

Media blitz planned by student councils

by Ken Burke

An October media blitz of student issues information is coming, if the Student Unions of Nova Scotia (SUNS) can carry off its planned activities.

At a conference two weeks ago, SUNS delegates approved a number of ideas for an October "Week of Information" from October 11-15. SUNS Executive Officer Peter Kavanagh said, "I was surprised at the unanimity over what we decided."

The outline of activities for the week includes: - campus days of information on Tuesday and Wednesday to mobilize students and increase student awareness of issues.

- lobbying citizens in shopping malls across the Province all day Thursday.

- raffling off one year's tuition to a Nova Scotia student. Tickets will be sold across the province for 50 cents each during the week.

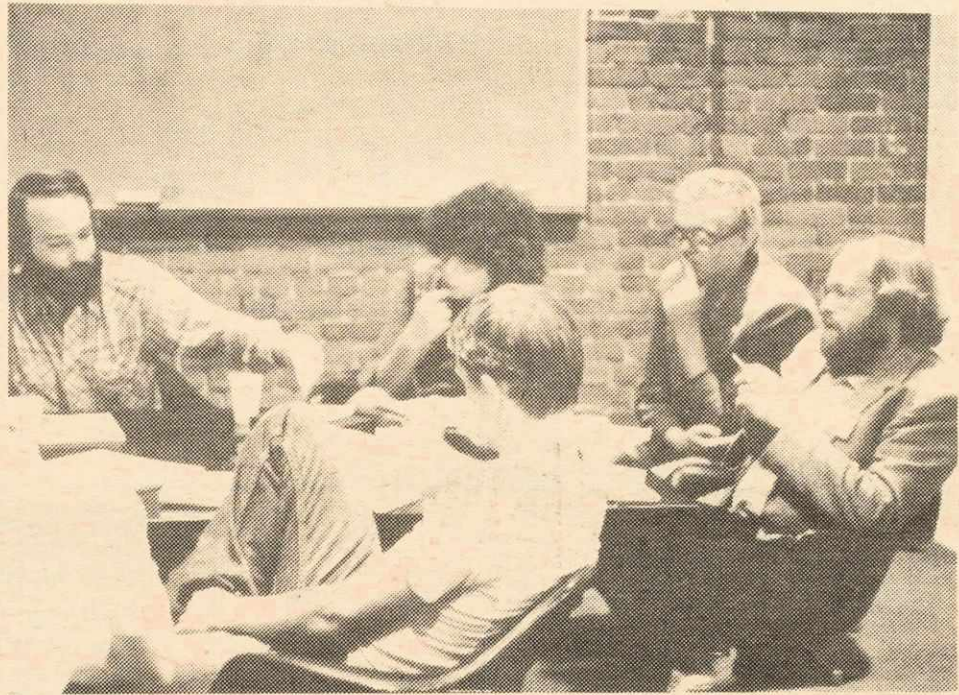
- conducting a rally at Province

House on Friday, October 15, at 1:00. During the rally, there will be a draw for the year's tuition which SUNS is raffling off.

Another idea which SUNS is considering is holding (mock) mass marriages to demonstrate concern over changes in the Nova Scotia Student Aid and Bursaries program which discriminate against unmarried students. In the changes, unmarried students will find it more difficult to gain "independent" status.

SUNS has also organized campuses to write and produce pamphlets of information on student issues for the week. The pamphlets will discuss issues such as the Atlantic Institute of Education closing, EPF University funding, student aid, and cutbacks.

Kavanagh is optimistic as to what the week can accomplish. "We think the public is receptive to learning what's going on," he said. "It's not a good year to be a student."



Coombes/Devil Photo

Government take steps to break media monopolies

by Doug Whittall

There was no fresh information on Federal news media ownership legislation coming from Minister of Multiculturalism James Fleming at a news conference last Thursday.

Fleming held an hour long news conference for a local television network before an estimated 50 students at the King's School of Journalism. During questioning, he sidestepped giving particular examples of how the government would break up existing regional monopolies. He also wouldn't state the means to be used to enforce legislated changes on publishers.

As the minister responsible for implementing the Kent Commission's recommendations, Fleming

said the government supports the inquiry's findings.

The Kent Commission was called by the government in 1980 after Canada's two largest newspaper chains, Southam and Thompson, each closed a paper in their chain which was competing with another chain paper. The August 27, 1980 closure of the *Winnipeg Tribune*, and the *Ottawa Journal* left those cities with only one newspaper each.

The government viewed the move as an attempt to divide markets, which is illegal under Canadian Combines law. The inquiry subsequently found chains control 77 per cent of English readership, and 90 per cent of the

French media.

Fleming described the federal proposals designed to regulate the trend towards concentrated news media ownership.

"Freedom of the press does not mean freedom from Government."

The proposals represent "an important starting point", dealing with "intimidating" conglomerate ownership, said Fleming. He added that the recommendations are designed to "ensure answerability of the large newspaper chains" such as Southam and Thompson.

The government will implement the Kent Commission's findings through five pieces of legislation. They would:

- "Limit further concentration by restricting a newspaper owner's control to 20 per cent of national circulation."

- "Protect the editorial independence of a newspaper bought by a non-media company by having the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission review the deal."

- "Ensure competition between newspapers, television and radio by restricting local cross-media ownership through the C.R.T.C."

- "Encourage new newspaper bureaux by offering matching grants of \$50,000 a year for each of

three years, with no strings or judgements attached."

- "Establish a nation-wide press council independent of government, which will monitor the state of the industry, and which will hear, investigate and report on the public's complaints about newspapers that don't already belong to a press council, meaning most of them."

Fleming said the proposed press councils would only apply to print media because the C.R.T.C. already regulates television and radio broadcast news. If publishers do not join the council voluntarily, Fleming said the government would legislate them

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Campus Activities

What's Happening Oct. 3 - 8

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Monday Mindpower

Computer Games Demonstration
12 Noon, Green Room, FREE.

Grawood Movies

Tuesday - 8 p.m. - "Papillon"
Wednesday - 8 p.m. - "Stripes"

Thursday at Noon

Howard Epstein, Ward II Alderman Candidate

T.G.I.F. Cinema

"A Choice of Two" and "Little White Crimes".
Rm. 410-412, SUB, 3-5 p.m. FREE.