

Anti-AFS campaign

President admits Nixonian antics

by Marc Allain

Dalhousie students are being urged to vote against membership in the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS) by anonymous posters which appeared on campus over the weekend.

The posters, which tell Dal students to vote no on AFS,

contain false and misleading information according to Denise Soucy Roberge, a member of Dal Student Council who also sits on the AFS executive.

The posters say Dal students have paid over \$13,000 to the Federation in the last two years, but this isn't so ac-

ording to Roberge. "The student council has collected over \$13,000 in fees, but only a little over half has been turned over to the organization," she said.

Dalhousie Student Union voted earlier this year to pay AFS fees on a pro-rated basis pending the results of the October 25 referendum. "So far Dal has paid roughly \$500 of the more than \$6,000 collected in fees this year," Roberge said. Each Dal student pays \$1 membership fee which is deducted from the Student Union fees at registration.

Roberge says that the allegations about the Nova Scotia government refusing AFS nominees for government committees are also misleading. "Contrary to what the posters say, Paula Wedge from Mount Saint Vincent sits on the Student Aid Higher Appeals Board as an AFS representative." "Furthermore, what the posters fail to mention is that an AFS nominee was appointed to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) in September. If that isn't a sign of credibility I don't know what is," she added.

Although the posters are unsigned, the *Gazette* has learned that they are being printed by the Student Union print shop as requested by Student Union president Mike Power.

When questioned about the posters Power denied having any knowledge of their origins. When told that the *Gazette* had a copy of a requisition order with his signature on it for 500 of the posters, Power admitted that he and other individuals were responsible for the printing.

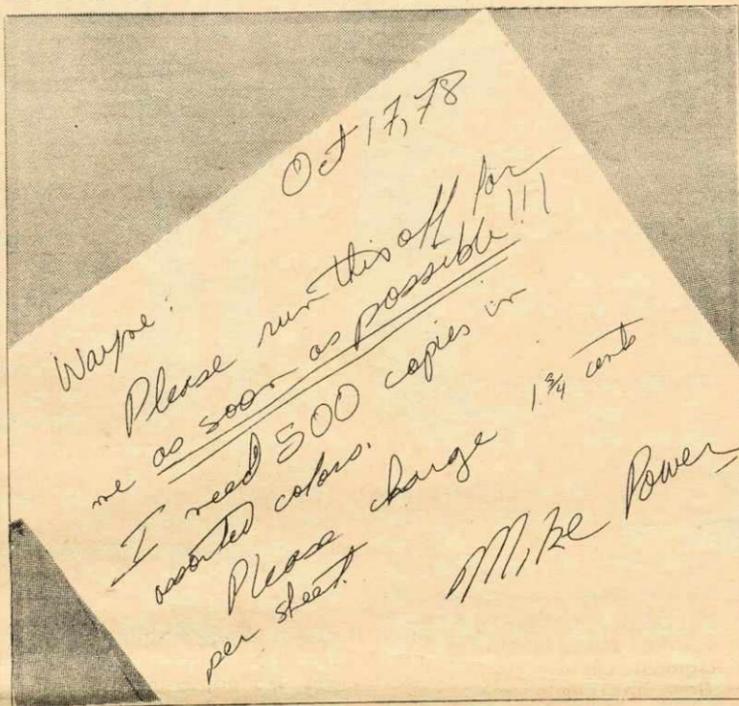
The posters have been widely distributed on campus, having been placed in the mailboxes of both the men's and women's residences.

Power had requested a rate of 1-3/4c per copy for the posters. The lowest rate for the format in question is 2c a sheet for the student union; student groups must pay 2 1/4c. Power said he was unaware that he had asked for a lower price.

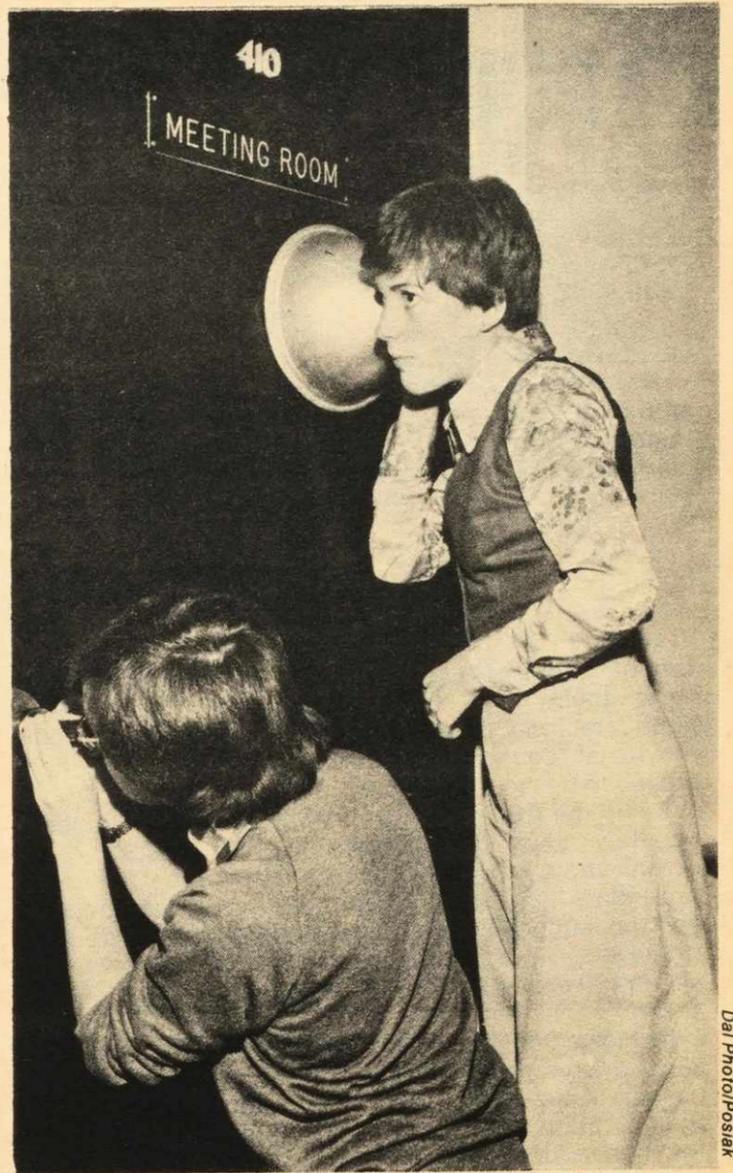
He assured the *Gazette* that the Student Union was not absorbing the costs of printing.

