

Foreign students quota controversy continues

by C. Ricketts

"I acted unilaterally because I thought there was a problem."

The numbers of foreign students concentrated in certain programs prompted a quota in late August as an emergency measure. Unless the university took action, MacKay felt there was a possibility the provincial government might have imposed some other type of system.

The problem is a lack of a defined admissions policy for foreign students. Without one, foreign students may be subject to arbitrary conditions, which may change over time, and to which they would have little recourse.

Changes to academic policy (including admissions) originate in the Senate. MacKay said he would be reporting to its next meeting on

October 15 and will ask that the problem be considered. He hopes Senate will then strike up a committee "to do something about it".

Dean Marriot of Student Services anticipates there will be a Senate committee "but that would be up to the president". He feels reasonably satisfied the university will set up "some kind of situation" regarding foreign students generally and some programs specifically.

Admissions policies for next year will be finalized by October 31. When asked if recommendations made after that date would have any input to policy formulation, MacKay paused.

"The October 31 deadline is in a sense correct," MacKay said. "It's possible recommendations would be applied to next year, although it

would be hard to judge."

Marriot thought recommendations received after October 31 might be implemented. Since a policy for the registration of visa students "would tend to be quite specific" he felt it might take effect next year.

Students from the various international societies have expressed a wish to be involved in drafting a firm policy. Sharon Davis, International Student Rep on Student Council, told the meeting on October 3 that foreign students would make representation to the Senate before any policy goes through.

But a wait-and-see attitude pervades any answers to what should be done. "If any action is to be taken, it should be peaceful," said Zaiyol Swende, president of the International Students' Association (ISA). He wants a calm and rational discussion based on facts, not rumours.

"Whatever formal action is taken, we should be informed,"

added Swende. If a decision to limit foreign student enrollment holds, Swende hopes that admission to the university would not favour a particular group or country, but be based on merit.

The presidents of the Dal-Tech Chinese Association, the African Students Association and the Malaysian Indonesian Singaporean Students Association shared Swende's approach. Louis Bang of the ASA said it was necessary to wait until the administration "makes the situation more clear".

Members of the various international groups on campus held a meeting with Dean Marriot on September 29. Marriot said the uproar over the quota was a misunderstanding and assured them it was a short term solution.

Marriot did not make it clear if the current policy would continue into next year, whether it would be applied only to incoming students, to students switching to other faculties, or if it would affect graduate students.

Both president MacKay and dean Marriot denied that political pressure had triggered the current quota position. Marriot said differential fees were an indirect form of pressure, but thought they had not been imposed for this purpose. Differential fees were established in 1979 at Dal.

MacKay said the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) had invited the universities to consider some policy for visa students in 1978, but had instituted the fee differentials and subsequent hikes without consulting the universities.

Recommendations in a report from the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) suggested quota systems along with other solutions in a report published at the beginning of 1982. MacKay said the proposals should be examined closely. "I think there are more effective ways than quotas," he said.

"The university has a real obligation to students abroad," he said.



Mayoral forum discusses labour disputes

by Cathy McDonald

After two years of strikes and labour disputes, Halifax's relationships with its unions is the central issue in this fall's mayoralty race.

The four mayoral candidates constantly referred to the city's problems with its police, firemen and garbage collectors at a lunch-hour forum Tuesday held in the Green Room of the Student Union Building.

Running for mayor in the October 16 election are incumbent Ron Wallace, Alderman Doris Maley, former mayor Walter Fitzgerald and Dalhousie student Charles Phillips.

Mayor Wallace defended himself against claims of provoking labour disputes and damaging the city's image during his two-year term. Since he took office, Halifax has experienced a 54-day police strike, a lengthy dispute with the garbage collectors last summer and currently a fireman's strike that is in its 20th day.

Wallace said he could have settled all three disputes in one day, by merely giving in to the unions' demands. "I could simply allow the firemen to sleep at time and a half. But this has to stop. In order to stop it you've got to be tough."

"The question is - who is running this city, the elected representatives or the unions. I believe the elected representatives are running it," Wallace said.

Candidate Walter Fitzgerald stated "morale has been shattered; the image of city hall is being destroyed."

Fitzgerald's main pitch was the need for leadership. "Something is wrong at city hall right now," he

said, citing his experience as former alderman, mayor, MLA and Minister of Labour under Gerald Regan's Liberal government, as qualifying him to be mayor.

