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Things are looking up at the Gazette, but oh gosh, horror of horrors, wouldn't cha know it, the year comes to an end. Pictured above (or below, depending on your point of view) are some of the survivors of this year's staff. As Bobbie Vinton once said, See you in September.

Standardized exams not for N.S.

by Charlene Sadler

Nova Scotia has no plans to follow Ontario's lead in introducing province-wide departmental exams for high school students.

Standardized provincial exams were eliminated in Nova Scotia in 1972, although recent concerns about the quality of high school graduates have resulted in some speculation about their return.

The Nova Scotia Teachers' Union (NSTU) is opposed to the reintroduction of the exams.

"Provincial exams are tools of universities for judging entrance criteria," said NSTU president Harold Doucette. "Universities should do the work themselves."

The NSTU objects to the fact that outside agencies would correct the exams and not the teachers.

"All the high schools have different curriculums," says

Doucette. "The correction of the exams is too subjective."

The Ontario government promised in its March 20 throne speech that province-wide exams will be designed to "maintain the high quality of our education system."

Ontario Liberal education critic Sean Conway said he does not think province-wide exams are necessarily a bad thing. Some universities have instituted their own systems of evaluating high

schools. There could be standardized exams to ensure fairness, he said.

Will Sayers, a spokesperson for the Council of Ontario Universities, said the COU has been in favour of departmental exams in English, French and math for some time.

Sayers said he does not think departmental exams will lead to narrowness in high school education if teachers prepared students for specific graduation exams.

Declining quality of education hits SUNS

The Students' Union of Nova Scotia may have a point about the declining quality of education.

It was recently noticed that the

organization called itself the "Student's Union of Nova Scotia" on its printed stationary.

The question is, what student does the union belong to?

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