

Regan takes Halifax riding again



Kerry Delaney

by Pam Berman

Amidst blinding lights, hordes of press and three hundred jubilant Liberal supporters, Gerald Regan celebrated his narrow 1,100 vote victory over PC incumbent George Cooper, on Monday night.

Regan said he had expected the Liberal majority in Ontario and the turnover in Quebec but was surprised by the extent of the Liberal win in Nova Scotia. Commenting on the small margin of his own victory, Regan said he had hoped for greater voter support.

But, as one campaigner quickly added, "we won anyway".

Cooper and his wife plus a few Conservative delegates dropped into the Liberal campaign headquarters to give congratulations to his opponent. Cooper said he was sorry that they both could not

go to Ottawa but was sure Regan would represent Nova Scotia.

As Cooper moved through the crowd one friendly adversary shook his hand and welcomed him back to Halifax.

Alexa McDonough, the NDP candidate, also spoke at the victory party, congratulating Regan and consoling Cooper.

"Politics is tough, as George Cooper must realize by now, and as a candidate facing defeat for the second time, so do I, but I'm sure Gerry Regan must remember a few defeats in the early years of his political career."

When asked what cabinet post he would like to have Regan would not be specific but said that he was most interested in the economic portfolios, particularly energy. He added that he would have to do his homework on Federal issues and improve his skills in the French language.

SUNS warns MPHEC

Additional reps needed

by Tom Regan

Citing a lack of consideration of students interests on the part of the Council of Maritime Premiers, the Student's Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) has called for the appointment of two additional student reps to the Maritime Province Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) and for guaranteed bi-yearly meetings with the Commission.

The call for additional representation took place at the SUNS conference held at Dalhousie this past weekend.

Jeff Champion, chairperson of the Dalhousie SUNS campus committee, said the universities felt the premiers had shown no interest in student concerns.

"We met with the MPHEC at 9:00 in the morning and the premiers made the funding announcement at 3:00 in the afternoon", said Champion. "How can they tell us they seriously considered student demands."

Champion said SUNS wants the bi-yearly meetings to insure that student concerns are heard well ahead of any funding announcements.

"We want one of the meetings at least four weeks before any funding recommendations are made by the MPHEC", said Champion.

SUNS wants one of the two new reps to be chosen by the organization themselves to make sure of proper student representation.

The student organization has given the MPHEC until May 17th to respond to their demands. If the commission does not respond to the demands SUNS said they will have no more confidence in the MPHEC and will call for its abolition.

In a somewhat controversial

move SUNS has decided to determine membership in the organization by Student Council vote and to go to the students and use a referendum.

Janet Mrenica, a SUNS member from Mount Saint Vincent, said the organization should go to the referendum system.

"You will have a problem with finances if you do it the other way", said Mrenica. "How can you charge a per student levy, which will have to be done sooner or later, if you have not asked the students if they want to join the organization in the first place. They are doing it totally backwards". Champion, however, disagrees.

"If there is a referendum held one year, there might be a tendency for any SUNS executive to ignore member institution's wishes," said Champion. "For Dalhousie holding a referendum is also a very expensive idea. At its present level of operations finding funds for SUNS is no problem. Presently there is no need to worry. When the time comes for fees to increase we will take it to a referendum."

SUNS has also decided to support the National Union of Students call for a student representative on the Federal Government's Task Force on Student Aid, and to ask the Task Force to travel to every province to make sure all students get a chance to present their opinions.

SUNS ratified their constitution and also gave their support to St. Mary's Student Union and a rally they are going to hold on the to bring attention to the improper level of funding universities are receiving and how it can effect individual universities.

Champion was also asked if

SUNS was planning to hold a march this year but champion said SUNS was not in favour of the idea.

