

"AFS financially unstable"

# Dal council keeps student funds

by Valerie Mansour

The Dalhousie Student Council will not pay committed student funds to the Atlantic Federation of Students. The organization's "lack of credibility and financial controls" were the main reasons which prompted the 14-10 vote against fee payment at a council meeting Sunday night.

Last February by a vote of 1318-904 Dalhousie students decided to join AFS and each pay a dollar membership fee. In September, council moved to withhold these funds until they saw a financial statement from the organization. AFS had suffered from organizational setbacks in the summer with the resignation of its only full-time staff person and persistent delays in determining an accurate financial statement.

At an AFS general meeting November 18-20, financial controls were passed, and a constitution approved. Members decided against hiring a full-time person until student councils would guarantee fee payment. The delegation from the University of PEI would make no commitment and Dalhousie Student Council President Robert Sampson would not promise AFS that Dalhousie would pay its fees.

Following the conference he and the Dal executive recommended to council that the money be held back. "This executive's recommendation is a responsible decision," Sampson told council Sunday night. "We have put more time into

AFS than we should. We exceed by far all other institutions as far as input goes."

"We have shown leadership—we held back our funds and then others did too," said Sampson, prompting laughter from the gallery and councillors. Sancy McNeill, member-at-large said that AFS lacks financial stability. "We're not getting our money's worth," he said.

Arts Representative Janet Cameron said, "I question whether we as a student council can rescind the views of the students last February." Keith Evans, Law Rep, claimed that since the union constitution leaves no provision for referenda, the AFS referendum should be considered as an indication of student opinion rather than a binding decision.

Tom Rose, a Dalhousie student who was a founding member of AFS in 1975 told the council that "half-hearted support won't do. We, the students, voted in principle to support AFS. We're not as dumb as you think. I believe that holding back funds to the organization is preposterous."

Cameron said the council decision could undermine and destroy the organization adding that to focus on the federation's problems during its first full year of operation is unfair. "AFS embodies the concept of student unions working together and enables us to co-ordinate action for more impact. If we believe in this concept we can make AFS

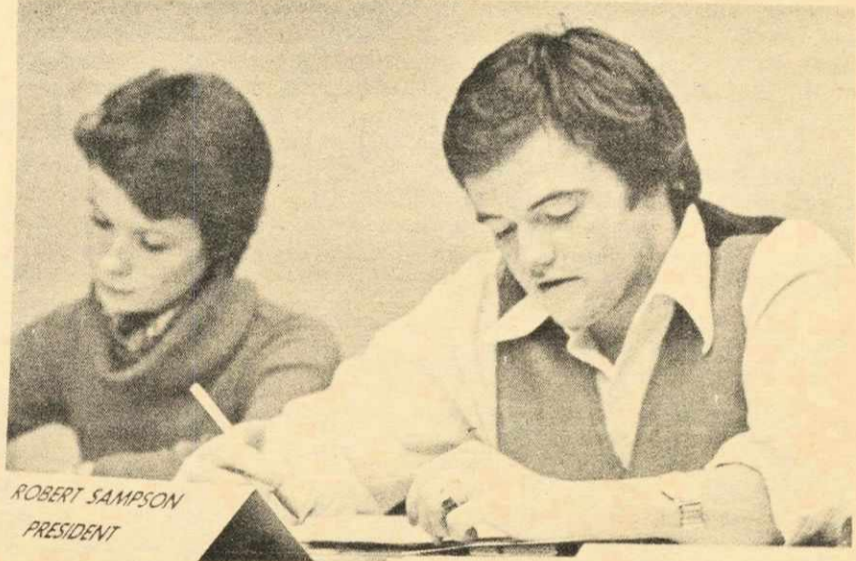
work."

Vice-President Peter Mancini said that he believes in the need for a regional organization but that he has to question what has been done. "The march on Province House last year was a success," he said, "because of the participation of Dalhousie students."

Following the meeting, Don

paid AFS \$100, although they did spend some here at Dalhousie."

AFS will hold an emergency meeting this Saturday at Acadia University in Wolfville. The membership plans to complete unfinished business from the last conference including payment of membership fees, a final budget for the current year, and a number of



ROBERT SAMPSON  
PRESIDENT

Dal Photo/Grandy

Soucy secretary-coordinator of AFS retorted the vice-president's statements: "Mancini's final speech, which was the turning point of the discussion, was filled with lies. One was typical and Dal has used it before—that Dalhousie has done all of AFS's work. At the march last year AFS went into debt because of Dal's pledge of \$1500. They only

resolutions drafted during workshop sessions at the earlier conference.

The Dalhousie Council voted to send Tom Rose, Janet Cameron, and Sandy McNeill, of whom only McNeill is admittedly anti-AFS.