David Bolivar, president of the engineering society, later informed the *Gazette* that the poster campaign was organized by a group known as the Committee of Concerned Students and funded through a donation of the engineering society. When asked to comment on the misinformation being propagated by the posters, Bolivar said he didn't write the posters and didn't know the things weren't true.

He would not say who had written the posters.



Student Union president Mike Power told the *Gazette* he didn't know who was financing or organizing the anti-AFS campaign. He later admitted he was involved, when told the *Gazette* had a copy of a requisition order he had signed. (above)



Dal Photo/Posiak

Board of governors

Wall of silence

by Allan Adams

The secrecy that shrouds meetings of the Board of Governors may soon be lifted for the campus press according to Dr. Henry Hicks, President of Dalhousie and Chairperson of the Board. Presently, Board meetings are closed to non-members and the minutes remain confidential.

In an interview with the *Gazette* Hicks said he was unaware that reporters wanted to attend Board meetings.

Hicks said that the question of press coverage had never been raised with the Board and that he would "be glad to bring it up at the next Board meeting". When asked if it was possible to receive an answer before the next meeting, Hicks said that he would approach the board before the meeting and then relay the answer to the *Gazette*.

The Board of Governors is the supreme governing body of the University. It is answerable only to the Minister of Education. The Board can veto any legislation passed by the Senate, faculty or the Student Union. The Board members are responsible for making virtually all long-range decisions that will effect Dal. They are in charge of the university's financial dealings, in terms of obtaining money from the government, in determining the salaries that will

be paid to all university employees and in speculating in stock for the university's extensive stock portfolio. They are responsible for drawing plans for expansion and annexing the properties that they decide the university must purchase.

As part of the "democratization" of the university, students received representation on the board in 1968. Presently, Dal Student Union President Mike Power and SUB general manager John Graham, an employee of both the university and the Student Union, represent students on the Board. One other student seat remains open due to a recent resignation.

Dr. Hicks said that the attitudes displayed by the *Gazette* in the past was "pretty unhelpful" in determining if its staff will be allowed to cover the sessions. When asked to elaborate Hicks said "look at your files." He accused the *Gazette* of always running down the Board, blaming "successful businessmen" (board members) for the poor running of the university.

Both student reps on the Board said they have no objection to the press attending meetings. Graham said "I don't give a damn"; while Student Union President Mike Power stated he "wouldn't object at all" at our presence.

At St. Mary's

AFS to NSFS?

The Executive of the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS) has called for the restructuring of Canada's only regional student organization into an organization within the province of Nova Scotia.

This comes in the wake of AFS referenda in New Brunswick and Newfoundland which have devastated the organization's regional base.

Student councils in Newfoundland and New Brunswick have recently withdrawn from the Federation, leaving 8 of its 11 members in Nova Scotia.

AFS was formed in 1976 when, in the face of increasing cooperation among the four Atlantic governments on matters concerning post-secondary education, student leaders decided to form a regional federation of students. After the recent round of referenda, however, most of the remaining AFS members are located in Nova Scotia.

Student leaders from throughout the province will be gathering at St. Mary's University today for a three day conference, where they will be asked to consider major constitutional changes which will remodel the or-

ganization along the lines of the Ontario Federation of Students and the British Columbia Students Federation.

The proposals which will bring about the Nova Scotia Federation of Students include substantial changes at the Executive level. Delegates to the conference will be asked to accept a seven-person executive.

Further changes will involve the setting up of standing committees to do on-going work on student aid, youth employment, and the restructuring of provincial / national student organizations, according to the recommendations of the AFS Executive. The committees will be chaired by Executive members, thereby encouraging a much higher division of labour within the student organization than has been the case in the past.

"If the changes are accepted by the membership Nova Scotia students will have a much stronger student organization working for them than the present N.S. caucus of AFS," according to Denise Soucy Roberge, N.S. Caucus Chairperson.