

# MPHEC rejects AFS bid for public forum

by Valerie Mansour

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission has denied the Atlantic Federation of Students' (AFS) request to meet together in a public forum on the Dalhousie campus. In a letter to AFS the commission said they could not fit a campus visit into their schedule but that AFS was welcome to present a brief to the commission at the Holiday Inn on Tuesday, March 7.

At the last Nova Scotia caucus meeting of AFS, delegates defeated a motion to boycott the commission's public speaking tour and instead decided to attend the meeting to "expose the MPHEC for what it really is." The commission was meant to be a neutral body which was established to make financial recommendations to Maritime institutions. Last year the MPHEC asked the governments to increase subsidies to the institutions for 1977-78 by 11.5% but the government decreased this figure to 7%. This year's recommendation of 14% was cut almost in half.

AFS requested that the commission come to campus so that large numbers of students could be in attendance to question the role of the MPHEC. "We are still urging students to come even if the meeting won't be on campus," said Denise Roberge, Nova Scotia Caucus chairperson. "We hope people show up—the meeting will only be successful if students attend. The MPHEC is simply a farce and students should realize it."

## Council of Maritime Premiers to meet Friday

The Council of Maritime Premiers who are meeting Friday in Edmundston, New Brunswick have refused to meet with AFS because of a long standing policy. "No groups have ever been allowed to make a formal presentation", said Francis

MacGuire of the CMP. "We don't receive briefs from private organizations."

Student representation on the MPHEC is on the agenda for the meeting according to MacGuire. Sister Catherine Wallace (chairperson of the MPHEC) will be in attendance. Placing a student on the commission has been a main priority for AFS this year.

AFS staffperson, Lou Anne Meloché, said that "We fully expect to get a rep on the MPHEC—selected by AFS. They don't want us to be there to discuss it with them but we are confident the idea will be approved."

Petitions recently circulated on Maritime campuses will be sent to the CMP. The petitions call for the council to give the post-secondary institutions the level of funding recommended by the MPHEC.

This CMP meeting is one of the four meetings the council holds throughout the year. Allocations for non-space grants, the only section of institutions' operating budgets not yet announced, are not on the agenda for the meeting.

## On-campus organizing continues

Student committees have been formed at both Mount Saint Vincent and Saint Mary's Universities to research and fight against educational cutbacks. The specific cutbacks on each campus will be examined and the results of this research will be included in a brief to be sent to the Council of Maritime Premiers. The information campaigns on the various campuses will culminate with public speaking forums likely to feature government, administration, and students.

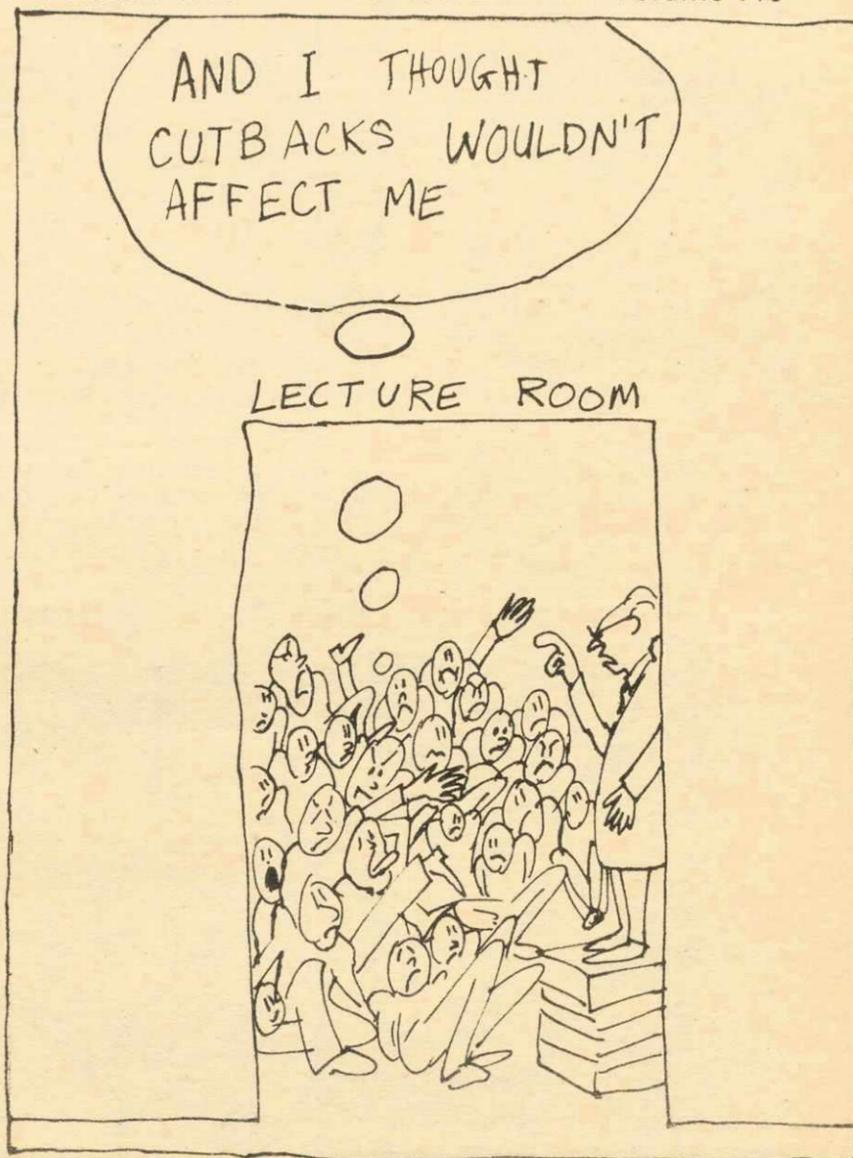
The petition being circulated had reached about 500 people at Dalhousie by Tuesday and over 1000 throughout the province, and

