

# Atlantic day of protest: 5,000 look for Tories

HALIFAX (CUP) In a spirited demonstration that led to a search for missing Nova Scotia government officials, more than 5,000 students held a mass protest September 30 against cutbacks in funding to higher education.

Students from six institutions in the province marched to the centre of Halifax, carrying a coffin that symbolized the fate of post-secondary education in the province if proposed cuts in federal payments to higher education are made. They were responding to suggestions from the federal Liberal cabinet that up to two billion dollars in transfer payments to the provinces would be chopped when renegotiating the transfer agreement. A large portion of these funds are spent in post-secondary education by the provinces.

Although the demonstration organizers said they had been assured either Nova Scotia premier John Buchanan or education minister Terrence Donohoe would speak to the crowd, no one from the provincial government made an appearance at the event. The protesters gathered in a downtown Halifax square to hear calls for an end to the proposed cuts by Mike McNeil, chairperson of the National Union of Students.

"I was told that either Buchanan or Donohoe would show up," said McNeil. He said the students became angrier after learning that no one from the provincial government could be found. Nova Scotians will vote in a provincial election October 6.

The demonstrators were addressed by provincial NDP leader Alexa McDonough, who said the proposed cuts were an example of the priorities of the Canadian government. McDonough was interrupted with cries of "What are you going to do?" during her remarks.

After the rally's ceremonies, about 1,000 students made a short march to the steps of the provincial legislature, chanting "We want Terry" and demanding to meet education minister Donohoe. They forced the locked doors of the building after the minister failed to appear, but soon retreated on the urgings of John Logan, president of the Dalhousie University student union.

Meanwhile, other students from the rally carried their coffin, adorned with the names of Nova Scotian institutions, to the city's harbour and gave the casket a mock "burial at sea."

The demonstration had been organized as part of an Atlantic Day of Protest against the threatened squeeze in federal funding of higher education.

About \$22 billion each year goes to the provinces from Ottawa, under the Established Programs Financing arrangement. The money is meant for

spending in health care and education, and the agreement will be reworked with the provinces in March, 1982.

"I don't think the march into the legislature building was nearly as big as the rally (in the downtown square)," said McNeil. "The theme given to the politicians was 'if you make the cuts, we'll vote against you.'"

McNeil said students make up a large part of Terry Donohoe's own riding. He said there had been confusion over the ability of returning students to vote, but it was found that most are eligible. "The students could be a threat to Donohoe."

"We were too busy organizing the cutbacks demonstration to start a campaign against Donohoe," said McNeil.

He said the march into the legislature "probably wouldn't have happened" if a government official had addressed the demonstration.

Students taking part in the rally came from Mount St. Vincent University, St. Mary's University, St. Francis Xavier University and Dalhousie University. They were joined by demonstrators from the Technical University of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.

The demonstration was the first in a chain series of planned cross-country action against underfunding, leading to a national day of Protest in Ottawa, October 19. "We're expecting big things from the lobby day," said McNeil.

Similar marches were held in the three other Atlantic provincial capitals September 30.

About 2,000 students took to the streets in Fredericton, New Brunswick, demanding the provincial government explain itself on the cutbacks issue. They were addressed by education minister Charles Gallagher, who said he had concern for the students' plight. He was shouted down during his speech by the students, who also carried a coffin representing their fear of the death of post-secondary education under the federal axe.

In St. John's, Newfoundland, students at Memorial University assembled in their student centre gym to hear provincial government ministers insist they are seeking more money for social programs from Ottawa. "All is not lost," said education minister Lynn Verge, urging the students to make their opinions heard. Provincial opposition leader Len Stirling accused the province of axing \$3.5 million from MUN's budget last year.

University of Prince Edward Island students took their outrage through Charlottetown rain during the protest day, stopping at the provincial legislature for an address by the provincial education minister.



## Concordia Student deported for being spy

MONTREAL (CUP) - Last April, a former Concordia Commerce student was arrested on suspicion of spying and deported to West Germany.

