

## Surprise! More aid

**ST. JOHN'S (CUP)** -- Students in Newfoundland will get \$1.7 million more in student aid this year.

The government recently announced the increase in grants along with other improvements in the student aid program.

"We want to ensure that all qualified Newfoundlanders have the opportunity to continue their studies beyond high school," said Phil Warren, Newfoundland's education minister.

The increases are targeted at specific groups, particularly married students and single parents, according to Paul Smith, an official with the student aid program.

Students who are married and those with dependents will see their maximum grant increase from \$1,250 to \$1,600 per semester, while single students will see theirs rise from \$1,000 to \$1,120.

The definition of "independent student" will also be amended to include all single students with dependents. Under the previous system, single parents living with their parents did not qualify for the higher allowance.

Allowance for child care has also been increased for students using other than registered child care centres -- from \$150 to \$250 per month.

Other improvements include: increasing the ceiling from \$900 to \$1,280; room and board allowance will increase from \$76 to \$80 per week; book allowance provisions will increase by \$25 to a total of \$200 per semester for Memorial University students and by \$50 to \$300 at other institutions; and graduate students from outside the province will now be eligible for provincial grants.

Warren noted that the federal government hasn't increased funding since 1984, which means that with inflation there has been an actual decrease in the value of student loans.

He said he "will continue to pressure my federal counterpart on this issue."

## Open door defended

**OTTAWA (CUP)** -- Carleton's student council officially condemned any plans by the administration to close the university's open door admissions policy.

After three hours of debate at an emergency council meeting Oct. 2, councillors passed a motion of action to preserve Carleton's policy, which doesn't limit admissions to the arts and sciences programs.

The move is in response to university president Robin Farquhar recent comments indicating Carleton may review the policy because of a lack of funding.

The motion of action sends a signal to administration that any plans to revise it will be protested by the council. A committee was struck to begin actively lobbying against changes.

"It doesn't matter what kind of students come into the university, but what kind of students come out of it," council executive Ray Sullivan said during the debate.

Councillor Joe Katzman argued against the open door policy, saying once students come to Carleton "it's sink or swim, and nobody gives a damn."

He went on to say the current policy resulted in not less than "academic fraud" as far as he was concerned.

## Fun with condoms

**(CUP/CPS)** -- Reginald Fennell goes to great lengths to make his students think about AIDS.

Fennell, who teaches a course called Health Education for AIDS at Ohio's Miami University, has held contests to see who in the class can get a condom on a banana the fastest. And he once had his students hand out 1,000 coupons for novelty "Kiss of Mint" condoms.

"Some reports in journal articles say that humor is the better way to go" when teaching about AIDS, Fennell explained.

A number of U.S. schools are trying to demystify the subject by trying to make fun of it.

A gorilla-costumed "King Condom" has toured the University of Texas to show passersby how to put a condom on a banana. The State University of New York held a "Sexuality Week" that included a condom dance.

And a private company called College Condoms is now distributing condoms that come in school colors.

It's all to get students to feel more comfortable discussing AIDS, said Fennell, who added that the class has been full almost every semester since he started teaching it two years ago.

"I'm certain not trying to make light of a serious disease like AIDS," Fennell said. "I try to do things to make my students think."

## McDonough optimistic

# NDP on the rise?

by Paul Webster

"This is a fantastic time for the NDP...it's time for a major thrust in this province".

This was the message Alexa McDonough, leader of the Nova Scotia New Democratic Party, brought to Dalhousie on October 10.

All partisan considerations aside, it is a statement the leader of the Nova Scotia NDP has little trouble substantiating. With the landslide victory in Ontario, the achievement of official opposition status in Manitoba, and rosy prospects in Saskatchewan and B.C., why not here?

Speaking to a group of Dalhousie students the articulate, forceful and experienced parlia-

**"The Liberals are already regretting Chretien"**

mentarian pointed out John Buchanan has perhaps done more for the NDP of late than anybody in the party itself. In assessing the Nova Scotia political scene as a whole she emphasized that the 15 to 20 per cent provincial unemployment rate (up to 90 per cent in some black and Micmac communities) now seems to be an institutional part of the Conservative regime.

