

# DSU supports national student movement

by Ralph English

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has affirmed its commitment to the national student movement.

On January 29 DSU councillors voted to cancel a Canadian Federation of Students pull-out referendum scheduled to coincide with the DSU elections early in March.

CFS is the only national body lobbying for student concerns. The organization consists of a political wing, CFS, and a services wing, CFS-Services (CFS-S).

CFS, as a collective composed of student unions and student organizations from across Canada, is the embodiment of the national student movement. The CFS Central Committee holds executive power, and the organization also employs a research staff, and regional fieldworkers.

CFS-S has five branches: Travel CUTS; a Speaker's Bureau designed to engage speakers for the university lecture circuit; the International Student's Identity Card, a discount card for students travelling abroad; Student-saver, a domestic discount card; and a fledgling Information Service, which compiles information on and for student unions in Canada. In addition, a National Health Plan is under consideration.

There were problems with CFS, however, and DSU council viewed them as serious enough to warrant scheduling a pull-out referendum. The CFS General Meeting of November 1983 brought resolutions for many of the problems and forestalled the pull-out referendum. Among these problems were:

- The staff of the national office, protected by a union agreement, was not accountable to the membership. To remedy this the Central Committee will take a more active management role through its newly established full-time chair. The chair is elected by the plenary at CFS General Meetings and is accountable both to the plenary and the national executive.

- CFS membership for the Student Unions of Nova Scotia (SUNS) was contingent upon all members of SUNS also being members of CFS. This is no longer a requirement, although CFS still views such an arrangement as worth working toward.

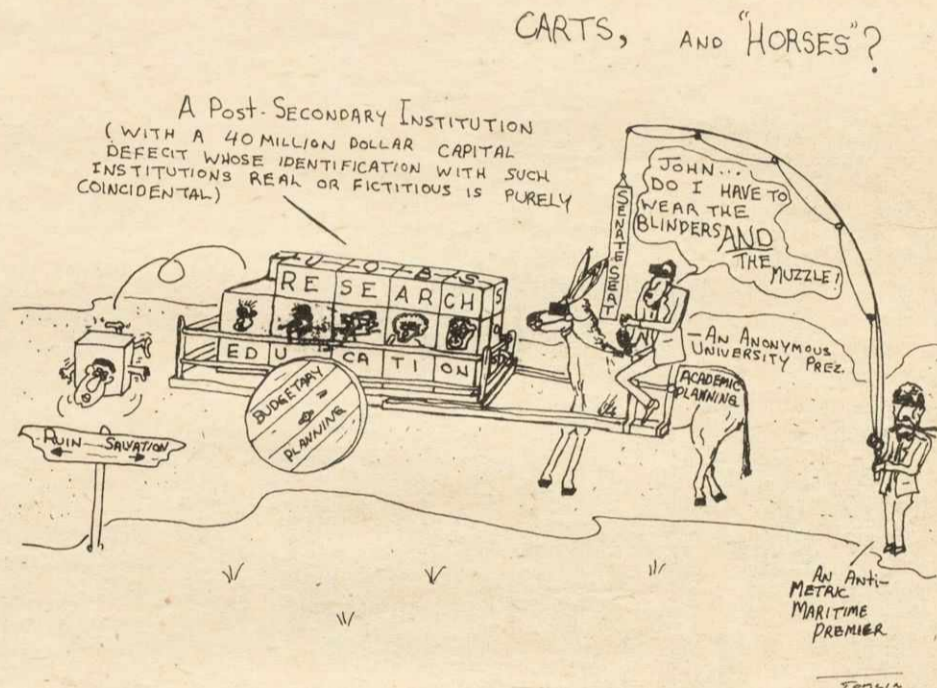
- CFS and CFS-S each have their own national executive, and as a result are both structurally and functionally independent. This leads to CFS-S being unaccountable to the membership, and to the possibility that the two bodies might work at cross-

purposes. Also, the profits from Travel CUTS, for example, are used to finance other services rather than being used to support the activities of the political wing. Amalgamation of CFS and CFS-S has been proposed to solve these problems. The national executive of both bodies have met and are in the process of soliciting members' opinions.

- Regional concerns have often been ignored by CFS. The closure of the Atlantic Institute of Education failed to elicit a protest from CFS, and a request for a \$500 contribution to the legal defence of Université de Moncton students fell on deaf ears. But recent National/Provincial Meetings have placed increased emphasis on regional concerns.

Although the DSU has cancelled its pull-out referendum the Student Union of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design plans to hold one in April. UPEI will soon hold a referendum to decide whether or not to join CFS.

