

Bursaries tied to academic success

by David Gutnick

The Nova Scotia provincial government has decided that starting September 1, 1977 all student bursaries will be tied to academic achievement.

Speaking with student leaders from throughout the province on Feb. 26, Minister of Education George Mitchell admitted that the policy has not been reviewed even though he had promised earlier in the year that it would be. He said it was most definitely going to be initiated, despite what Atlantic Federation of Student's co-ordinator Don Soucy called "unanimous and vehement opposition to the policy."

The Saturday morning meeting was called by the students in order to facilitate communication between government and the public sector. In an eight page brief presented to the minister concerning student aid the students stated "We have already called for greater public participation in the formation of provincial policy. It is our hope that this government also supports public discussion at both the regional and national levels."

The controversial bursary policy will limit monies to those students who have passed all but one of their courses in the previous term. If more than one course is failed, the bursary will be withheld until the student is able to qualify, perhaps by attending remedial classes or summer school.

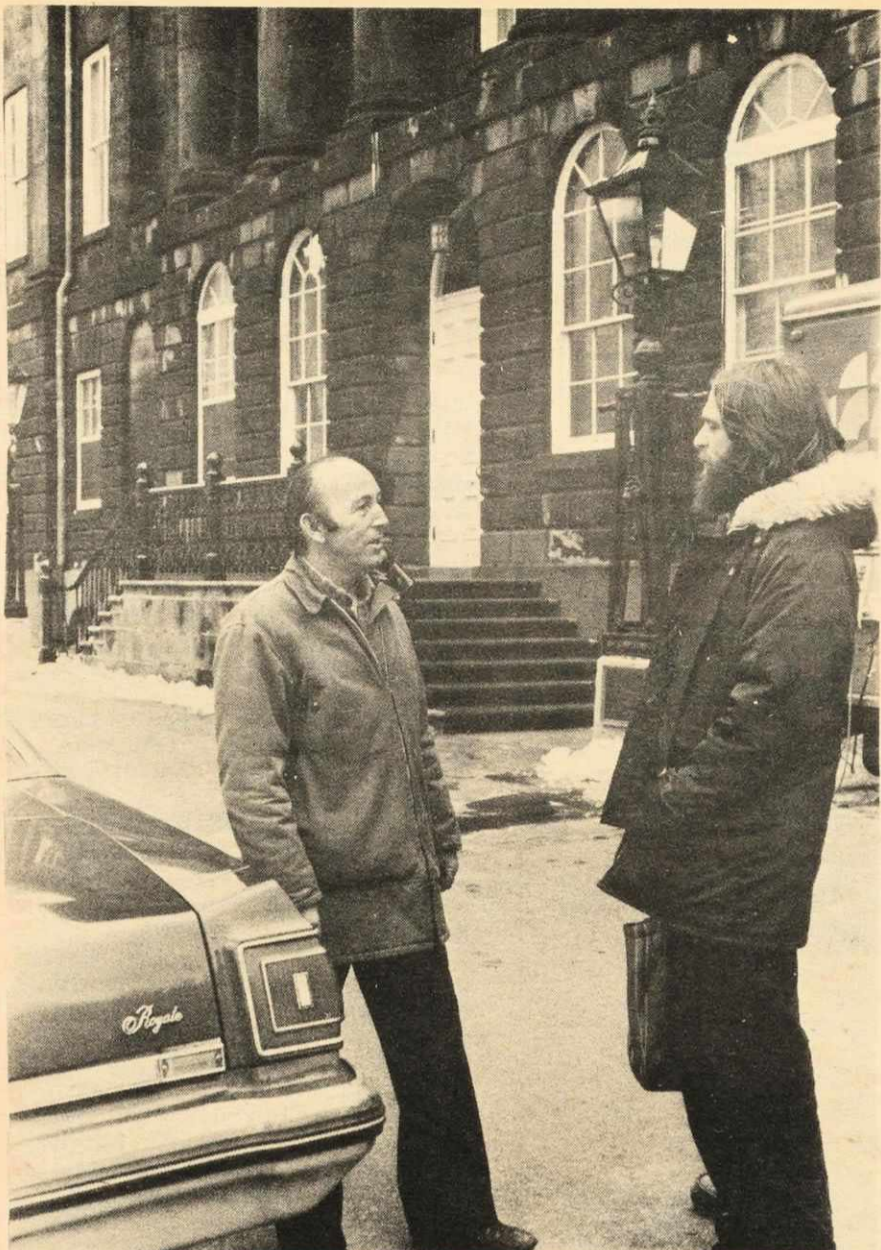
"Completely unfair" was the way Don Soucy phrased it. "Every student union in the province opposed the move in the fall. One of the reasons we had a National Student Day was to demonstrate our united opposition to just such a

move. Now they tell us they're going to instigate it despite us!"

