

## Meet the candidates

by Kim Fontaine-Skronski

As you all should know by now, there will be a federal election on October 25. In the riding of Halifax, 10 candidates are running for the position of MP. You didn't know there were 10 parties? In fact, there are a lot more than 10 parties throughout Canada (about 30 without counting independents), ranging from the Natural Law Party to the Marxist-Leninist Party. I got the chance to interview four candidates of the leading parties running in Halifax on issues concerning education.

### COMMENTARY

You may not care much about politics; you may find it difficult to understand or you may just not bother with it, but as a university student soon hitting (if not already in the thick of) the job market, you may want to know what's going on. We all know about Canada's growing deficit and record-high levels of people on the pogie, none of which seems to attract much attention from our beloved government. Well, maybe you are tired of being ignored — I sure the hell know I am. And maybe you want to have some input concerning your future, as a member of the generation which will be stuck with the consequences of today's mistakes.

The four questions I asked the hopeful MPs concerned the issues of federal funding, student aid, their overall views on education and the proposed Dalhousie cutbacks. All candidates stressed that education was a major issue. But then again, would you expect them to say otherwise?

#### The education issue

Steve Greene of the Reform Party, who spoke to me about his party's plan to reduce the deficit to zero in three years, emphasized that "postsecondary education is not touched at all [in the plan]," and is in favour of increased funding "for higher education as an investment in Canada's future."

Mary Clancy of the Liberal Party said the financial situation is bad and that people have to take cuts, but she stresses that "cuts have to be done fairly and across the board, and putting it on the backs of Canada's students is not the way to do it." She also says she believes the Atlantic provinces do not get their fair share of federal funding. "I cannot promise that we will restore

funding at the levels of nine years ago immediately," she admitted, "but we will start to restore funding."

As for the candidate running for the party which forms the present government, Jim Vaughan, the first thing he told me was, "I am committed to post-secondary education, and I am committed to the federal government." I wondered: shouldn't MPs be committed to the people they are representing? The very people who elected the candidate? I am aware that MPs must be committed to their government, but maybe it's time for governments and the people involved in politics to start listening to and working for the people.

Vaughan envisions "a much greater role for the university, not only in education but in the general development of our country." When I asked him about his proposals on cuts needed to reduce the deficit and whether this would infringe on federal funding, he replied, "There is no change in the

### It's time for governments to start working for the people

federal funding for post-secondary education, and I am firmly committed to it." Vaughan also added that he has personal reasons to be committed to post-secondary funding, as his own son is in the Masters of Public Administration program and has thus been touched by the Dalhousie cutbacks.

"I think the route to take," he said, "first of all is to maintain what we have now and encourage marketing programs for developing your business sectors, to encourage and develop our economy and local businesses." This all sounds very 'proper' to say. What I keep asking myself is how you can be committed to no change? The NDP's priorities are job creation and employment, and education is related to both of those issues. The reason to get a better education is to be able to find a decent job, so employment is very important to consider when talking about education. Lynn Jones, the NDP candidate, believes that "we have to provide for the future of young people, to be educated with the view of receiving employment following that." She also added that educators "can't expect to do that unless governments provide for people to get educated, and part of that includes funding."

A very important point she made,

and she was the only one to point it out, was that federal funding should increase "as cost rises." The party and herself also believe that what we need in this country is "a highly trained educated work force in terms of getting people jobs." Their proposed changes would be "access for all Canadians to higher education and where you are not forced to pay unfair taxes on top of that. If there is interest on loans, it should be fair, with lower rates and an extended grace period because there are no jobs out there."

#### Finding the funds

Now you might ask yourself, where are they going to get the funding to support these changes? The NDP seems to have few proposals.

Mary Clancy wants to change the student loan program and fix it. She understands that many students are on student loans and in order to make it efficient, "we have to have a flexible program." She also added that, "we are not going to educate or fulfil the promise that we have to fulfil for young people if we don't give them the opportunity to be educated and trained." Clancy added that rather than cutting, the Liberals are looking more at building the economy, which is of course a good way of thinking, but if there are no cuts, or only small ones, how are we supposed to reduce the deficit?

