

in Ontario

Campuses boycott classes

TORONTO (CUP) — Students at six Ontario campuses have rejected by a 2 to 1 margin the provincial government's tuition fee hike for next year and have called for a boycott of classes to protest the hike, according to the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS).

As of Feb. 3 students at the universities of McMaster, Lakehead and Carleton, the colleges of Humber and Fanshawe and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute approved in referenda an OFS call for a half-day class moratorium to support demands for a free rollback and a government promise that fees will not be raised again, said OFS staff member Rick Gregory.

And Lakehead and Humber students also rejected a government announced 250 per cent fee hike for visa students, although Lakehead's governing board has already implemented it.

These campuses join the University of Windsor, where students early in January voted by a large majority to boycott classes for a full day on Feb. 10.

Feb. 10 was the day originally set for a province-wide boycott, but many campuses now have planned events on different days, reports indicate.

A half-day moratorium on classes along with a publicity campaign aimed at getting support from outside the student community for the fight against the hike was the strategy agreed to by student leaders at a special OFS meeting Jan. 15.

The hike, announced by provincial



minister of colleges and universities Harry Parrott last November, will up fees for Ontario's 22 colleges of applied arts and technology by \$75 and \$100 for the 15 publically-funded universities, bringing fees to \$325 and \$700 respectively.

Critics of the hike have said the government is following, in piecemeal stages, the recommendation of the Henderson report on special programs spending released early last year.

In a recent statement Carleton University student president and OFS executive member Scott Mullin said the Ontario government's response to the report, which recommended a 65 per cent tuition fee hike, indicates tuition will continue to rise in the coming years.

Mullin suggested the government was not really committed to the principle of universal accessibility since higher tuitions "even further raise the barrier" for low-income students wishing to pursue post-

secondary education.

"I wish the (William) Davis government would be honest with the taxpayers and citizens of Ontario and tell them that the principles of the Henderson Report are now being accepted, as this is an important shift in policy," he said.

So far 17 Ontario campuses, including a number of non-OFS members, have planned some type of action against the fee hike, according to OFS reports.

In addition to the on-campus actions, the federation and member councils are asking support for the student position from community groups, trade unions, members of the legislature and the commercial media.

Community groups — such as social planning councils, PTA's, and school trustees — as well as municipal governments, teachers' unions and labor councils are being sent information kits asking their endorsement of the students' position on the fee hike, according to Gregory. Included in the kits are copies of the petition which netted 30,000 signatures opposing the hike the week following its announcement.

The federation and local student councils are also approaching local media outlets seeking editorial support, Gregory said.

Sections of a recently compiled provincial government report showing student and general public opposition to tuition fee hikes were released by the federation to member councils late last month.

Dal council unconcerned

by Donna Treen

Dalhousie Student Union President, Gord Neal, has started to lobby through Council's decision to follow through Council's decision to lobby the government for increased Young Canada Works Program wages.

Neal said, "letters have been sent to Jacques LeBlanc, Director of

the Council of Maritime Premiers and Allan MacEachern, Ottawa MP". So far no replies have been received.

A meeting is planned for Monday, Feb. 14th, with the Provincial Minister of Labour, Walter Fitzgerald. Neal and the students at the Maritime School of So-

cial Work, instigators of the campaign are jointly organizing a forum to answer questions on this issue. Jacques LeBlanc may be the feature speaker.

Neal handles the Student Union's external affairs due to the axing of the position of External Affairs secretariate at the Nov. 7/76 Council meeting. Although, "Council members all dutifully pledged themselves to relieving President Neal from the trivial business he is besieged with everyday so that he will have the time to spend on the External Affairs aspect of his work for Council." Neal said, "Not one

Council member has ever come forward to help me." Neal feels that an External Affairs secretariate is needed to adequately handle all the University outside business.

Council members, Bernie MacDonell and Paul Zed, agree with Neal. Zed commented, "The president does not have time to give the special attention that is an essential component of External Affairs."

