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# the Gazette

## Last week's vote

Highest turnout in recent memory — only fifteen per cent

BY MARCUS LOPES

It was YES to the two Senators, YES to the Gazette, YES to the Capital Ideas Campaign, YES to CASA, YES to football, but NO to SUNS.

The students at Dalhousie University have spoken.

According to Andy Doyle, the Chief Returning Officer, 1608 ballots were cast in the by-election, which ran from October 11 to 13. That represents an increase over the last election, in which roughly 1000 students voted.

That's still a low turnout. "It's a matter of overcoming apathy," said Doyle.

He added that the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) hopes 2500 students vote in the next election, but Doyle would personally like to see a minimum of 2000 vote.

The results indicate that there were many spoiled questions.

"People were told at the polls that they didn't have to answer all the questions," said Doyle. "Vote about basically what you want to vote about."

But when dealing with such a high level of student apathy, where students just don't care, there's a need to make things as easy as possible for people. That's why there were five questions on one ballot.

"[It was] for the ease of all and to encourage voting...it was the most logical thing to do," said Doyle.

Erin Ahern, DSU Vice President (VP) External, said that the Canadian Alliance of Students' Association (CASA) is ecstatic about the results of its plebiscite question. As Ahern predicted, there was overwhelming support from the students for CASA's approach to education funding, as opposed to the approach of the federal government.

The results permit CASA to take the next step in their proposal for education funding.

"Where we go from here really depends on how the other schools' referenda come back," said Ahern. "The National Director (of CASA, Alex Usher) can now go to the (Parliament) Hill and lobby."

DSU President David Cox was not only pleased with the students' support for the Capital Ideas Campaign levy, he made no attempt to hide his views concerning the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS).

The Constitution of the Dalhousie Student Union stipulates: "Council shall not be bound by the results of any referenda of plebiscite unless at least eight (8) percent of the membership vote in favour of the result."

When it came to SUNS, although a majority of students voted not to be a member of

### Voting Results

#### REFERENDUM QUESTIONS:

Do you support an annual levy in support of the Capital Ideas Campaign of \$25 per full-time student (\$20 per part-time student) for five years with the funds directed toward enhancements in computers, classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and campus security?  
**YES:** 1285 **NO:** 286

Do you wish to be a member of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) at a cost of \$2.60 per student per year?  
**YES:** 745 **NO:** 810

Do you wish to continue to pay a \$4.00 per full-time student and \$2.00 per part-time student levy to the Gazette?  
**YES:** 1198 **NO:** 391

#### PLEBISCITE QUESTIONS:

Whose approach to education funding do you prefer?  
**CASA:** 1024 **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT:** 289

Do you want Dalhousie University to once again start its football team?  
**YES:** 1106 **NO:** 465

#### SENATE BY-ELECTIONS

Drew Campbell **YES:** 663 **NO:** 122

Shannon Crowell: **YES:** 638 **NO:** 149

SUNS, it wasn't eight percent of the membership.

"I don't necessarily feel that you should ignore the majority of people," said Cox.

He added that the question Council now faces is whether to stand by the results or ignore them. "My personal opinion is...that we stand by the results," said Cox.

On the last day of voting, you may have seen two poll clerks going around campus getting students to vote. Doyle said 165 people voted in a four-hour period with the roving polling sta-

tion, which will exist for all three voting days in the next election.

But that won't be the only method used to combat student apathy. Doyle said the next step is to inform students "that it's their money that is being spent. If people realize that, we'll get more people out to vote."

Doyle said another possibility that is being looked into is booking five minutes off class time and sending candidates out to the classrooms. The hope is that students will be informed, hear what the candidates have to say, and actually vote.

## National Day of Action flops

Canadian Federation of Students losing steam

BY SAMER MUSCATI

OTTAWA (CUP) — A national day of action and demonstrations organized by student leaders turned into a day of national confusion and embarrassment for the student movement.

On October 11, the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) attempted to mobilize students across the country against a federal government plan to cut \$7 billion in transfer payments to the provinces by 1998.

Student leaders say the cuts will send tuition fees into orbit and force students to take on larger debts.

