

Turnout poor but STU gives AFS a landslide

On Wednesday, March 16, Saint Thomas University held a referendum on retaining membership in the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS) by voting on a \$1.00 per student membership fee increase. The vote was 223 in favor to 52 against.

In brief, the AFS position is that education policies in the four Atlantic provinces are becoming increasingly interrelated. It is felt that the individual student councils do not tend to generate enough interest and impact to bring about necessary changes. For this reason the AFS was established to collect and voice student opinions on such important issues as public support for higher education, student aid, employment, housing, and other relevant issues.

The organization provides inter-campus communications through individual campus co-ordinators. The four Atlantic provincial caucuses together with the federation's executive committee (consisting of a treasurer and secretary) assemble semi-annually. However it was felt that annual

resources of less than \$2500 were insufficient for them to be effective—thus the reason for \$1.00 a head increase.

To understand the results at STU the Bruns talked with Ann McManus (STU's SRC president). She felt that the considerable campaigning done by Sue McKinney (AFS), Miguel Figueroa (Nus) and the STU SRC brought about the result.

By ROBERT BLUE
and JOHN AINSWORTH

McManus, who had been to the last AFS conference considers the poor communications between universities a major problem, but feels that a field worker like Sue McKinney should serve to alleviate much of this problem. She believes that SRC presidents are too busy to visit and experience each others campuses. Therefore, the need for separate co-ordinators.

On polling some of the students after the voting it was found that surprising number of those who were in favor of it had lacked the time to vote.

Reasons for supporting AFS tended along the lines that STU is independently too small to affect the government but collectively universities could.

One person thought it a good idea but questioned the dedication of some of its members. Sometimes they don't have the students interests in mind. They know how good such a position looks on a job application and that seems all that matters. He was not too sure that the AFS takes a strong enough stand against undemocratic student council activities.

The general consensus seemed to be that some forum for better co-ordinating and communicating with other regional universities is necessary.

To compare with UNB where a similar referendum was defeated, Jim Murray, SRC president, said the concept of AFS is good but considers their recruiting methods inappropriate. He cited the possible reasons for its failure at UNB as a lack of communications with the university except when



Photo by Robert Blue
Saint Thomas University student president Anne McManus told The Brunswickan campaigning by NUS, AFS and the STU SRC helped AFS win a referendum on a one dollar per capita membership fee.

AFS wanted money and needed a SRC support. There will be an N.B. caucus meeting on March 26 at the SUB.

CHSR sports director under fire over March trip



CHSR sports director Mike Gange was the brunt of an SRC debate last Monday night. He is alleged to have used student union funds under false pretenses.



you find it a little strange that he was doing a remote from Toronto when CHSR was off the air?"

Pryde responded that he "didn't know what a remote was", and "It's an internal matter for CHSR."

He added that the money had been authorized in the fall, either to cover the basketball finals in Calgary or the Toronto aquatics finals. Since the basketball teams didn't make the finals, it was decided to go to Toronto.

Bleakney charged that non one in the CHSR executive, past or present, knew about any such authorization. Pryde admitted that former comptroller, Peter Davidson, didn't recall who was at the meeting.

Pryde gave Gange a cheque for \$250 for gas and lodging and Gange turned in receipts for \$353 after his trip. Spokesperson for CFNB sports said that Gange approached them to see if they were interested in phone-in reports. They accepted, and except for a wrap-up report for CHSR, it was the only report given to anyone.

Bleakney said "When he went around the station saying he was going to Toronto, nobody said anything because they didn't

connect it with station." He added, "Never before had he gone away to do a remote when live (CHSR) wasn't on the air. No one on the executive was aware of what he was doing."

Bleakney, CHSR programme director for two years said "I suppose it was the routine that caused this to happen and it's too bad". He said the routine is to allow cheques to be given for travel expenses without checking with those responsible for the money.

"Gange should never have taken the money, and Pryde should never have given it to him",

said Bleakney. He continued, saying "Pryde should have checked it out better, he probably will from now on. Gange has been sports director for two years and he knows better than that. I think Gange should resign."

Gange also approached CHSR assistant news director Bill Burroughs to go according to Bleakney, as well as giving comptroller Brian Pryde a ride to Toronto. While in Toronto, Gange visited an aunt in Hamilton, and a friend in Waterloo said Bleakney. "Bill told me he was pretty disgusted with it and should never have happened," said Bleakney.

UNB firm in opposition to differential fees

By HARRY BRODIE

"The University is not considering differential fees for foreign visa students, and has opposed them in a brief we recently prepared on the subject," said UNB president John Anderson when contacted concerning this controversial issue.

He went on to explain that only a small portion of a Universities' revenue comes from tuition fees, and the rest comes from government grants. "The idea of differential fees is based on the opinion that these foreign students are taking the places of Canadian students" said Anderson. The majority of provinces are against the imposition of such fees. However, Alberta presently levies a fee on the visa-holders,

and Ontario is about to do so starting in the fall.

The view of the University agrees with that of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).

The AUCC released the following statement after its meeting of February 24, 1977.

"The AUCC is currently engaged in a study of visa students in Canada which, hopefully, will result in certain constructive suggestions. The AUCC does not feel that Differential fees are an effective or desirable means to achieve an appropriate balance between Canadian and foreign students in Canadian universities."

It appears therefore that differential fees are still a ways off in this part of the country, since Dr. Anderson stated the fees were opposed "on principle".

By GERRY LASKEY

The Monday night SRC meeting became embroiled in a controversy between councillor Mike Bleakney and comptroller, Brian Pryde. The controversy centered on why CHSR sports director, Mike Gange, was allowed to cover the

national swimming and diving championships in Toronto during March break in a manner that amounted to reporting for CFNB (the local commercial AM radio station) on CHSR budgeted monies.

Bleakney asked Pryde, "Didn't

Federal politics

Avenue for patronage limited

Although some New Brunswick politicians may be fretting over alleged misdeeds, former cabinet minister Mitchell Sharp said he was personally aware of no corruption in all his years in Ottawa.

Sharp said the only patronage left the federal government are the Senate, some diplomatic appointments, boards and commissions and judges.

He said he himself helped personal friends three times in 13 years as a cabinet minister—an Air Canada Director, a judge and a director of a crown corporation for which there was no payments.

He said there was very limited patronage by civil servants when buying such things as paper clips and rubber bands—items too small to put to tender.

Sharp said all appointments to federal positions have to be by

competitive examination, and if a minister interferred on behalf of an individual, it would probably prejudice the civil service commission against that person.

Sharp said the federal government did not engage in local projects which were more readily adaptable to petty patronage, unlike provincial governments and further that federal appointments are too open to the media for politicians to take chances on.