

80% vote yes

Dal profs favour unionization

The Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) has voted 80% in favour of directing its executive to seek certification as the official bargaining unit for the university's teaching staff. The vote at the well-attended February 16 meeting was 119-29 with three abstentions. The Association has 670 dues-paying members of the over 850 who are eligible to belong.

The decision to vote on unionization was made following the administration's rejection of three DFA demands. Negotiations between the Faculty Association and the administration broke down after a January 12 meeting when the association's demands for recognition as the sole bargaining agent for faculty, full disclosure of financial information and binding arbitration on all negotiations between the two bodies, were rejected by the administration.

In a letter to faculty members, DFA president Phillip Welch said the only way the certification

procedure could be stopped would be if the university gave the DFA everything it wanted.

University Vice-President W. Andrew MacKay sent a letter to faculty on Feb. 13 saying that the university would bargain with the DFA but would not recognize them as the sole bargaining agent.

It has not yet been decided if department chairpeople and deans of faculties will be members of the union. James Gray, Dean of Arts and Science, believes that the union could include chairpeople but it will not include deans. The Labour Relations Act is unclear on this issue.

Gray said that he doesn't believe there is too much conflict about this issue. "There is simply a frustration with the administration and the way things have been delayed since last fall, but I think in the end we will get together. Dalhousie has a good atmosphere and I think we can work out all these problems to everyone's satisfaction."



Islanders reaffirm AFS membership

CHARLOTTETOWN (CUP)—Students at the University of Prince Edward Island reaffirmed their membership in the Atlantic Federation of Students Feb. 22, voting 251-133 to continue membership in the regional student federation.

The recent vote followed a one-year trial membership in the organization. Students had voted last year to join AFS and reconsider their membership this year.

Ray Shalala, PEI caucus chairperson for AFS, said the result was "very good," and that most students thought AFS was a viable organization despite its many internal problems earlier this year.

AFS secretary-co-ordinator Tony Kelly said: "It's great. It shows students are in support of the

concept of a regional student organization."

The AFS vote was held at the same time as a student council general election. Although 535 students voted in the elections, only 384 cast ballots in the AFS referendum. There are about 2,000 students at the university.

Shalala said that while 65 per cent of students who voted in the AFS referendum favoured continued membership, it was obvious that a lot of students were still on the fence about the organization.

AFS has 13 member campuses in the four Atlantic provinces. Students at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's will vote March 7 and 8 on whether to become members of AFS and the National Union of Students.

Daily press cops out

Dalhousie political scientist Carol Charlebois thinks that Canadian daily newspapers could play an educational role and help to foster a sense of regional and national identity. But her studies show that the daily press is not providing analysis and regional perspective.

Charlebois has taken 12 Canadian English-language dailies and recorded 134 interactions between the federal and provincial governments in 1974.

these areas in the press is revealing. "Resource revenue issues stand out as much more likely than other issues to be given more than the obligatory report or statement for the record. Financial matters were also more likely to be reported but were not as likely to be given more than one story."

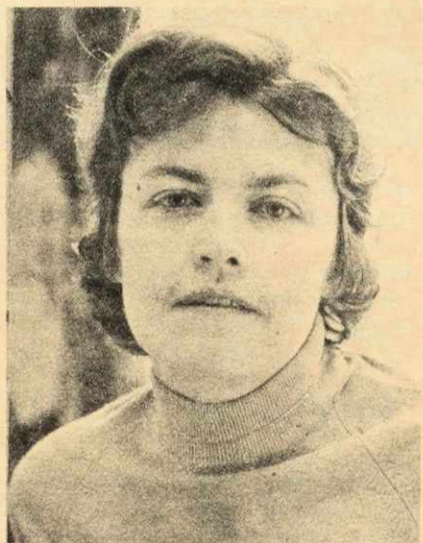
Out of a possible 332 reports on economic development, 50 per cent were not recorded, 37 per cent were recorded once, and only 12 per cent were given more than one story.

These figures support her theory that on the subject of federal-provincial relations very little is done other than to report announcements. Little is done in the way of covering later events, she says.