The *Dalhousie Gazette* contacted the Atlantic Federation of Students (FEA/AFS) to ask how other Student Councils felt about an external vice-president.

"As far as I know, Dalhousie is one of the very few Councils which doesn't have a person specifically to deal with external work," said Ron

continued on page 2

Council chair angry

by H. MacKinnon

Sunday night the Dalhousie Student Council meeting ended abruptly when Grad Studies Rep. Bruce Evans challenged the quorum. Adjournment was called since the necessary number of two-thirds Council was not present. Sandy Ball, Chairperson of the Council, commenting on the action said, "It really pissed me off; its never been done before."

"Traditionally the housekeeping business of council is left until the end of the Council meeting when there is never a quorum," according to Ball.

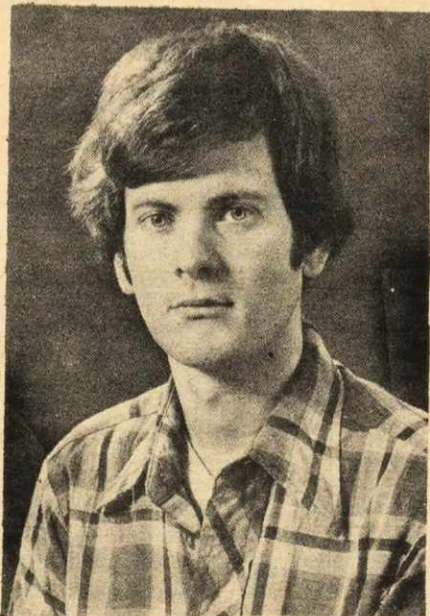
"This type of action really hurts the Council since you let minor things pile up and up by challenging the quorum. The meetings are just going to get longer and longer," Ball said.

"If Council conducted business only when a quorum was present, then they would never finish their work."

Meeting can continue unless the quorum is challenged which is what Evans did.

"I feel Evans was morally wrong in stopping the meeting," and, "the Council was wrong in not writing to find out when we were to re-assemble."

Ball also expressed dissatisfaction with "the tremendous amount of redundancy in Council and I can't



Sandy Ball Dal Photo / Walsh

cut them off."

"When I try to shorten things to make them efficient, Council takes offence and you get bogged down in procedure."

Another problem with Council meetings according to Ball is the constant noise. "No matter what I say, how I try to control the background noise of the gallery and Councillor who tend to be voiciferous, it does no good. Banging my gavel does no good."

Feb 16 referenda

by Lou Anne Meloche

Students at Dalhousie, St. Mary's and Mount St. Vincent Universities will be voting next week on membership in Atlantic Federation of Students. Dalhousie and the Mount will also be voting on membership in the National Union of Students. The campaigns are well under way as a joint committee coordinates the work on all three campuses.

The referenda came shortly after a defeat for AFS/FEA at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. In a close vote, students there turned down membership in the regional organization.

The vote was tied in with a referendum on a fee increase for the student union. An inadequate explanation of the need for the \$10 increase combined with an already questionable financial performance on the union's part forced UNB students to vote down the increase. Already worried about money and falsely tying the AFS fee in with the student union increase AFS

workers felt that many voted against the referendum not out of a conviction that AFS/FEA could not benefit them but rather in the belief that their student union could not afford it.

Jim Murray, newly elected president of the union, was disappointed in the results as he is a strong supporter of the Federation. General feeling on the campus is that UNB will continue to work with AFS and will most likely hold another membership referendum in the next academic year.

In the meantime, students in the rest of Nova Scotia, in Prince Edward Island and in Newfoundland will be voting in the next couple of months on membership in the Atlantic Federation of Students. Many will also be voting on membership in the National Union.

"The spirit of working together on common problems is rapidly growing and we can look forward to a more intense and uniform approach to solving these problems in the next year," according to NUS fieldworker Miguel Figueroa.