CFS fees for the DSU amount to a \$4 per student levee.



## THE CRISIS IN EDUCATION

# How cutbacks affect Dalhousie athletics

by Lisa Timpf

"How do financial cutbacks affect the athletic program?"

Faced by that question, Wayne MacDonald, Dalhousie's Coordinator of Intercollegiate Athletics, responded, "We haven't been faced with cutbacks in the athletic program. However, we haven't been given increases either," he said.

"What we're faced with is trying to maintain the status quo despite increased costs in travel, accommodations, and salaries," he noted.

"Fortunately, in athletics we can often offset increased expenditures by trying to increase revenues."

One method of bringing in money is through corporate sponsorship of athletic events. "We get a lot of support for major tournaments, such as the Lobster Pot and the Bluenose, through corporate sponsorship," said MacDonald.

"Coca-Cola has sponsored score clocks, and Esso and the Canadian Amateur Swimming Association have sponsored electronic timing in the pool as well," he said, citing these two sponsors as examples of how sponsorship can help the program out beyond the hosting of tournaments. "What we have to do next is to start hitting up our

sponsors to support costs like printing of materials and advertising expenses," he added.

"You have to be careful not to give it away. The sponsor wants to get maximum exposure for a minimum commitment."

"Our policy for a tournament sponsorship is that the sponsor has to meet 40% of the expenses, as, for example, Schweppes does in sponsoring the high school basketball tournament.

Although Dal does not have a specific policy regarding which companies can and cannot sponsor events, "We've stayed away from cigarettes," noted MacDonald, citing the health hazard as the rationale.

A second source of revenue is "guarantees"—sums of money paid to visiting teams by the host team for exhibition competition.

The men's hockey team garnered \$70,000 in guarantees for trips to Alaska, Boston, and RPI, while the men's basketball team generated \$13,000 in guarantees in a 9-game exhibition swing over Christmas.

Much of this money is ploughed back into competition costs, but it does provide a way of funding the teams for exhibition travel.

"It's a case where the university is not providing the funding, but the coaches and the players

are generating the revenue which gets Dal's name out," said MacDonald.

A third source of revenue is hosting sport camps. "We do well with hockey camps," said MacDonald, "because people expect to pay to play hockey. Unfortunately, people in Canada don't accept the idea of paying to attend a volleyball or basketball camp, because these activities can be participated in free of charge through the high schools."

The alumni are a source of revenue at some institutions. While Dalhousie's alumni have increased their involvement since four years ago, "they're still searching for where they fit into the overall scheme," according to MacDonald.

"They want to get involved but they don't want to interfere," he added. "The Alumni are one area largely untapped at present, which we could potentially go to in future for support."

One problem is that "we don't have great student support in athletics."

"We probably get better support than most other places in Canada," he said, "but in order to get the kind of support and high-profile image you see at U.S. schools we'd need a lot of

commitment from student volunteers, and students have a lot of other commitments."

"We have to look at the economic conditions," said MacDonald. "We're in hard economic times. We're trying to trim the edges without hurting the quality of the program."

One method of trimming edges would be to move to sectional play within the AUAA. "That way there would be less overnights, and a decrease in accommodation costs," said MacDonald, adding that the AUAA is seriously considering this possibility.

A second cost-cutting factor would be getting men's and women's teams to travel to games together, thus decreasing travel costs.

A less preferable alternative to cutting costs is cutting teams.

"Last year we had to cut two programs—wrestling (6 people) and gymnastics (4 or 5 people). It just wasn't an efficient way to spend the money," said MacDonald.

"If we were forced to make drastic cutbacks (say 8%) it would mean having to restructure the program. It might mean eliminating hockey and swimming in order to cut costs and generate revenue by having the facilities available for rental."

One effect of the increasing cost problem is that the physical plant is making their own cutbacks in order to save money.

"The place (Dalplex) is not getting the kind of ongoing maintenance it needs," he said. "This in turn affects the quality of the program."

He cited the tropical temperatures during the recent Volleyball Classic tournament as an example of maintenance shortcuts (not having the ventilation system going) which affect the program.

"We participate in 150 competitions in the course of a year," he said. "That's a lot of competitions."

"But if provincial cutbacks to education continue, say three years down the line, we'll be making vertical cuts. The intercollegiate program as we know it now will no longer exist, but that will also be true for a number of other programs."

It's a sobering thought to anyone who appreciates the value of a strong intercollegiate program.

But, it seems, it's also a sign of what the economic times portend for the future of higher education.