Newspapers rely heavily on Canadian Press copy, and usually run the original CP story or nothing at all. The tendency not to localize (to make changes in a story which make it more relevant to a paper's local readers) is aggravated by the fact that most Canadian dailies incur extra typesetting costs if they rewrite CP copy.

Probably because of Nova Scotia's concern with high transportation costs, the *Chronicle-Herald's* coverage of freight rate charges in the western provinces was as heavy as that of western Canadian papers, Charlebois said. The stories, however, were the same as those appearing in the western papers. "There was no indication of Nova Scotia's special interest, nor of the parallels to be drawn."

It's safe to say that the press serves as a gatekeeper and record keeper . . . it's less costly and less ambiguous, she concludes.



Professor Carol Charlebois of the Dal political science department criticizes the Canadian daily press for failing to fulfill their educational and analytical role.

The kind of events included in her inquiry were resource revenue, social policy, economic development, offshore mineral rights, language rights, energy and finance.

The selection of stories for press treatment and the attention given to

Student press gains freedom

NEW WESTMINSTER (CUP)—The *Other Press*, the student newspaper at Douglas College, became the first fully independent college newspaper in British Columbia Feb. 23.

Students decided at an annual general meeting to amend the student society constitution to allow the newspaper 25 per cent of the annual student society budget.

Although the 25 per cent allotment of the student society budget is less than the amount the newspaper usually receives from student funds, the newspaper will control its own finances and advertising revenue.

The newspaper expects to incorporate as the Other Publications Society in March.

Students cut SUB fund library wins money

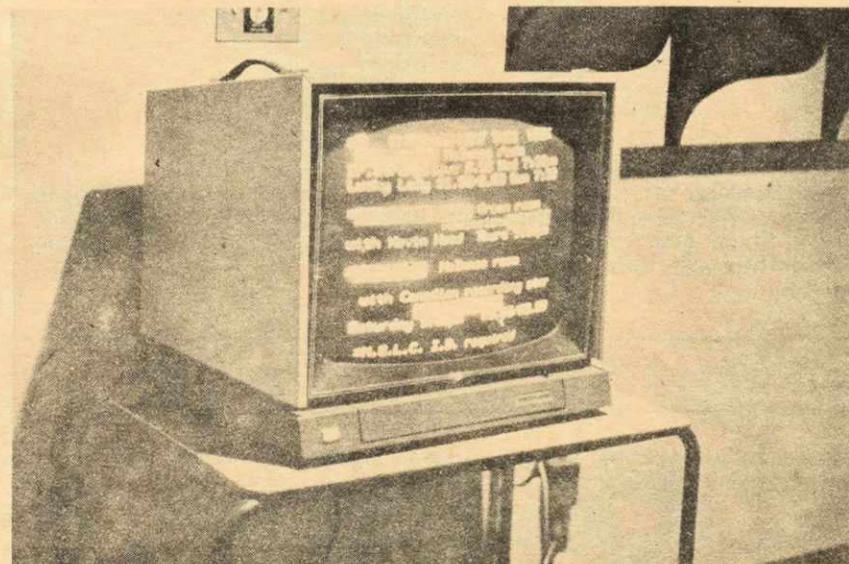
ST. JOHN'S (CUP)—A referendum has succeeded in releasing money from a student union building trust fund to the administration of Memorial University of Newfoundland. The \$750,000 collected from students during the 1960s is to be used to construct a library.

Students at the university voted 1,528-250 February 23 to free the money to start negotiations for the library. The university administration has requested provincial government funding for the library a number of times but has been turned down. The student council executive believes the student support will pressure the govern-

ment and public to grant the \$3 million needed to go ahead with the facility.

The council still requires approval from the Newfoundland Supreme Court to change the intent of the trust fund, which was collected from student union fees from 1960 to 1970 to build a new student-controlled university centre. No problems are expected with the approval, according to student union president George Wyatt.

The turnout for the referendum—33 per cent of the student population—was the best in a student-sponsored election or referendum at the university in several years.



This is one of two monitors being used as video notice boards in the SUB.