

First Fee Referendum in 7 years

by Daniel O'Connor

Inflation plagues organizations as well as individuals. During this year the Student Union has increased prices to raise approximately \$60,000. extra revenue, but this new revenue has only been enough to maintain the present level of Union activity. It is being swallowed up in paying for wages, electronic equipment, furniture and other items whose cost is increasing rapidly.

Inflation has hit the Student Union particularly hard because the financial flexibility was already declining. For at least six years the number of programs has been decreasing. Barring athletics, SUB, prescription drugs and yearbook (the major and special funds) the mainstream of student activities receives less per student in 1974-75 than in 1964-65. Free services and campus-wide services often suffer the most, for example housing office lecture se-

ries and student loans research are receiving much less.

The Students' Council decided in April that the fee referendum would be held in October. At that time it was already apparent that most major proposals of O'Connor/Richardson and the individual Council members could not be accomplished this year unless other valuable activities were stopped. An example would be not doing a course evaluation so a food co-op could be founded.

Since it does not seem possible to maintain even the present level of activity on the present financial base, the Council is asking you, the students, to decide on Wednesday, October 30 what course the Union will take. The course is determined by the choice of one of the four proposals, each of which is reflected in the fee.

Proposal A

This is really just maintenance of the present

level of activity, which is directed towards helping student organizations and representational work on basic student concerns such as housing and student loans. Nothing new would be done by the Union if this proposal is accepted, but everything done now would continue with about the same standards. The fee would be \$47.00 next year.

Proposal B

Under this proposal, as well as keeping up present activity, the Union would be able to support non-SUB capital projects. A project would not be financed completely by the Student Union, and Dalhousie students would probably not have complete control over projects given the kind of funding that this proposal makes possible. There would be much more support, especially financial, for the many student societies, clubs and organizations. Finally, the communications media would be reorganized for greater efficiency, and their scope

and standards would be permanently improved. The fee would be \$52.00 next year.

Proposal C

Present activity, support for student organizations and communications improvement would be done as they are described above. Instead of support, there would be full funding for capital projects. The difference, to use one example, is between helping health science students furnish and rent a university house and starting a student owned and operated social centre primarily for the use of health science students. The latter would be controlled almost completely by students, while the former would be smaller and less subject to student control. There would be a large cost difference. The money would be from a fund, similar to the SUB Fund, that the Union would keep for other major projects besides the SUB. Right now the Union cannot give

substantial financial support to any major project.

Also under this proposal, there would be a major academic affairs program including more and better course evaluation, course monitoring and much better support for and contact with student representatives on university governing bodies. The program would work largely through the 14 major societies of which the Association of Graduate Students, Engineering Students' Society and Nursing Students' Society are three. The fee would be \$57.00 next year.

Proposal D

Under this proposal the Council would have to start a major cutback in Union activity, such as ceasing to have a Winter Carnival and Graduation Week, no more course evaluation, restricting free student use of the SUB facilities so they can be rented for a profit, a much smaller yearbook, etc. The fee would remain \$40.00.

the dalhousie gazette

Volume 107

October 24, 1974

Number 7

Provincial Women's Conference

By Helen Spinelli

Liberation means Autonomy, belief in ones' self, self-confidence, independence of, rather than subservience to, standards determined by others. Liberation from the myths that have enslaved and confined us in our minds as well as in the minds of others." Jessie Bernard.

Women Today in Nova Scotia: Our Potential, Opportunities, Priorities was the subject of the Provincial Conference held at Mount St. Vincent University Oct. 18-20. More than 350 women representing all types of backgrounds, constituting all ages and from most areas in the Province met to discuss their feelings, ideas and recommendations on the status of women in Nova Scotia. This three day Women's Conference was the first of its kind ever to be held in Nova Scotia.

The conference officially opened on Friday night with a panel discussion on Women Today: in the Home, in the Community, and in Employment, followed by an open forum. Dr. Katie Cooke, Chairman of the Federal Advisory Council on the Status of Women, presided over the panel discussion. It is interesting to note that Dr. Jacques Goulet discussed the role of women today in the home. It seems incongruous at least to this reporter, that the coordinating committee of the conference selected a man to expound upon the role of women in the home and I'm sure this same thought occurred to many of the delegates present. The forum following the panel discussion proved to be as stimulating as the panel discussion was dull. The delegates challenged some of the panelists on their viewing of women's roles in the traditional sense and the ensuing discussions were beginning to get provocative when the meeting was ended by Mrs. Margaret Colpits, Co-ordinator of the Conference, with the

explanation that we had two more days to discuss these issues. It was frustrating to say the least.

On Saturday the curriculum of the conference moved into its workshop phase. Each delegate could attend four of a possible twenty-six workshops being sponsored by the Conference. The topics dealt with in the workshops covered a broad spectrum of interests including such subjects as Women in Political Life, Women in Employment, Support Services for Female Heads of Families, Women in the Law, How to Handle "Put Downs", and How to set up Day Care Services - just to mention a few. The intention of the workshops was to have the women express their views, ideas and feelings about the topics and from their discussions formulate resolutions to be presented to the Provincial Government to improve the status of women in Nova Scotia. I attended some of the workshops held and discovered, to my dismay, that many of them were being led by men. In light of the fact that men could not attend the conference either as delegates or as observers it seems quite inappropriate, as well as being a damper to the communication among the women, to have them as group leaders.

A plenary session was held most of Sunday to discuss the resolutions provided by the workshops. Approximately fifty resolutions were finally chosen to be sent first to the delegates to vote on and then to the Provincial Government as recommendations for future legislation.

The Provincial government should a) assume responsibility for maintenance orders, and b) application for social assistance should not involve the woman's prosecution of her spouse were 2 parts of one the resolutions approved at the plenary session. Other resolutions covered such areas as child care, job opportunity,

Canada's Pension Act, Union policies and unambiguous approval was given to the removal of abortion from the Criminal Code. Hopefully most of the recommendations the Conference proposed will be acted upon in the near future.

The Conference proved for many to be a three day exercise in frustration. This is not to say that some good did not come from it but just that the structure and planning inhibited the free flow of expression. After all, what is the purpose of a "Women's Conference"? The opinion was held by this reporter is that it should be a time when women gather to try and assess their concepts of being women and to experience how other women relate these conceptions and in this way to grow and change the myths concerning our sex.

INSIDE

Council pg. 2

Sydney pg.2

Senate pg.3

Ward I pg.3

Communications pg. 9

Task Force pg. 10

Dal Radio pg. 15

Nigeria pg. 15