

## Student politicians gaze inward at general meeting

**OTTAWA (CUP)**—One hundred and twenty student politicians took an inward look at Canada's national student movement and many did not like what they saw.

Confronted with a bureaucratic structure, a poorly publicized campaign against underfunding and fuzzy priorities, delegates at the Canadian Federation of Students seventh semi-annual general meeting Nov. 4 to 11 simplified the organization's internal workings and vowed to look after issues most pressing to students.

The delegates representing about 50 post-secondary institutions elected Barb Donaldson, a "low key activist" and home economics student from the University of Alberta, to the position of CFS chair.

Donaldson, the Alberta representative to CFS's 13-member national executive and former student council vice-president academic, beat Walter Mykytyshyn, another of CFS's national executive and McMaster University student, as well as Aaron Engen, a newcomer from the University of Lethbridge. Engen was the only fluently bilingual candidate.

Donaldson ran on a safe platform, saying she wants CFS to "listen to the members" more and heighten its presence on campuses by strengthening its national student campaigns. Ironically, she did not support the idea of a national or provincial student organization when she ran for vice-president academic a year and a half ago.

"I was naive then," she said after the general meeting. "CFS wasn't a presence, it was an acronym. I wasn't convinced it was doing work for the students of Alberta."

Donaldson's election came after nearly a week of long-winded debates about procedure and few discussions about issues in Ottawa's Chimo Inn. Delegates focused their energies in the 14-hour final plenary on thrashing out the details of the organization's budget and combining the boards directing the federation's political and services activities into one national executive, which will ensure mandates set at general meetings are followed by CFS staff.

CFS, grappling with a deficit of \$65,000, decided to suspend the position of information officer until at least May 1985. The position of accessibility researcher, vacant since July, will likely not be filled until January 1985.

Delegates also created the position of deputy chair to help integrate the two boards. John Doré, a commerce student and student council member from Kwantlen College in B.C., will fill the post voluntarily until May, when it will likely become a paid position.

"I love this organization," he said at the general meeting. "We got so many problems, but I love it."

Delegates passed a motion saying CFS will deal with international issues as long as they are related to education, voted to recognize the Canadian University Press statement of principles and to support the Canadian Association of University Teachers' education financing act.

A few important agenda items, such as the budget of the CFS-services board, were not debated at all because delegates ran out of time. CFS's national executive later passed the budget without any change.

Although delegates renewed their call to the federal and provincial governments for more university and college funding, threw their support behind teachers at Ontario's 22 community colleges who were forced back to work Nov. 12, and planned to ask for government money to set up a national student housing fund, many expressed dissatisfaction about the lack of debate on student issues.

"I thought way too much time was spent on internal things, such as amalgamating the two boards and finances," said Jim Ryan, student council vice-president external of the University of Guelph which pulled out of CFS last spring but remains a member until June 1985.

"My biggest fear of what was going to happen, happened. We only spent two hours talking about our campaign against underfunding," he says. "If CFS doesn't become a student movement instead of just a lobby group soon, we may see its dissolution. But God, I hope I'm wrong."

Ryan criticized the delegates' failure to discuss international issues and said he is worried CFS is becoming increasingly self-interested, isolating student issues and tailoring to link the crisis in post-secondary education in Canada to the larger economic problems facing many countries.

"Students live in a global village and I don't think we should just put ourselves in ivory towers. We're part of a larger society and we have to work to the better of that," he said.

John Bosnitch, the controversial University of New Brunswick student council president who was ruled out of order several times for his comments, also complained about the lack of meaningful debate.

"The critical issues of the day, the ones students are going to wake up to Monday morning, were not addressed" he said.

Bosnitch, whose student council has only been a prospective member since May, says he plans



First elected as DSU vice-president, then interim treasurer of the Canadian Federation of Students, now Rusty James is vying for the position of God. James is part of the cast of a Dalhousie Drama Society production of Woody Allen's *God*. Photo: Mary C. Sykes, Dal Photo.

to contact every student union in the country to urge the councils either to become a member of CFS or to join an alternative federation of students.

"I'm actively trying to recruit all those people CFS has traditionally left out. If we can get them to join CFS and if CFS will respond to their needs, then my work is done. But if it doesn't, there is no alterna-

tive but to start a new federation," he said.

Current chair Beth Olley said Bosnitch's dissatisfaction is not shared by many CFS members and she hopes his efforts prompt more councils to join the federation. She said she was pleased with the general meeting and the amount of work accomplished. □

## Dalhousie professor wins Canada Council award

By MARY ELLEN JONES

**D**r. James G. Eayrs, professor of political science and a mentor of Canadian foreign politics has been awarded the Molson prize of the Canadian Council.

The prize of \$50,000 is awarded for achievements in the fields of social sciences, arts and humanities.

Some Canadians who have received this award in past years are Alex Colville, Hugh MacLennan, Margaret Lawrence, Margaret Atwood, Glen Gould and Maureen Forester.

The award was presented to Eayrs by Maureen Forester, chair of the Canada Council, Nov. 19.

Eayrs has been a professor at

Dalhousie since 1980. He came to Dalhousie as a senior Killam Fellow in 1979 and one year later he joined the faculty of the political science department as an Eric Dennis Memorial Professor of Government and Political Science.

"No one is more deserving of the award than James Eayrs," says Dennis Stairs, chair of the political science department.

Eayrs' accomplishments extend far beyond his contributions to Dalhousie academia. Eayrs is also a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Guggenheim Fellow, a Canadian Council Killam Fellow, a Clark-Skelton Fellow, Queens University (1977-78), and a Konnaugh Research Fellow, University of

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## Anti-Sandinistas strike again

By DAVID OLIE

**A**nti-Sandinista activists have involved the *Gazette* directly in their latest efforts to distribute literature on Dalhousie campus.

A number of copies of the paper in the racks at the Killam library were found on Friday to have pamphlets from "The Coalition for Jobs, Peace and Freedom in the Americas" inserted inside.

The latest pamphlet, a slick, well-produced effort including a mail-in form on the back, gives "personal testimonies by survivors of the atrocities committed [sic] by the Sandinistas". The main point made in the leaflet is a call for increased US aid to the region, to help those suffering from alleged Sandinista violations of human rights and to retard the spread of revolution from Nicaragua to its neighbors.

The leaflet was distributed with another called "Preventing Nuclear War: A Few Simple Facts", which makes a case in favor of nuclear deterrence and against a freeze on arms build-ups. This literature comes from an associated organization in Washington, the "Committee to Prevent Nuclear War".

Efforts to reach the distributors of the material were unsuccessful. Rafael Flores, director of the two committees in Washington, says their representatives on campus do not wish to be interviewed.

Flores said the information in the pamphlets was provided by a variety of sources, including "the international and national press", eyewitness accounts, and the Heritage Foundation, a conservative research group. He claimed information on Nicaragua's Jewish population came from the American branch of the Anti-Defamation League of the B'Nai Brith.

Avi Granot, information officer for the Israeli Embassy in Ottawa, knew of no evidence of oppression of Jews in Nicaragua.

"Things were bad there for a time," he said, but added that the situation had improved after the revolution. Although he had heard of the burning of Managua's synagogue, he denied that all Jews had been driven from the country, as claimed in the pamphlet.

The pamphlet's mention of "Nicaragua's current military overstrength" was denied by Andrew Richardson, a Dalhousie English student just returned from observing the presidential elections there.

"I know their air force consists of one Korean War jet and six or seven Cessnas," he said. The US-built Cessnas are used for liaison and reconnaissance. He saw no evidence of more advanced equipment.

On the issue of repression of reli-

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