

## N.S. government said Y.E.S.

By GREG CARVER

THE NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT had no problem starting 50 new businesses this summer, as long as they were short term projects, and had a little help from some new found friends: student entrepreneurs.

The Youth Entrepreneurial Skills Program (YES), co-sponsored by the provincial department of development and the Royal Bank of Canada, provided money for 50 student businesses, loaning the owners up to \$2000 interest-free for the summer. Some students found the program an interesting alternative to traditional summer work.

"Rather than working at a job this summer," says Wendy Thompson, "we thought of having our own business."

Thompson and her partner, Susan Seto, designed and sold souvenir T-shirts on the Halifax waterfront from a portable wooden rack. They made themselves.

"Susan created two designs for the shirts, and they were produced by a local company," says Thompson.

To offset losses during bad weather, the two students also placed their products on consignment in several Halifax gift shops.

Students who participate in YES must pay back their loans within five months or assume the responsibility for the interest themselves.

Kay McQuide, loan supervisor at the Royal Bank that administered the loans, says students fully understand the pay back

schedules.

"They know what they're getting into, and they have to sign a loan agreement," says McQuide.

The Nova Scotia government piloted the YES program in 1983, and continued it in the last two summers. Because the students have two years to pay back their loans, McQuide says it is still too early to tell just how many have defaulted.

The federal government provided a similar program in addition to its Challenge '85 program, but only a few provinces participated. Only 93 projects were loaned money from the federal program.

The provincial department of development wants the students to pay back their loans within five months, and offers anyone who makes the October 15 deadline a \$250 reward.

Debbie Giroux, another YES participant, was able to put her business, Perogie Junction, into operation this summer after nearly three years of planning.

"Perogies are a kind of ukrainian dumpling," says Giroux. "They are made from cheddar cheese and mashed potatoes, fried on both sides and served with fried onions and sour cream."

In her second year studying psychology at Mount Saint Vincent University, Giroux quit her job and went to work at home when she received the loan from the N.S. Government. She made perogies 8 to 10 hours every day. "All of my friends' freezers were full of perogies," she says.

Other YES projects ranged from landscaping and courier services to yacht painting and catering.

## SUB manager

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any other part," says Ferguson. "No major line items had to be drastically altered, just slight trims here and there."

"It's becoming increasingly difficult to operate on this budget," he says. "Student fees will have to be raised if the need becomes apparent."

Other options were considered when hiring a new manager. A part-time manager was considered but rejected because DSU felt one person should be responsible and in control of the SUB.

"If you dilute the position it doesn't make sense. In a multi-million dollar operation like this you should have things running smoothly," says Ferguson.

"A number of part time positions don't make sense in that

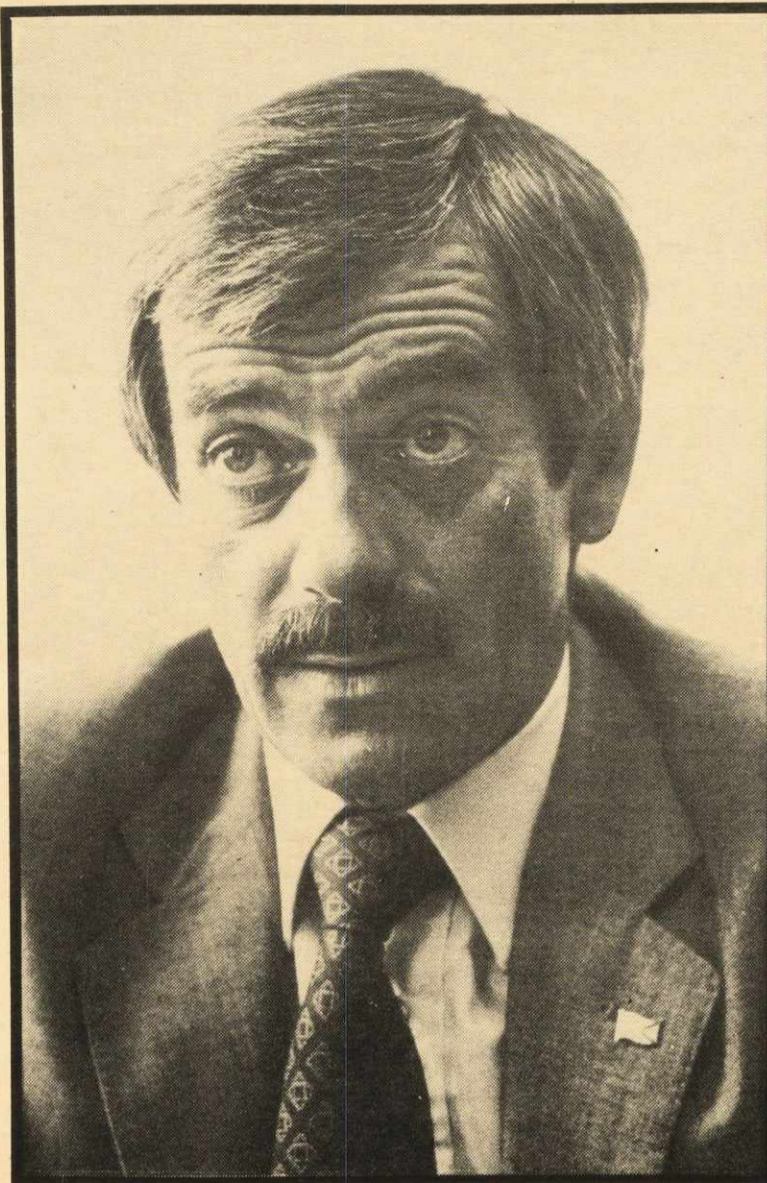
kind of an environment," he says.