Dalhousie's fees of over \$7000 accounts for almost one-third of AFS's total budget.

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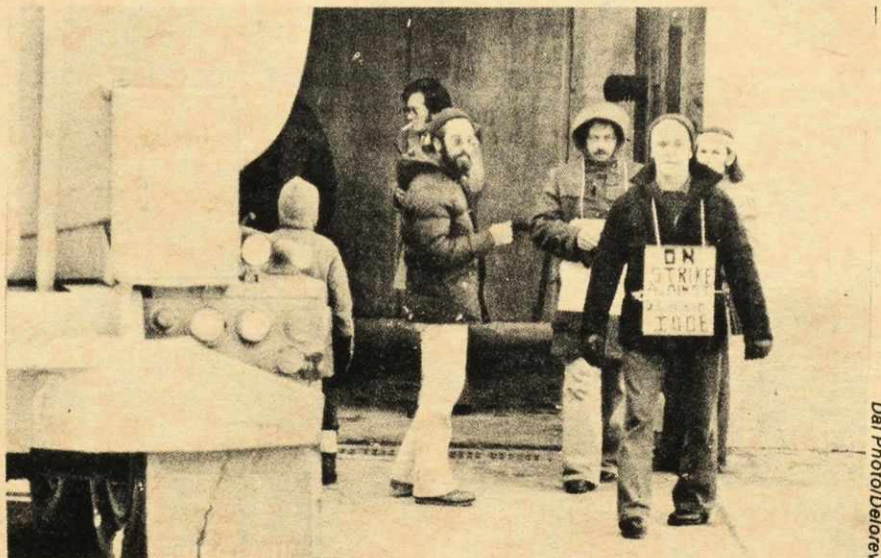
# Support growing for engineers' strike

by Lou Anne Meloche

All out support of striking Dal workers is being sought by an ad hoc committee of students, faculty and interested community members. A committee to support the strikers - Local 968 of the International Union of Operating Engineers

strike since November 20th.

The Committee grew out of meetings held by history grads and undergrads last Wednesday. "We felt the need for some organization to express the significant amount of student support which was not being articulated in Council



Dal Photo/Delorey

met Sunday to begin active support of the union. Members of the committee called for immediate help on picket lines scattered across the campus. A general meeting of the university community has been scheduled for Friday in the SUB cafeteria. The workers have been on

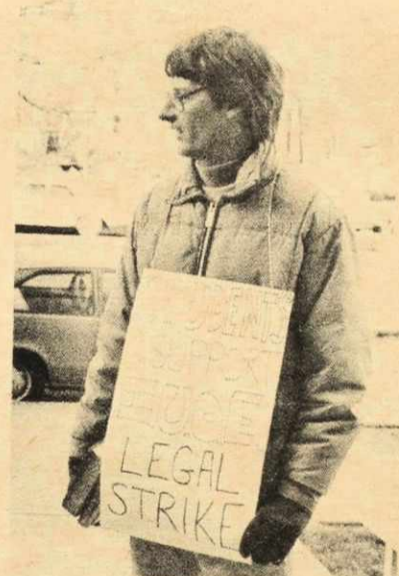
Chambers," said Neil Armstrong, president of the Dal History Society. Students at last week's council meeting were allowed to ask questions but not voice opinions on the strike. They were then shuffled out while Council went into a closed session where it decided to urge

both sides back to the bargaining table.

At their meeting, history undergrads decided to devote their entire budget - one hundred dollars - to promote support for the IUOE on campus. On Sunday, union workers met with faculty, students, representatives of the Atlantic Federation of Students, and interested members of the community to form the strike support committee. They decided to support the demands of the union, the Dal CUPE local, the Dalhousie Staff Association, faculty and students in any negotiations with the administration, and to publicize and unify all of these fights against cutbacks.

A publicity sub-committee was formed to refute the "anti-union propaganda of the administration". Many of those present at the meeting felt that statements made by the administration about the strikers were of dubious validity. Fifteen pages of allegations used in an attempt to get an injunction limiting the rights and numbers of picketers were thrown out of court on Monday.

Plans now are to increase support for the strikers. A general meeting



Dal Photo/Delorey

of students, faculty and staff will be held at 12:30 in the SUB cafeteria on Friday. Further action will be decided then. In the meantime, the Committee is urging everyone to help out on the picket lines. "Even if they can only spend a half hour on the lines, it would go a long way in boosting the morale of the workers," said Armstrong. He said picket signs were available in the Gazette office, 3rd floor SUB.

### Inside This Week

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Dal Executive Condemned  
Harmonica Man at the Cohn  
Lunch Bucket—of sorts

### Coming

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Differential Fees in the Atlantic