

Hope still shines for CFS

by C. Ricketts

A glimmer of hope shines for the continued existence of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) in Nova Scotia.

Three delegates from the Student Unions of Nova Scotia (SUNS)

returned from a February conference in Ottawa with renewed optimism in provincial co-operation and spirit to uphold the national student organization. As a result, Dalhousie, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and Mount

St. Vincent University have all postponed their pull-out referenda.

Saint Mary's University successfully staged a pull-out referendum March 7 and 8 with a 69 per cent "No CFS" vote. SUNS reported to Dal student council Sunday a major attitudinal change occurred at the National Provincial meeting (NPM).

"At the beginning of the meeting, everything was described as a SUNS problem. But it soon became obvious that SUNS problems were the same as those of at least six other provinces," he said.

SUNS is one of the provincial organizations which has been particularly outspoken in its displeasure with CFS operation, services and structure.

The executive of the two branches of CFS - the Central Committee and the Board of Directors of CFS-Services - and delegates from all the provincial student organizations drafted proposals which satisfied most of the interests represented.

Although the meeting was adjourned before all problems could be discussed, five major issues were resolved in principle:

* A new formula for provincial affiliation will permit the provinces to determine what proportion of member institutions with congruent membership (simultaneous membership in both national and pro-

vincial organizations) will warrant signing a provincial compency agreement with CFS.

All of the provinces are committed to provincial affiliation. But each province will set and keep its own deadline for achieving it.

* Small institutions needing funds to attend national conferences will approach their provincial organization. CFS will foot the bill if, in good faith, the province cannot help the small institution.

* The NPM will have constitutional recognition, and will be held annually at the fall national conference.

* Provincial development grants will have a formula for distribution and a method for evaluating their effectiveness. Currently there is no control on their dispensation, nor is there a clear budget item for them.

* The concept of one member - one vote will be reviewed to ascertain if it is the most equitable for voting to proceed.

At the meeting of the CC following the NPM, the Atlantic region was given powers to direct the CFS Atlantic fieldworker so they may better meet the needs of the maritime provinces.

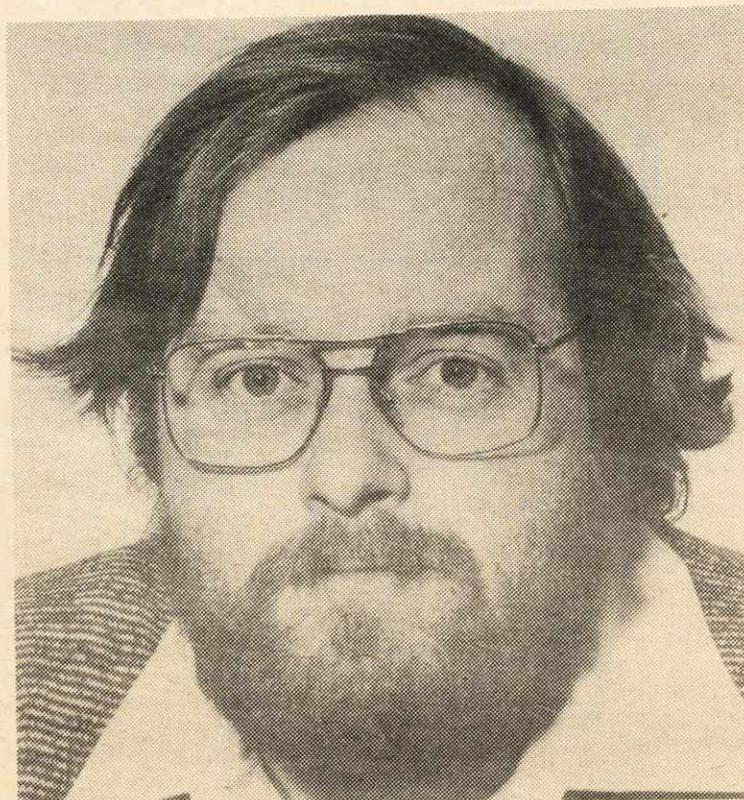
Although there was majority agreement to the proposals, they will not become CFS policy until presented and ratified at the Saskatoon national conference in May.