Other issues in the student brief dealt with the decrease in the Nova Scotia student aid budget and government accessibility. According to the brief: "The government cutbacks in the Nova Scotia Bursary Program is not because Nova Scotians are needing less money to pursue a post-secondary education. It is, rather, because more unrealistic barriers are being set up which prevent many students from getting the money which they need".

Echoing the contents of the brief, Soucy stated that "The government has not kept its promise of serving post-secondary institutions with qualified personal who are informed on student aid, as was promised by education minister Maynard MacKaskill in August." Both issues are among the priority for Atlantic Students the brief demonstrators. Not only has the government failed to initiate programs for the benefit of the student population, but they have failed as well to properly involve students on the procedures that determine the policies.

The Maritime Provincial Higher Educational Committee (MPHEC) has issued a confidential background report on the issues of implementing a regional student aid plan. Soucy commented. "And they did it without any AFS, NUS, AAU or NSCUFA consultation." The AAU and the NSCUFA are administrative and faculty organizations and support the position of the AFS on this issue. They are, as well, completely opposed to government educational policy-making that does not at all involve public participation at the planning stage.



Dal Photo/Walsh

AFS secretary Don Soucy is speaking with perhaps the only responsible person remaining at Province House.

Student Union elections challenged

by Valerie Mansour

The procedures of the Dalhousie Student Council election are being questioned.

The Committee for the Fair Elections' have presented a list of illegal procedures and violations to Sandy MacNeill, Chief Returning Officer. In the brief signed by Jim Heffernan and Heather MacQuarrie, both defeated election candidates, it states that there be "a full review with desire that the Feb. 16 election of 1977 be declared null and void."

Students charged

Superintendent E. Devine of the Detective Division, Halifax City Police Department, has informed the *Gazette* that a charge of joy-riding is to be laid in connection with the ambulance incident during Dalhousie's Winter Carnival.

Dalhousie students participating in a scavenger hunt faked an emergency call to the Victoria General Hospital and when the ambulance arrived, they proceeded to drive it to the SUB to claim it as their captured object for the event.

That same day a Halifax Transit Bus also arrived at the SUB with scavenger hunt participants at the wheel. Devine says that this incident is still under investigation.

No charges will be brought to court until all investigations are complete.

The major violation mentioned was Council's failure to elect an election committee. It is stated in the constitution that four deputy returning officers and a Chief Electoral Officer is chosen by council. Due to Council's negligence, the Chief Returning Officer ran the election without the personnel and guidance needed.

Other complaints included improper voting booth hours in Shirreff and Howe Halls. Both opened late, and, as well, at Howe Hall 25-30 people were left standing in line when the booth closed five minutes early.

The Committee was also annoyed that on the Lower Campus, and at the Law School, the returning officer did not request IDs. The ballots were picked up by students themselves.

Another mentioned problem was the inadequate publicity for the extended nomination deadlines. Poster violations, improperly organized forums, and the conduct of Sampson and Mancini who have been accused of giving public addresses in prohibited areas, were also items mentioned in the brief.

MacNeill also received a letter written by Council Law Rep Mike Shearar, who on behalf of election candidates, Greene and Kinley, requested that due to election irregularities, the validity of the council elections should be questioned.

Electoral Officer MacNeill is not taking the complaints seriously and has informed the *Gazette* that they are "pure malarkey".

the dalhousie
gazette

3 March 1977

Number 22

Volume 109

CBH gets licence

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has renewed the broadcasting licence of Halifax radio station CBH.

The text of the decision announced Monday made no reference to the allegedly discriminatory public service announcements policy of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Gay Alliance for

Equality (GAE) had filed an intervention against the licence renewal, because CBH would not air free announcements for GAE meetings and the GAE telephone counselling service Gayline.

Because of the anti-homosexual policy of CBC, the *Dalhousie Gazette* as well as most other Canadian English-language college newspapers refuse to run CBC radio advertising.

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