

Government charged with treating students unfairly

By Paul Creelman

Maritime students are treated unfairly, says Don Perry, the Atlantic fieldworker for the National Union of Students (NUS), who spoke at Dalhousie last weekend.

Perry gave a two and a half hour seminar on student issues at a Canadian University Press Conference for the Atlantic Region, speaking about student aid, housing, unemployment, and the role of NUS. He also illustrated the ways in which NUS has taken concrete action to help Maritime students.

"For starters, NUS is basically a political lobby group. Although before the second last election, the Regan government promised us a student member on the federal provincial task force on higher education, this was one of those promises that just wasn't kept," says Perry.

"The national union of students has recommended changes in the educational structure to several groups, including the Nova Scotia Plenary Group last August, and to the Council of Ministers

concerned with Education earlier in the summer in Vancouver."

There are several aspects of university funding that NUS is concerned with, according to Perry.

The present structure system of student aid is unfair in many respects, especially with regard to the distribution

receive a bursary. In comparison, look at the way Ontario and some other provinces do it; they have front-end loaded systems that award bursaries first, and then loans."

"Of course," says Perry, "if they took all the money wasted in the administration of student loans, the govern-

from their parents.

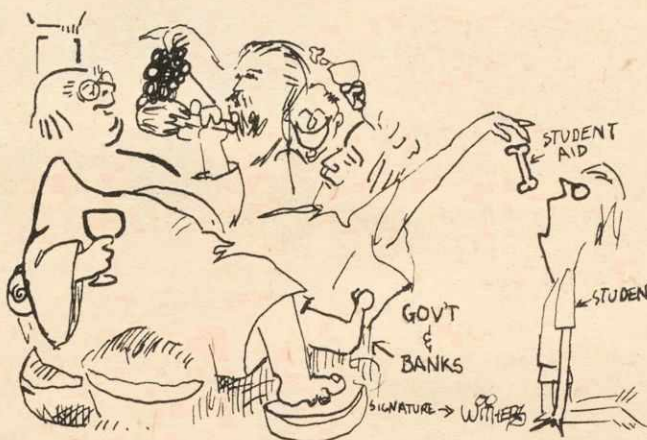
"What we'd like to look at," says Perry, "is how many of our needy students are eligible for student aid, and of these, how many are receiving the full \$2600, which they probably need."

Student unemployment is also an issue of great concern to NUS. Students in the Atlantic area are in an especially vulnerable position, according to Perry.

"The trouble is that with unemployment the way it is, the available jobs right now are paying minimum wage. In the Atlantic Provinces, that is below the poverty line once you work it out over the whole year. Certainly students can't make enough to go back to school on minimum wage."

"What we'd like to see is a student unemployment program that will pay students enough to cover their tuition costs for the next year."

Student housing is another problem, says Perry, although most of the attention of NUS is directed out west, where the housing situation is even more critical than in the Maritime Provinces.



of aid and the calculation of eligibility, says Perry.

"Here in Nova Scotia, the first thing that a student has to do is apply for a \$1400 student loan. After that, if he still needs more money, he can

ment could probably afford an all-bursary system anyway."

NUS is also taking a stand against the calculation of parental contributions because it unfairly assumes all students are receiving aid

Red Herring bookstore faces closure

by Sheila Fardy

Red Herring Co-operative Books is in trouble due to financial problems and a lack of volunteers.

Red Herring is a non-profit, co-operative bookstore which was conceived by a group of independent people in 1977. The coop defines itself as "progressive", by which they mean non-sexist and non-racist.

"There is a financial crisis," says board member Cathy Crouse, "but the real problem is our lack of volunteers."

Last October the coop ordered a fairly large number of books for the usually busy Christmas season. Most of

these books are still sitting on the shelves, leaving them \$3,000 in debt.

The bookstore is run by volunteer workers. It has been open only irregular hours in the past four weeks because there are now only five regular volunteers.

Its location on the second floor of 1652 Barrington Street is easily missed by passersby, making promotion important. Their budget, however, does not allow for advertising.

Red Herring is non-profit in that all money made on sales is reinvested into overhead and new stock. Shareholders have equity (which means they can cash in their shares),

but they receive no dividends. The store originally had only \$4,000 in stock which has increased to about \$12,000.

Opened in December of 1977, its aim was to provide service to members who felt a lack in areas of books available in regular bookstores. They carry books on different political and social theories, as well as minority and women's studies. There are books written in French and Chinese and some records (mostly by women, from Ella Fitzgerald to Lily Tomlin). About a year and a half ago they began carrying magazines and periodicals that other stores won't handle

because they don't have a high enough turnover rate.

Despite the apparent predominance of Marxist-Leninist material, board member Cathy Crouse stresses, "The bookstore itself is not aligned to any political group or theory." The store takes papers etc. on consignment for political groups, but has no political affiliations.

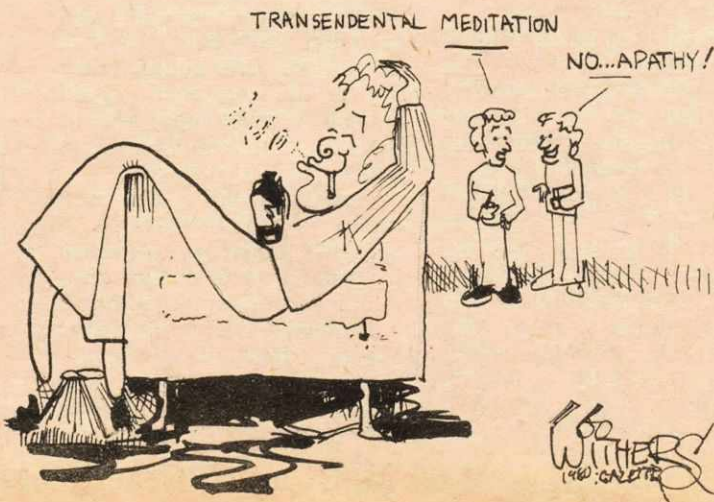
There will be a general meeting of the coop at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8 at the store to decide what to do about its problems. If enough people don't show an interest, the board sees no alternative than to present a motion to close the store.

Arts Society starting slowly

The Dal Arts Society, a student group with a mandate to stimulate and support activities of interest to Arts, is in need of student support.

After a relatively successful year of operation in 1979-1980, a poor turnout at the Society's first meeting forced the postponement of elections for new officers (president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer) and delayed the start of new activities.

Over the years the Society has been plagued by apathy—last year, for example, there were only eight active members. Nevertheless, the Society continues to find and support a number of groups and activities, including annual art, photo, and literary



contests.

The low membership, however, has made it difficult for the society to widen its scope and more fully develop the activities in which it is engaged.

Lectures, dances, talent shows, displays, and intramural participation are some of the activities planned for this school year. With its sound financial base, the only things preventing these events from occurring is inadequate student support. The Art Society's next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 7, in rooms 410 and 412 at the Student Union Building at 7:30 p.m. All Arts students are invited.



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