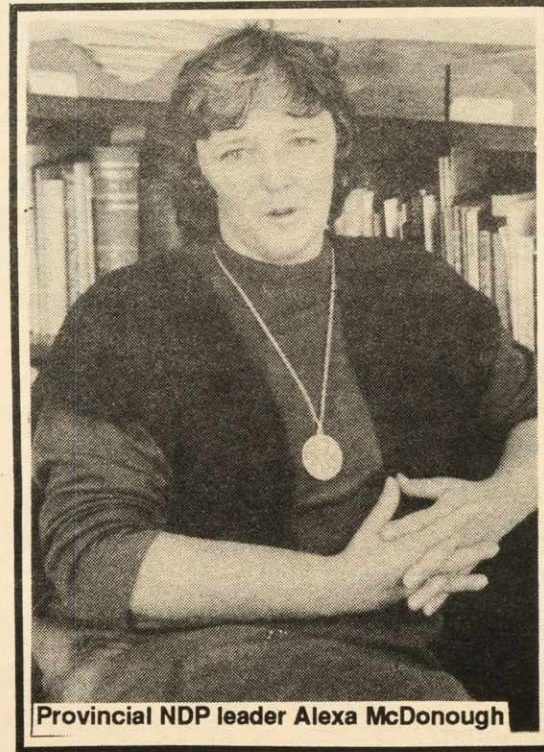
Addressing student issues McDonough said Nova Scotia now has the lowest levels of student assistance in Canada, and perhaps not unrelated, that the Conservative leadership race is revealing the bulk of the people

supporting the party were students sometime well before the nuclear age, the acid rain era, the welfare mother era or even the era of universality in education and health care.

Speaking of Provincial Liberals she asked, "I would defy anybody to give me a list of ten issues, or even just one issue, on which the Liberals have used their im-

Chretien. It will take more than folksiness to solve this country's problems".

McDonough's spirit is perhaps as necessarily upbeat as it has to be for a woman who spent years as the sole female in a hostile House. She seems genuinely enthused about emerging popular support for the "political alternative" in the Province. In defining



Provincial NDP leader Alexa McDonough

portant Opposition status to make a difference in the last ten years". McDonough said patronage has been an NDP issue for ten years or more, while the Liberals have consistently voted against laws demanding disclosure of political contributions, freedom of information, and an effective legislative anti-patronage package. Attacking the Federal Liberals she said "they are already regretting

the Party's agenda she stresses the unemployment crisis, racial and ethnic discrimination, patronage and, of course, the environment. In calling for a fairer distribution of wealth, and for environmentally sensitive economic planning, McDonough said "If the corporations, the Conservatives and the Liberals were going to look after these things, we wouldn't be in the mess we're in".

# Tragedy at St. F. X.

by Liz Langlois

**ANTIGONISH, N.S. (CUP)**—The festive spirit of St. Francis Xavier's annual homecoming parade came to an abrupt end Sept. 29 when a visiting student was crushed to death under the rear wheels of a flatbed trailer.

University College of Cape Breton student Larry Sampson, 20, had been riding on a float in the parade, held every year before St. F.X.'s homecoming football game. There are conflicting accounts of how Sampson got under the trailer that carried the float.

RCMP Constable Reg Lagace, who was nearby when the acci-

dent occurred, said one version had Sampson getting off the float with other students. For some reason, he tried to get back on the float, but lost his footing and fell to the ground.

In another version, Sampson lost his balance and fell off the float.

Although he didn't know whether the incident was alcohol-related, Student Services director Jim McMullin said high alcohol consumption on the campus concerns him.

"With the amount of out-of-control drinking on campus, this was probably just an accident

waiting to happen," said McMullin.

Constable Lagace said Sampson's blood-alcohol level would "most likely" be released through a public inquiry. Crown Prosecutor Rod Chisholm said he is certain an inquiry will be held, but could not say when.

St. F.X. president David Lawless called the accident a "fluke" that was "not foreseeable or preventable."

No standard safety regulations exist for the types of floats that may be entered in the parade, or the number of people allowed on each float.