

Sour notes in Music department

by M.P. MacKenzie

University decisions on who should get tenure and when are usually conducted in a fairly straightforward and efficient manner and rarely come to the attention of the university community as a whole, unless of course there is a problem. Problems in tenure sittings are more the exception than the rule but it is the exceptions we all hear about. Certainly tenure for the Chairman of a department

should be a straightforward and simple matter - not so in the case of Dalhousie's Music Department Chairman - Peter Fletcher.

Rumours are running freely through the Music department and the student body as to Mr. Fletcher's fate. Further rumors are circulating as to who is and who is not going to resign in the music faculty, depending on the outcome of the tenure decision.

The Gazette spoke to several

persons involved though because no decision has yet been made there was little that could be publicly said. The University tenure committee has, after an unusually long sitting according to the chairman, finally forwarded a recommendation to the Dean of Arts and Science. The next step is for the Dean's recommendation to be forwarded to the President but according to Dr. Gray this step has not been taken. The Dean has not yet formulated a

recommendation but expects to do so in the near future, possibly at the end of this month.

Because of the complications involved in this particular case the proceedings have stretched out over a long time period. This is indeed unfortunate since at least one resignation from the music department may be strongly influenced by the tenure decision. World renowned Bassist Gary Karr, a member of the Music faculty is seriously considering resignation effective at the end of this academic year. He has told his students to consider application to another university in the event they may be unable to get the training they want at Dalhousie next year. There is no question that definite disagreements between the Chairman and Mr. Karr in question have led to this situation. According to music department faculty there has never been a clear enunciation of the department's real objectives and though there are faculty meetings the faculty receives little or no feedback about their recommendations or reasons for decisions affecting the department as a whole.

Innumerable factors are being taken into account in considering Mr. Fletcher's tenure and the process is taken an inordinately long time. In the mean time at least some students in the music department are forced to delay their decisions as to what university they will attend next year - Dalhousie or in the event of resignations a university where they can get the training they need and desire.

Student unions prepare briefs

by A. Bishop

Presidents and representatives of the major student unions in Nova Scotia met in Truro this past weekend to draft a brief on Student Aid to be presented to Nova Scotia's Minister of Education at the end of the month.

Dalhousie was represented at the conference, hosted by the N.S. Agricultural College, by Bruce Russell, council president and Avarad Bishop, external affairs officer for the union.

Also present were the presidents of the student unions of St. Francis Xavier, Acadia, St. Mary's, King's College, the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, and the College of Cape Breton. Representatives from Mt. St. Vincent, and Teacher's College and Nova Scotia College of Art and Design also met Saturday to prepare the brief on the invitation offered by the minister, Dr. William Gillis, in a meeting with student leaders in November of last year. The presentation will include requests and recommendations concerning, among other topics, cost of living allowances, the loan/bursary ratio, the plight of married and part-time students, student representation in policy

making and repayment as well as suggestions dealing with income statements and other possible abuses of the program. Dalhousie had included in the program recommendations concerning the employment of students in the Student Aid office during the summer.

The institutions form the Nova Scotia caucus of the Atlantic Federation of Students, and the Truro meeting was planned to include a meeting of the Federation, which represents students from universities and colleges in the four Atlantic provinces. Since the inception of the Federation January, 1975, it has provided a useful forum for interchange of opinion and experience among the presidents of the various student councils and unions.

The weekend conference attempted to elucidate the principal concerns of the federation, and the delegates present, which included the Nova Scotia caucus as well as representatives from New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island agreed to consider as principal activities the problems of housing, student aid, an effective

communications network and the relationship of the federation to a roughly equivalent body, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, a Fredericton based agency of the Council of Maritime Premiers.

Cows and sheep were not forgotten at the conference, although admittedly not extensively discussed. The delegates remaining on Sunday afternoon were given a flash tour of the extensive facilities of the Agricultural College, ranging from welding and machine shops to Ayrshires and Holsteins, and including a drying and processing plant for poultry manure!

The next conference of the federation is scheduled for May 1 and 2 at St. Francis Xavier University at Antigonish.

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INFORMATION MEETING: SCIENCE STUDENTS

DAY: TUES. JAN. 27

TIME: 11:30

PLACE: RM. 215 CHEM BLDG.

If unable to attend please contact:

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