Ferguson says the DSU is extremely happy with the work Beckett has done so far. He says there has been no indication the SUB manager's position is treated any differently now that Beckett has the job.

"We don't expect to see him take on positions in the university like John Graham because he will be working solely for the DSU," says Ferguson.

Beckett, a Dal alumnus, says he knows the campus fairly well. He graduated from the university with a degree in commerce, and also holds a certificate in chartered accountancy.

Beckett says he is trying to change the environment in the SUB "to make it a friendly building to be in."



Would you want this man for your premier? Terry Donahoe, minister of education, contemplates his political future. Photo by Dal Photo.

## Donahoe confirms rumours

By BRUCE FANJOY

TERRY DONAHOE, PROVINCIAL minister of education since the Progressive Conservatives took power seven years ago, has confirmed rumours that he is considering a run at the leadership if and when that position becomes available.

"If the premier were to move on I have had many people offer to help me. I would consider this," says Donahoe.

Many political observers believe the premier will step aside before the next provincial election.

The education portfolio, usually one of the most criticized positions in government, is not always the best place for a politician aspiring to be leader.

While admitting that his ministry is often "frustrating and controversial," Donahoe denies any suggestion that he wants out and says he is looking forward to the release of the report of the provincial Royal Commission on Post Secondary Education this fall.

Despite much criticism, particularly from the universities, Donahoe says, "I feel I have maintained the credibility of post-secondary education in Nova Scotia during difficult times. I have done my best."

Donahoe has held the education portfolio since the Buchanan government was first formed in 1978.

Though Donahoe brought no particular related experience to the job, the education ministry has traditionally gone to the member elected from the south end Halifax riding of Halifax Cornwallis. The riding takes in the campuses of Dalhousie, St. Mary's University and the Technical University of Nova Scotia.

Donahoe's predecessor, former Liberal education minister George Mitchell, also represented Halifax Cornwallis.

John Holm, NDP education critic, says he expects Donahoe will relinquish his position as education minister in an upcoming cabinet shuffle.

Holm says two names have been mentioned as possible successors to Donahoe: Edmund Morris, current social services minister, and Ron Giffin, current attorney general.

Vince MacLean, Liberal education critic, says a change of scenery for Donahoe would be appropriate.

"When you're in a department for too long you become more of an administrator and less of an innovator," says MacLean.

## The SUNS Times debuts

By DAN FELDSTEIN

AS PART OF ITS CONTINUING battle to win the hearts and minds of this province's students, the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) has released the first issue of its newspaper, *the SUNS Times*.

"It will provide a province-wide forum for discussing student issues," says Peter Murtagh, SUNS communications coordinator.

"We are speaking directly to our constituents," says Jose Druker, SUNS executive officer, "and we certainly see it as supplementary to student papers."

Druker says the paper will be useful over and above the student press because it will address and bring to light problems faced by all Nova Scotian students.

Murtagh says SUNS intends the paper to be more issue-oriented than news-oriented. As examples, he points to the first edition's coverage of student aid reform, youth unemployment, and differential fees for visa students, as well as an interview with Terry Donahoe, Nova Scotia's minister of education.

The first issue cost SUNS \$600 drawn directly from the organization's budget. Murtagh says he hopes advertising revenue will cover most of the cost of future editions. SUNS plans to publish four issues of four pages each through the year, says Druker. Each issue will have a circulation of about 15,000 copies, and will

be distributed among the seven member campuses of SUNS.

The paper's staff was recruited through the student councils of the various member institutions and from SUNS personnel. Druker says any student who wishes to contribute articles or ideas to *the SUNS Times* is welcome to do so.

## Housing

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has no specific plans to assist with the housing situation. However, its recent contribution of \$10 million to Dalhousie's Capital Fund Drive is expected to be of some help. Dal administration has stated that a proportion of the \$35 million raised so far by the drive will go into the construction of new residences.

These plans, however, are of little help to those left out by this year's housing shortage.

Darryn Gates, a first year student at the Technical University of Nova Scotia, says he has almost reached the end of his patience.

Shortly after moving into an apartment on Tower Road, Gates says he received a letter in the mail which merely said "good-bye." No sooner had he settled in than he had to move out.

Gates says the woman who kicked him out didn't even give a reason for his eviction. "I'm looking again, with little luck. There's just nowhere to live near the university," he says.