"The day is a chance for students to voice their discontent with the federal government's assault on post-secondary education," said CFS chair Guy Caron.

However, only a handful of campuses in three provinces participated in events such as letter-writing campaigns, panel discussions and forums, pamphlet distributions, and small demonstrations.

The day was supposed to be a focal point of the CFS campaign against the Canada Health and Social Transfer — a cheaper, no-strings-attached replacement for current federal transfer payments for health, welfare, and education.

But it was in marked contrast to last January's nation-wide student strike, in which 70,000 students in 19 different cities protested and received extensive national media coverage.

## No action for CFS?

Halifax demonstration puts Liberal MP Mary Clancy on trial

BY ANDREW SIMPSON

when removed from the wall by the bailiff.

If you were present at this year's National day of action organized by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), you probably had a great chance to meet and get to know the other handful of students in attendance.

This year's rally was held outside Liberal MP Mary Clancy's office, at the corner of Cornwallis and Gottingen on Wednesday, October 11. CFS organized the event along with several other interest groups to protest the federal government's social spending cuts.

The new policy, known as the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST), will decrease money allocated to the provinces for such social services as health care and education. For university students, this will mean a deregulated post-secondary education system. Funding will vary from province to province and tuition will be up across the board.

Although Dalhousie students recently opted out of CFS, in Halifax the organization still represents students at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD), Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU), and the University of King's College.

The Nova Scotia Executive Representative for CFS, Tasha Bollerup, had no problem with allying her organization with other political entities and activist groups, which on this day included Halifax Metro Welfare Rights, The Teacher Action Council, Nova Scotia Persons with AIDS Coalition, The Public Service Alliance of Canada, The Canadian Union of Postal Workers, and The International Socialists.

"It's not really relevant whether we agree with all of the other groups' ideas," said Bollerup. "We all had a common concern and there is strength in numbers. That's why we form these coalitions."

The demonstrators numbered approximately 50 to 60, including several bystanders who appeared to be waiting for the bus.

Proceedings began soon after 5 p.m. with chanting and picket waving. It was then announced that the crowd was about to witness the "Other Trial of the Century."

A large paper drawing of Mary Clancy, clad in prison garb and carrying a serial number, was taped to the wall. There was a judge, a bailiff, a pair of lawyers, and a string of witnesses "for the community."

Each witness spoke for their organization and showed how the Liberal Government (and Mary Clancy) have lied, broken promises, and shown a general disregard for their plight. Mary Clancy was eventually pronounced guilty of all the charges and appeared to be a bit torn-up

It is unlikely that Clancy was in the building or even in Halifax, but according to Bollerup Clancy was not the real target of the demonstration.

"More than sending a message to government, we really wanted to educate the public...to show them the difference between what the Liberals said they would do, and what they have done. Basically, what they have done is lie," said Bollerup.

Absent from the demonstrations was the Canadian Alliance of Students' Association (CASA), of which Dalhousie students are members.

CASA and CFS are competing organizations and tend to differ in their ideology and approaches in representing students. The International Socialists also have conflicting views with CASA.

The Halifax Branch of the International Socialists has four official members. They enjoy club status at Dalhousie and can be seen often on-campus selling copies of their publication, *The Socialist Worker*.

*The demonstrators numbered approximately 50 to 60, including several bystanders who appeared to be waiting for the bus.*

Paula Cornwall, of the International Socialists, agrees that her organization does not see eye-to-eye with CASA.

"They (CASA) are non-political, we prefer the more activism-oriented CFS. I think that CASA getting into more universities across the country is a real problem."

Bollerup would not comment on the differences between CFS and CASA policy, saying only, "I'm not going to make any comparisons or criticize any other groups. We are aware that lobbying does not work on its own, but it is very important."

Erin Ahern, the Dalhousie Student Union's Vice President External and liaison with CASA, said "CASA's mandate is to offer students real alternatives in terms of post-secondary education funding. We are, in fact, active in lobbying, just not at the constituency level."

Ahern also commented on the International Socialists, saying, "If one of our students happens to be a member, we will try to embrace them and their ideas, but we cannot endorse everything they have to say."