

Protest Flashback

Thirteen years ago, 1000 students marched on Province House to make the public aware of the "immediate crisis in education". The **Tech News**, the student newspaper at Nova Scotia Technical College, said the participants in the Oct. 27, 1965, march wore shirts and ties to "give the average person the feeling that it was not just a bunch of radical, sloppy students marching because they had nothing else to do."

Premier Gerald Regan, who was leader of the opposition, "gave blanket approval" to all the demonstrators' requests presented in a brief. They were asking the government for an increase in student aid as well as student participation in decision making; government support for university students to visit high schools to "promote the value

of higher education"; an increase in financial aid to post-secondary education both federally and provincially; an immediate federal-provincial conference on higher education, and an immediate reduction in tuition fees.

The marchers, organized by the Atlantic Union of Students included 25% of the Dalhousie population, 50% of Kings, 30% of Mount St. Vincent and 5% of Tech students.

The **Dalhousie Gazette** reported its student council supported an immediate reduction in fees. Like this year, the university senate turned down a request to cancel classes.

Dalhousie students may have a newspaper this summer.

The proposed **Summer Gazette**, to be funded by the Young Canada Works program, will publish ten weekly issues between June and August. The federal government's decision on whether to fund the project will be made later this month.

The community-oriented tabloid will serve the Halifax-Dartmouth area, as well as the university community.

Mount opts out of plan

The Mount St. Vincent Student Union has decided to withdraw from the Dal drug plan. MSVU student union president Diane Wright said Mount students could not absorb the \$4 increase for next year.

Wright said the Mount has located a pharmacy within walking distance of the university which is willing to provide the same service as Dal's, plus free prescription delivery, for \$7 per student. The Mount was contributing \$7.25 to the Dal plan which included access to the student union building.

The Mount Student Union is facing a budgetary situation this year which could mean foregoing the drug plan entirely Wright said. A recent referendum to increase student fees by \$7.75 was defeated by 13 votes. The student union will seek to ratify an increase in fees for a new drug arrangement through a mail out ballot to be held over the summer Wright added.

Although the Mount's decision will result in a loss of nearly \$12,000 to the Dal Student Union, SUB general manager John Graham said it will not affect budgetary allocations to any great extent. The revenue received from the MSVU contributions approximated expenditures for prescriptions to Mount students Graham said.

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"College of Cape Breton will not be hit as hard as other Nova Scotia institutions this year," he said, "because the college received a reasonable funding increase this year." However, Mackay added that "next year will be our turn."

Gilles Saulnier, a Université Ste. Anne student who organized the Yarmouth demonstration, said students led an automobile caravan from the university in Church Point to Yarmouth where they demonstrated through the town and finally came to a halt in front of the provincial building. There, they heard representatives of faculty and students outline the effect of funding decisions at the university.

Saulnier said the university is facing cutbacks in all areas, particularly in extra-curricular programs for students, faculty and support staff.

He said Ste. Anne students believed in what they were doing and were prepared to undertake action. He said he was disappointed that the Ste. Anne students were the only students to boycott classes.

All institutions at the most recent Nova Scotia caucus meeting agreed to the boycott and he was surprised to hear no others followed through with it. "If there is no communication on a matter such as this," he said, "students there will have to consider what need there is for AFS in the first place."

Thursday's march in Halifax was marred at the beginning when a scuffle ensued outside the Dalhousie SUB between a member of "In Struggle", a local communist group, and several Dalhousie engineers, including Dan Edgar, student council rep. The altercation was broken up by demonstration organizers before anything serious happened.

Many marchers said later they were upset by the presence of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) which they felt damaged the credibility of the student's message to government and the public. "I'm here because I want a quality education", said one student, "not to overthrow the system."

Kelly described the CPC(M!) contingent, which though few, held about two prominent red banners, as "grossly opportunistic". He said he had nothing but condemnation for the CPC(ML), particularly because they distributed literature which implied they had organized the march.

In the next few weeks Kelly said AFS will try to keep the cutbacks issue alive and try to relate larger social issues to the trends in post-secondary education. He expects AFS will assist the organizers of a demonstration in Halifax May 1.

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