

## High costs keep students from Dal

By BILL MITCHELL

The Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) says hard-up young people are being denied access to a university education.

Judy Guthrie, SUNS president, claims people who are academically qualified are not going to university because of money problems. She cites the problems in costs of living, especially in Halifax.

"Tuition, housing and costs of books are high and ever increasing," Guthrie said.

The provincial government disagrees.

"There are no young Canadians in this country who do not have access to this country's post secondary system by reasons of lack of resources," said Terry Donahoe, Nova Scotia's education minister, while addressing the Nova Scotia Colleges and University Faculty Association on June 5.

Dr. Peter Butler, assistant to Donahoe, admitted times are hard for students. He says he recognizes the rising costs of tuition and books, and the acute housing shortage in Halifax.

"Some people will have to face these problems in a recession," said Butler.

SUNS says there is enough of a problem to justify a survey by each union into the numbers of students with financial difficulties. Guthrie says she hopes by the end of this fall comprehensive evidence will have been drawn up to back up SUNS' claims.

But Guthrie knows of examples closer to home.

"One friend of mine was unable to return to full-time education because he had to work part-time to pay his way," said Guthrie. She says the problem was compounded by typically low wages in these "spare time jobs."

Butler says he recognises the problems students have in getting jobs to help support their education, and they are often low paid.

Butler says the student aid programme is generous under the circumstances.

"Does the public pay for everything? All costs can't be covered; there are plenty of other things that need government funding," Butler said.

He says the universities were not to be the "parking lots of the unemployed."

"I have received a number of complaints from the public that money is being wasted on education."

Butler denied that some of the federal funds earmarked for education were being used for other things, and that this was the reason why funding to universities was insufficient.

"This is an old debate which was cleared up in 1982. All our money received for education goes to education. It may be true in other provinces that money is being siphoned off, but in Nova Scotia, this is not the case," Butler said. He says the recession is at the centre of the problem.

Judy Guthrie says the economic situation made governments justifiably less generous toward all areas.

"But it is a crime that numbers are restricted because of finance," she said. □

## Former student union president takes NDP nomination

By KATIE FRASER

Former Dalhousie student union president Tim Hill won the NDP's nomination for the Halifax-Cornwallis riding Monday night.

Tessa Hebb, NDP candidate in the September federal election, declined a nomination at the meeting.

Hill easily took the nomination in a show of hands. Hill will run against minister of education Terry Donahoe.

"I am going to run to win and I think we are going to win," declared Hill.

Hill discussed the issues he would bring forth in this election in his nomination speech. He says that although education is extremely important and is the basis of his campaign, there are

other issues to consider. These include reviewing the housing situation in the south end of Halifax, youth unemployment, unemployment as a whole and ways to develop our industrial and human resources.

Because a large part of the Halifax-Cornwallis riding is composed of university students it is important that they be fully represented, said Hill. This means that they all must get out and vote.

"It's up to us to get the students to vote as ordinary citizens. Now is the time, they are never going to get another opportunity to get rid of the Tories," says Hill.

Hill says he will be appealing to the students of Dalhousie for their support.

"With their support we can get rid of the minister of education," said Hill. □



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## Student union desires advocacy

By MAUREEN EVANS

The Dalhousie Student Union has come up with a student advocacy committee to combat the problems students face when they make an appeal. The red tape students have encountered when attempting to make an appeal has often been a great hindrance.

The Ombuds Reports of 1983-84 revealed a need for an advocacy service for students, to no surprise of any members of the Dalhousie Student Union who were already aware of the need for an advisory committee regarding the appeals issue.

Alex Gigeroff, Dalhousie Student Union president, says students should be properly represented, and this is not possible without some assistance to the student. In the past, numerous students have hired lawyers to contend with the complexities of an appeal. "This is a costly and needless expense," says Gigeroff. "The role of the advocates would be to advise, assist and instruct the students."

The normal procedure for an appeal, whether it concerns a grade or an application, is to approach the ombudsman. If still unresolved, the case is presented to the faculty appeals division. If necessary, it is forwarded to the Senate of Aca-

demie Appeals. This process can often be long, tedious and confusing for the student, involving terms and conditions with which the student is not familiar.

Previously, cases have been dismissed from the appeals board for "minor reasons", such as not filling out the forms properly.

This is the type of thinking advocates hope to avoid, says Gigeroff. Adequate representation is an important factor in any type of appeal.

Dr. D. D. Betts, Dean of Arts and Science, says there is a need for some type of assistance, but is hesitant about students being involved as advocates.

"Sometimes it is too difficult and time consuming for a full-time student," says Betts.

He says the reorganization of the registrar's office has created a Director of Admissions and the new position of an advocate to assist the students.

"Perhaps it would be easier for us full-time people to handle such an advocacy job."

E. T. Marriott, Dean of Student Services and Chairperson of the Ombudsmen Committee says, "Many students will use the service because it is neutral; it doesn't contain the trappings of administration. I don't see how it could possibly disrupt the present structures and administrative services."

Marriott says he agrees with the creation of a student advocacy service advisory committee, but is concerned with the proper training of advocates.

"They should be sensitized to the basic skills of counselling and advising," he said. "In fairness to both parties there should be some sort of training."

Alex Gigeroff says he hopes students will make use of the service. "It's important for them to know this service is available and readily accessible for them," he said.

## Ontario federation breaks ties with CFS

LONDON, Ont. (CUP)—The Ontario Federation of Students has broken its official ties with Canada's national student lobby group, leaving national student leaders worried about their organization's future.

"The hastiness of a decision like this is dangerous," said Beth Olley, Canadian Federation of Students chair, at the Sept. 22 to 23 conference of the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario/Ontario Federation of Students.

"A national organization without Ontario will go down the tubes," Olley said.

Although the move means students in Ontario can now focus their efforts solely on provincial concerns, Olley said it will weaken CFS and might prompt other provinces to pull out.

But many conference delegates said the move was necessary to simplify the organization's structure and constitution.

"If we're both strangling each other with by-laws, we'll never reach our full potential," said Monika Turner, CFS/OFS chair. The Ontario Federation will simply become OFS when the change occurs—the CFS-O name will be dropped from the title.

Turner said the move is not "anti-CFS" but an attempt by Ontario students to recognize the problems facing their own organization and the national group.

"It's no secret that CFS is undergoing financial difficulties," Turner added. The national federation currently has a \$65,000 deficit.

"(But) I think what OFS is saying is 'let us do provincial development growth, and that way CFS can benefit.'"

The decision to end ties means the provincial organization will likely be more appealing to some institutions, such as the University of Toronto, Brock, Laurier and Windsor universities, Turner said.