Hans Jurdzick, 34, (a.k.a. Norbert Scheinpflug) was deported in early April by Canadian Immigration officials. Jurdzick was deported under Section 39 of the Immigration Act of falsifying passport information. He was then formally arrested in Karlsruhe, West Germany on April 21 as an agent for East German

Intelligence.

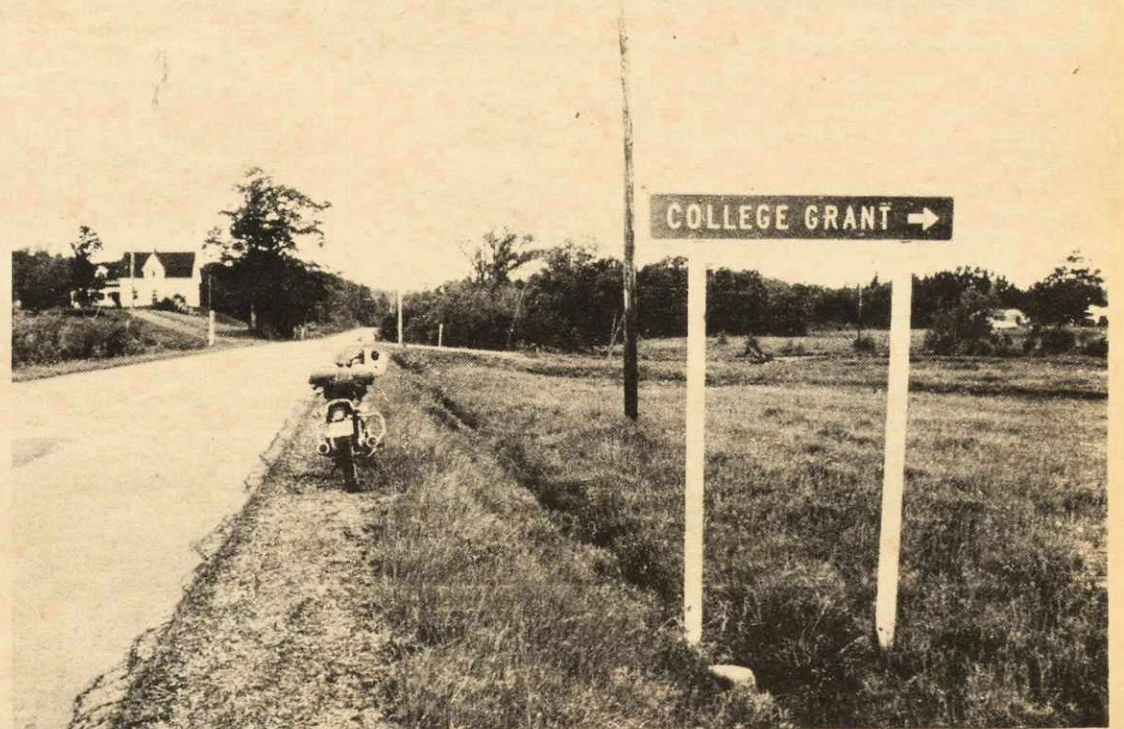
An official in the West German federal prosecutor's office said Jurdzick had been suspected of spying for East Germany since the early 1970's, first in West Germany and more recently in Canada.

Jurdzick had been very active in student activities including working as a photographer for the Concordia student newspaper. He was also executive vice-president of the student commerce association AIESEC (International Association for

Students of Economics and Commerce).

Some AIESEC members said they were taken by surprise by the allegations. Jurdzick's responsibilities with AIESEC were organizing activities with various local businesses and corporations.

Not too much else is known about Jurdzick. The RCMP, who handled the case, interviewing many of Jurdzick's personal friends at Concordia, refused to divulge any information.



As future funding of post-secondary education becomes increasingly threatened, this may help wayward students with wheels locate that elusive student loan or scholarship. The first Dal student who locates this sign gets to layout their very own page next Wednesday night at the Gazette.