# the dalhousie gazette

2 March 1978

Number 21

Volume 110



in New Brunswick where a similar petition is being circulated by the New Brunswick Coalition of Students, over 1000 signatures had been obtained.

There is a meeting at Dalhousie

this Thursday at 7:30 to coordinate a campaign on this campus. The first meeting held a month ago attracted few people so that very little work has been done at Dalhousie since then.

# Gazette proposes independence from council

The Dalhousie student Council will be considering a proposal to allow **The Dalhousie Gazette** to become an independent society at Sunday night's council meeting.

Peter Greene, chairperson of the council's constitution committee, will be recommending that council accept the **Gazette's** proposal to incorporate as a separate entity. Should council members approve of

newspaper has been kicked around for quite a long time now. It's certainly not a new concept but it's the first time a great deal of research was done into possible alternatives to the present situation."

"I believe in the basic philosophy of freedom of the press", said Greene. "No political body should have control over the press, whether

faculty member, a person from the professional media, and a lawyer. The business advertising manager, hired by the board, would be the non-voting member.

Ken Dodd who drew up the proposal as an employee of Canadian University Press (CUP) said, "The student press can only improve by becoming independent of their student councils. A board such as the one we are recommending could provide important detached control for the paper. The

board will allow for direct student control without the hassles that go along with council-paper relations. Autonomy is becoming a national trend. Over a dozen CUP newspapers are operating under a publications board and many more are in the process of rewriting their constitutions to allow for such a setup."

All Dalhousie students will become members of the **Gazette Publications Society** upon payment

continued on page 2

## INFORMATION SESSION

Come to the information meeting tonight at 8 p.m. in room 314, SUB. Discuss the **Gazette's** plans for incorporation with the staff of the **Gazette**. The meeting is open to all student council members and to all members of the Dalhousie community.

the concept, a student referendum will be held for consent of a \$1 increase in student union fees. This year council will also be requesting approximately a \$3 increase due to continual deficits in the drug plan. Presently, \$3.12 of the student union fee goes towards the **Gazette**. Under the new proposal the **Gazette** would receive a direct levy of \$4 per student, rather than the budget being approved by council, who now has the ability to make changes.

**Gazette** editor, Valerie Mansour, said: "The idea of an independent

that be direct or indirect. Right now our control is only financial but actually that is direct control because we have the power to close down the paper."

The **Gazette's** proposal is that the paper be under the control of a publishing board consisting of nine directors and one non-voting director. The majority of the board's members would be students—three elected at large, one council rep, one **Gazette** rep, and a member of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students. The other board members would be a Dalhousie

# Two teams campaign

Only two presidential teams have filed nomination papers for the March 15 student council election. As of Monday's 5 p.m. deadline the teams of Tab Borden and Alan Conway and Mike Power and Cathy MacLean gave notice of their intention to campaign for the student union positions.

Eleven candidates for other council positions have won their seats by acclamation while eight seats remain vacant. Nominations have been extended for another week for one rep each in Pharmacy, Nursing, Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Health Professions, Fenwick Place, and Graduate Studies. Nomination

forms are due Monday March 6 at 5 p.m.

There will be a six person race for three Science seats and two people for one Commerce seat.

Forums for the Dalhousie community to hear the candidates' views will be held Thursday March 9 from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Law School, Sunday March 12 in the Shirreff Hall Dining Room from 7:30-10:00 p.m., Monday March 13 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Grad House, and Tuesday, March 14 in the SUB Lobby 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Election campaigning begins March 3 and will continue until March 14 at 11:00 p.m.