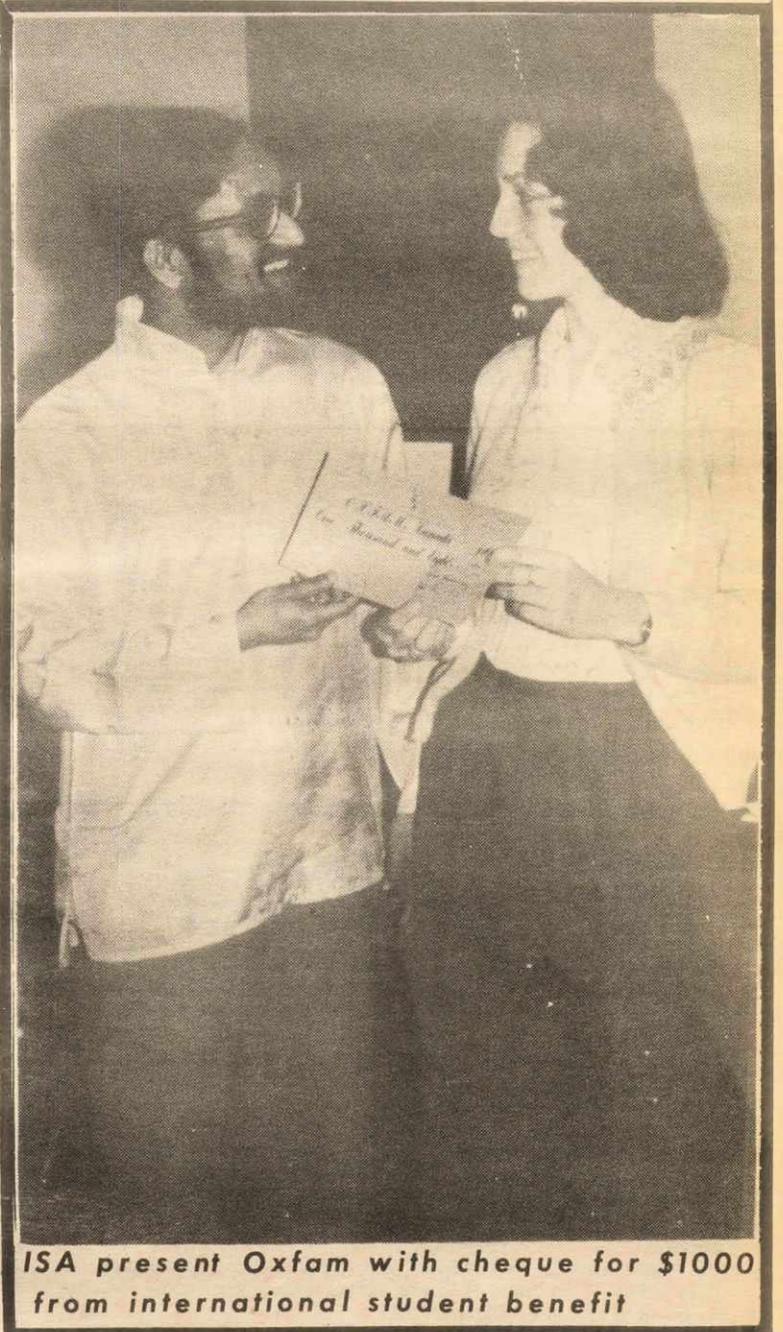
"We want to pursue a more diplomatic line", said Champion. "We want to insure more concrete, lines to the bodies that decided on student education and funding."

When asked if SUNS was afraid of adverse publicity that a march might produce, Champion said this was not a concern.

"We are not worried about bad publicity, it just doesn't accomplish anything. A march is not detrimental to SUNS but if we did march and people sitting at home eating supper saw students marching on TV and the camera crews zeroed in on someone carrying a "make the rich pay" sign. It will give the public the wrong idea about what students are fighting for."

Champion said the one main thing to come out of the meeting was the discussion of the absence of long-term policy concerning the role of post-secondary education in the province.

"If there is any policy the public is not being made aware of it", said Champion. "Part of SUNS commitment is to work towards having a policy to make sure the quality of education does not remain at its present level at least."



ISA present Oxfam with cheque for \$1000 from international student benefit

St. Mary's-work to rule

The St. Mary's University Faculty Union (SMUFU) voted to work to rule at a meeting February 13.

The campaign to fulfill only the minimal obligations of their employment was passed 54-1 and one abstention.

The professors are teaching

regularly scheduled classes and keeping office hours but are not answering telephones or serving on the various administrative committees on campus.

The faculty union and the university have been

negotiating a new contract since July 1979.

Negotiations have stalled over money. The union is seeking a 9.1 per cent pay increase in the first year of a two-year contract while the university is offering 5.8 per cent.