

# Editor Resigns from Journal

by Sandy MacDonald

In a surprise move last Wednesday, October 31, five members of the editorial staff of the St. Mary's Journal presented their letters of resignation and promptly terminated their association with the student paper.

Citing interference and undue criticism from Student Representative Council Vice-

President Internal Tom Nesbitt and other non-staffers as grounds, editor Eligio Gaudio resigned in protest over external pressure being applied to the staff, restricting "the effort to produce a student newspaper for the students".

Resigning along with Gaudio are photo editor Sterling Harpell, entertainment editor Michael Quinn and staff writers

Michael McManus and Ken Storey. Business manager Bernice Rechnitzer resigned subsequently on Friday.

The Journal recently was involved in a censorship issue, which prompted some negative reaction toward the paper

from certain areas of the campus body. A letter from the Vice-President Internal to the editor suggested that the

content of the paper was not in the best interest of the students. The collective feeling of those who resigned was that the Students Council had too much control over the editorial content of the paper, and consequently the Journal could not produce the paper it felt it was capable of producing.

As of Tuesday, November 7,

the Journal was able to rally a replacement staff and produce this week's paper. Acting editor Pam Robertson feels the paper will continue to publish and with elections for the new editorial staff to be held in two weeks, she is confident that the Journal will quickly recover from this setback a little wiser to the pressures of producing a student newspaper.

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### SUNS Brief Calls for Major Changes in Aid Program

by Tom Regan

Changes in the age of independence requirements and a sliding scale for summer earnings of students were the major recommendations presented to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission Committee for the Study of Financial Aid to Maritime Students by Mike McNeil, chairperson for the Student Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS). The SUNS brief was one of many presented by student and university groups concerned about student aid.

McNeil told the committee these were the two major stumbling blocks to students in the province of Nova Scotia.

McNeil said SUNS was asking for the age of independence to be set at 18. The present system uses several methods to determine the age of independence, all of which SUNS considers to be unfair to most students. An "independent" student may apply for more student aid than a "dependent" student.

"Setting the age at 18 will enable many more students to use the student aid system to their advantage", said McNeil. "A review board could be set up to check into abuses of the system. Also any student who wished to remain as a dependent after the age of 18 could do so. This way parents who are paying their children's way through college could still claim the tax benefit."

McNeil also condemned the present system used to determine how much money a student must save over the summer if he wished to qualify for student aid.

"Asking a student to work 18 weeks over the summer and save \$52.50 a week is unrealistic and unfair", said the SUNS representative. "It's very hard for students to get 18 weeks of work over the summer. In some areas like Cape Breton it's hard for students to find any work at all. And most of the jobs students get is only minimum wage, which means they bring home \$101.52 a week. If a

student has any expenses at all it's impossible to save the required amount."

