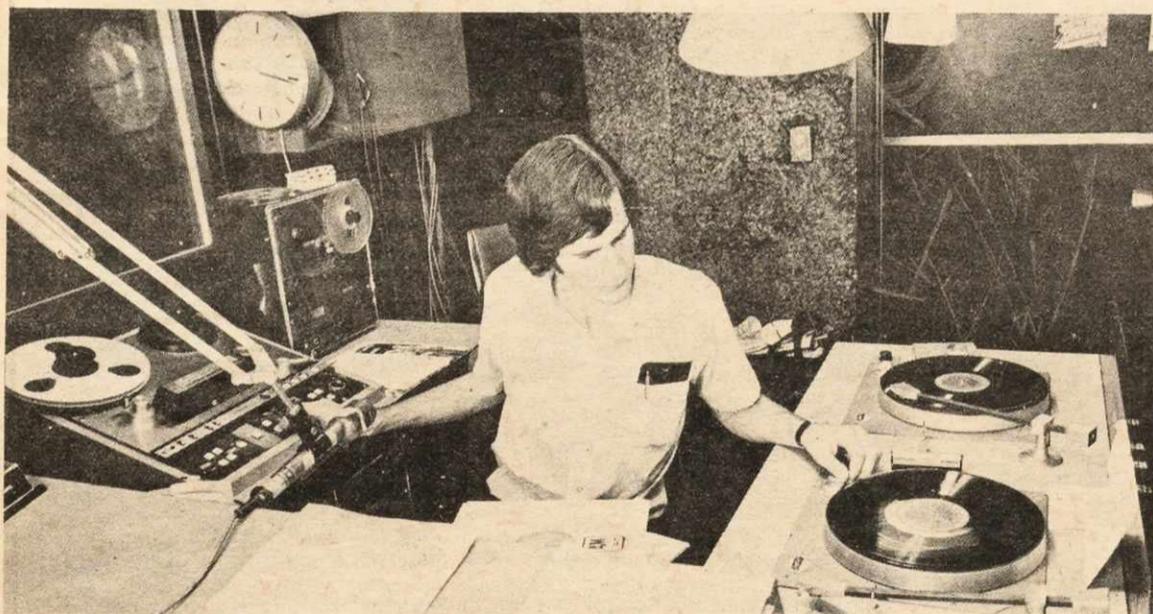


Photo by Arnold Mosher

by Paul Clark

The report on CKDU's proposal to go FM has been recalled by its authors, President Gord Owen announced at Sunday's Student Council meeting.

Owen said that Thomas Lathigee of Transcan Corporate Services had requested it back in order to expand on the possible ways in which the Student Union can collect the required funds for capital expenditures. He also told Owen he wanted to recalculate some of the projected salary figures.

While Owen has consistently promised students a fall referendum to decide if they want CKDU to go FM, it now may not be until after Christ-

mas when council can go through all of the procedures necessary to hold such a vote.

The report, released by Owen to the student body on November 4, estimates a CKDU FM station's annual operating budget would be in the neighborhood of \$57,000. Three different options for financing the station were outlined: making it a charitable organization open to government and private grants; making it a commercial station dependent on advertising revenue; or financing it from student fees.

Since Lathigee was recalling the report, Owen said in an interview later, he asked him to arrive at more precise figures on what a CKDU FM

station would cost students. "He said it would cost somewhere between five and six dollars per student per year and I asked him to expand on his figures depending on whether there is a three, five or ten year collection of capital."

Regarding the report's three suggested funding options, Owen said, "My initial impression would be funding would come from a combination of sources: an increase in student fees and funds allotted from both the university and the King's School of Journalism."

The Student Union would seek to retain control of the station, however, he said.

## Nestle a no-no at the Mount

HALIFAX (CUP)—The Mount Saint Vincent University student union has voted to actively support a boycott of all Nestle products.

Christine Fletcher, CUSO representative on student council, said that an active campaign from an entire university could have quite an impact on the international boycott which has been going on for almost two years.

The boycott is centered on the sale by Nestle of infant formula to third world countries.

Milk nurses, who are not necessarily registered, are hired by Nestle to convince mothers in third world countries that bottle-feeding their babies is better than nursing. The mothers, convinced they are doing the right thing, are buying the expensive formula and when they can't afford more, are watering down what they have.

As a result, "the average

age that infants are showing up in hospitals for malnutrition is eight months instead of 18," said Fletcher.

The boycott is appearing to have some effect on Nestle: their profits are down from two years ago.

Many ideas were voiced as to how Council could be an active supporter of the boycott.

- Campaigning by hanging posters asking students, staff and faculty to individually support the boycott.
- Asking that all Nestle products be removed from machines.
- Persuading the bookstore, student store, and the canteen not to buy Nestle products.
- Asking food services to refrain from using Nestle products in their two cafeterias on campus.
- Contacting local radio and T.V. stations and publicizing the boycott.