The Reform Party candidate, Steve Greene, believes that a student loan program should be supervised and controlled by government, which would guarantee the loans, thereby making the banks less stiff on giving them out.

Cut backs to the Dalhousie theatre, music, and costume studies programmes were of great worry to all candidates interviewed. The Liberals and NDP spoke about the importance of Canada keeping its culture intact. As Lynn Jones said, "Canada is a very diverse country, and theatre and music is the very fabric of Canada." The PC candidate did not mention culture, and the Reform Party candidate proposed that since these programs are very costly, universities should perhaps get together and each university would be able to specialize in particular programs.

I hope this has given you a better outlook on what the candidates of this riding believe in, and also hope I have made your decision a little easier to make. And don't forget to vote on October 25, because your vote counts just as much as anybody else's.

## DFA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the commitment already made by the Senate, the BoG and the MPHEC when he presented his recommendations.

Stuttard continues by saying that, "unless [Clark] agrees that vertical cuts for financial reasons are not permitted by Article 25 and agrees to change his recommendations, [the DFA expects] to bring this issue to arbitration within three months." In this case the two parties would have to go to court and allow an arbitrator to decide for both parties whether the cuts can go through as presented by Clark.

In the end, however, the DFA's dispute with Clark is not purely based on contractual violations, but philosophical reasons as well. "The aim of the university... is academic," concludes Stuttard, "Everything else is to serve that purpose... You want to preserve that central purpose."

## Attention readers:

The Gazette takes a vacation next week, to return on October 21. Until then, read something else.

Quality & Friendly Service  
**PIZZA TOWN**



Pizza • Donairs • Subs

**422 - 0606**

5232 Blowers St. Halifax

MED. PIZZA any comb.	\$7.49 + tax
LARGE PIZZA any comb.	\$8.75 + tax
X - LRG. PIZZA any comb.	\$12.75 + tax
Buy 2 lrg. DONAIRS get 1 sm. FREE	

**FREE DELIVERY**

**Brenton** St.

B I S T R O



**\$3.25** Two eggs, any style, bacon or ham, toast, with jam & coffee

**\$2.50** Breakfast Croissant or Bagel, filled with an egg, a slice of ham & cheese, coffee

**\$3.25** Two-item omelette, toast, & coffee

+99¢ for a bottomless



CORNER OF SPRING GARDEN & BRENTON, ACROSS FROM SCOTIABANK 492-1730

## BURGESS TRAVEL



### AIRFARES

TORONTO	from 199	AUSTRALIA	from 1649
MONTREAL	from 249	LONDON	from 498
ST. JOHN'S	from 199	AMSTERDAM	from 498
OTTAWA	from 249	AFRICA	from 1609
CALIFORNIA	from 459	GERMANY	from 569
BOSTON	from 173	BERMUDA	from 329
FLORIDA	from 338	HAWAII	from 998

The above fares are subject to availability and advance purchase rules. The fares vary according to departure dates and are in effect Sept. 30, 1993. Fares are subject to change without notice.

### MARCH BREAK 1994

NEW ORLEANS	Mar 12 - 19	from 999 ppdbl
GREECE	Mar 11 - 20	from 1999 ppdbl
TAMPA	Direct 12 - 20	from 599ppdbl
JAMAICA	Direct air 12 - 19,	
	Holiday Inn	from 1319ppdbl
ST. PETE'S	Direct 12 - 19,	
	Dolphin Beach	from 1049ppdbl
CUBA	Direct 13 - 20,	
	Melia Veradero	from 1109ppdbl

Halifax 425-6110

1505 Barrington St. Maritime Centre

New Toll Free In N.S. 1-800-421-1345

Liverpool 354-5400 Bridgetown 665-4812

**OPEN SATURDAY 9-5**