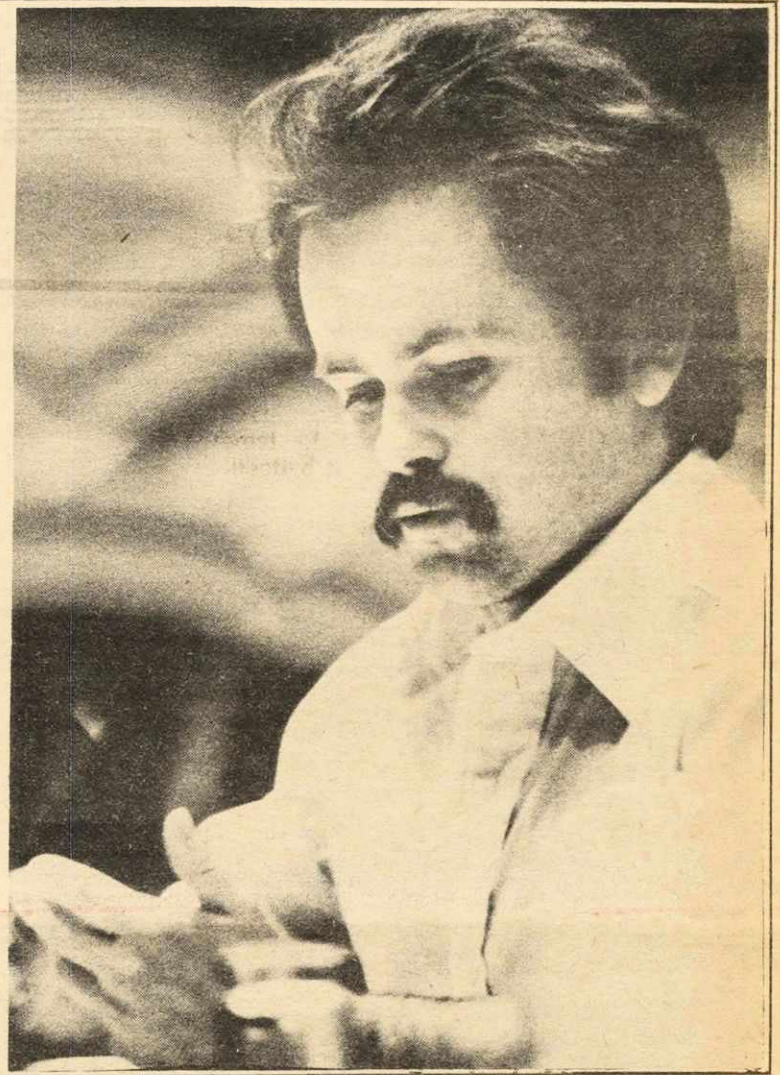
What SUNS would like to see is a system where required summer savings would be directly linked to the amount of weeks worked and money earned. This way a sliding table like the one used to determine money given according to parents' income could be drawn up.

SUNS also called for special assistance for handicapped students because of their special problems, a lowering of the amount of money needed in a loan before a bursary could be obtained to \$1000 from the present level of \$1600 and the opening of the student aid program to part-time students. Part-time students are presently not eligible for any form of student aid.

Part-time student aid was also a popular topic with many of the other groups who presented briefs to the committee.

Dick Matthews, president of

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Mike McNeil Speaks at Hearing Dal Photo / Grandv

## inside the Gazette

### Liberals, NDP Oppose Bill

by Susan Edgett

The Liberal Party is opposed to the Buchanan government's proposed amendment to the Trade Union Act of Nova Scotia, said Liberal leader Gerald Regan in an interview yesterday.

The proposed amendment would be legislated to suit the needs of multinational corporations, said Regan. If multinational companies, such as Michelin Tire (Canada) Ltd., set up in our province, they should live by Nova Scotia laws and not try to have them changed, he said.

The New Democratic Party of Nova Scotia has expressed a definite "no" to the proposed amendment. The NDP members are not expected to support the Buchanan government, nor could the four members "filibuster" to alter

the decision.

In '73 the Liberal government changed the regulations for union certification when one unit of engineers from Michelin Tire applied to the Labour Relations Board. In order to unionize and have legal striking privileges, the regulation stipulated that not just one group, but the majority of workers at one plant must be in favor of a union.

The Buchanan government counts on taking the regulation one step further under the Trade Union Act, by enforcing all Nova Scotia plants which are owned by one company and are determined to be "interdependent", to apply for unionization as one bargaining unit.

The key word in this proposal is "interdependent

plants". This raises several questions. What defines "interdependency" between plants in the manufacturing field, or in any field, for that matter? And who will be the determining factor in deciding whether two plants are "interdependent", the government, the company or the Labor Relations Board?

The Liberal Party recommends that the Labor Relations Board, consisting of equal representation of labor and management, continue to use its discretion in determining whether certain plants are "interdependent" and whether the factor has a significant bearing on the application for union certification. The provincial opposition leader does not see any reason for amending the Trade Union

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