Entrenching the NPM in the CFS constitution with powers separate from those of the CC is a major step to restoring the health of the national student organization. "If the NPM has authority apart from the Central Committee, then CFS stands a viable chance of surviving. CFS needs to have provincial output," says SUNS chair and NSCAD president Eric Walker.

The NPM is a more manageable number of delegates than the over-200 who attend the three national conferences, allowing institutions that may not feel they were heard at a national conference to have input, says Leslie McDonald, VP External of MSVU and SUNS treasurer. She added, "The round table was invaluable. I never before was able to learn just what the other provinces were really thinking."

In conjunction with the new congruency proposal, the integrity of the provinces will be maintained while co-ordination mechanisms are provided through the CC and NPM.

"CFS needs the provincial organizations because it does not have the resources to fight nine provincial governments at one time," said Kavanagh. "But the provinces need some way of dealing with the federal organization that affects their work."



Childerhose/Dal Photo

SUNS Executive Officer Peter Kavanaugh

Guerrilla war threat to South African govt.

MONTREAL (CUP) — South Africa's apartheid regime is seriously threatened by the intensifying guerrilla war there, according to a member of the African National Congress, Yusuf Saloojee, who spoke at Concordia University recently.

The 71-year-old ANC is a multi-racial resistance movement in the apartheid republic whose increasing military sophistication and popularity may topple Prime Minister Botha's regime, Saloojee said.

"The ANC has every intention of intensifying armed struggle within the country," he said.

A CIA report that was leaked last year also recognised that the South African government faces its most serious threat in history; a danger of being overthrown and

that the ANC's support is vast and growing, Saloojee said.

In recent months the South African military has made incursions into neighboring countries to check the ANC's growing strength. The ANC is banned in South Africa but has bases in surrounding countries.

The ANC has adopted economic and military sabotage to bring about change in the regime's policies, after several years of unsuccessful attempts at constitutional reforms. This strategy includes downing power lines, sabotaging power stations, increasing physical combat and encouraging divestment.

"Without the support of Western countries, particularly the United States, the South African regime

would collapse overnight," Saloojee said.

The government is now applying for aid from the International Monetary Fund. The country received \$1.2 billion from the IMF in November 1982.

Saloojee added that divestment is a highly effective means of combatting the current regime.

"With their economy undergoing strains, it's hard to deal with these and political and military problems," he said.

As well, an increasing number of whites refuse to join the army and each year the level of agitation among university students rises.

According to Saloojee, the U.S. is watching the situation in South Africa. "Because of their vital (eco-

omic) interests in the region the United States will never let go South Africa, they will never accept the ANC."

The ANC thinks the U.S. strategy in South Africa is to find a third force of Black political leaders between the white apartheid regime and the socialist ANC.

"This may have worked 10 years ago, but it's too late now," Saloojee said.

Reform is too late because many reports from South Africa show the level "of militancy among youth, community, labour, religious and women's organizations increases each day and most claim allegiance to the ANC," Saloojee said.

Critic says media downplaying the arms race

MONTREAL (CUP)—Media critic Barry Zwicker sharply criticized press and broadcast coverage of the arms race during a speech at McGill University Feb. 17.

"Through omission and minimalization the media have hidden the military arms race from us. Very few of us have actually read, heard of or seen the facts," Zwicker said.

He said the facts are that billions of dollars are invested in the military to provide relatively few jobs and weapons that quickly become obsolete. American Bureau of Labor statistics show that \$1 billion invested in the military would

create 76,000 jobs, compared to 100,000 jobs if invested in construction or 187,000 jobs in education, according to Zwicker.

The media, particularly the American press, reinforce the arms build-up, he said, by portraying the Soviets as evil and belligerent.

"There is almost a fanatical hatred of communism in America and a basic, almost religious belief that communists are bent on world domination," said Zwicker. Only occasionally are both superpowers equally blamed for the arms race, he added.

He attributes the current press coverage of the cruise missile to the increasing public pressure. The media can no longer maintain that the public is apathetic about these issues, he said.

Zwicker also criticized the supposedly reputable newspapers.

"They are obviously better in information density, but even the *New York Times* has been effectively involved in cover-ups," he said.

Zwicker said the media is a conservative force whose interests lie in maintaining the status quo: "What is, is good, because it is," he said.