"I will be in control," he said. "If I am elected the tax rate will be held at less than five per cent." Fitzgerald said he believes in "good planning and good development" and "good solid leadership".

The candidates differed on the use of binding arbitration to settle labour disputes. "It's a cop-out," said Wallace. "We were elected to reach settlements with our departments. It's easy to get an arbitrator to come in who's sympathetic to workers."

According to Doris Maley, however, binding arbitration should be used to avoid a strike. "Strikes in essential services are unfair as a tool...they are untenable, uncivilized," said Maley.

Currently having served five years as alderman for Ward One, Maley said she recognizes the need for "pragmatic compromise" in running city hall.

Promoting a good working atmosphere was Maley's goal, differentiating the way a city is run with the adversarial system in the provincial legislature, where "people knock their heads together and some noise comes out."

Also in favour of using binding arbitration when necessary is candidate Charles Phillips. A Dalhousie student who has been at Dal "on and off since '69", Phillips is running because he wants to make sure issues are addressed in this election. "I'm as honest as I can be with what I know about the issues," he remarked.

Phillips said he has read up on how city government works, and is in favour of promoting the recommendations of the recently released Crosby Commission report on improving city government.

Issues Phillips hopes will be raised in the election are: the closing of the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, housing, rent review and offshore oil.

Acknowledging his audience, Wallace dropped a couple of jokes on the topic of education.

Concerning sex education, Wallace said "When we were in school, we called it recess."

The Dalhousie Political Society organized the well-attended forum, where questions were entertained from a panel and from the floor.

In response to a question on the degeneration of Halifax's port, Maley said the city is doing as well as can be expected under the circumstances. She advocated a strong voice to see that Halifax's monetary gain from the port is a fair one.

Phillips felt not enough preparation was being undertaken in anticipating the offshore oil boom. And Wallace maintained Halifax has one of the most successful ports in the world.

Although all world ports are down 20 per cent, Wallace said Halifax is ready for a turnaround. New containers will have to dock in Halifax, where the port is deeper than in either Montreal or Toronto.

Fitzgerald could not respond to the issue as he had to leave the forum early.

AIE corrects Donahoe

by Ken Burke

Education Minister Terry Donahoe supplied incorrect information to the Dalhousie Gazette concerning the Atlantic Institute of Education, says Dr. William B. Hamilton, Director of the Institute.

Hamilton took issue to several statements Donahoe made which were printed in the September 9 issue of the *Gazette* in an article titled, "Donahoe explains upheavals in post-secondary education financing". Hamilton especially objected to the manner in which the Institute has been presented by Donahoe. "It's clear he has no understanding of the history or purpose of the Institute," said Hamilton.

In the article, Donahoe is quoted as saying, "We looked at the expenditure to provide a service to 50 students, which translates to 20 thousand dollars per student per year." Hamilton says the figure of 20 thousand dollars doesn't take into account the Institute's many other services, simply dividing the Institute's budget by the number of students.

"We have audited figures on the cost of students," said Hamilton. "It would be somewhere in the range of \$2500-\$3000/year for AIE students."

Peter Butler, an assistant to the Education Minister, sticks by the figures Donahoe released.

"I think it was a fair estimate,"

said Butler. "He was speaking in general terms."

Butler added that the Minister was aware of the other services offered by the Atlantic Institute, but the funding estimate was not altered by this fact.

A statement by the Minister that the Institute "wasn't Atlantic at all, (just) Nova Scotian" was similarly singled out as incorrect by Hamilton.

"We have programs involving New Brunswick and P.E.I.," he said. "There are four major inter-provincial projects under way right now."

Hamilton added that the Institute's Nova Scotian tax funds are not used on out-of-province projects. "The work we do with other provinces is paid for at cost by the other province," said Hamilton.

Hamilton also claimed that Donahoe had broken a promise when cutting back the AIE's funds.

"Over a year ago he said our Board of Governors would be consulted before any final decision would be taken," stated Hamilton. The Institute first learned of the funding withdrawal when a telegram was sent to Dr. Hamilton by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC).

Butler did not feel the "promise" was a major issue. "The Province's dire economic conditions invalidated a lot of promises," he said.