

## Marching for post secondary education

by C. Ricketts

Friday's march on the Provincial Legislature will be the highlight of the National Week of Information on Post-Secondary Education.

Organized by the Student Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) and sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Students, the march is hoped to

attract attention to the plight of universities and colleges across Canada. Planning for the week's events started last May.

Peter Kavanagh, Chairperson of SUNS, hopes that universities from outside the metropolitan area will join Dal, the Mount, TUNS and

SMU students in the march. "Acadia and St. Francis Xavier have been talking of buses," he said, though he did not wish to make an estimate of numbers arriving.

The Nova Scotia Colleges and University Faculty Association (NSCUFA) has called the crisis in

post-secondary funding "an issue of wide public concern", says Kavanagh. They have asked their members to suspend and reschedule classes on Friday so faculty may join students in the protest.

Members of the Dalhousie Staff Association have said that they will also come out in a show of support.

There are six main points to be made during the Week of Information and the march questioning the provincial government's stand on post-secondary education. They are:

- The failure to establish an enquiry into post-secondary education as set out in the Throne Speech last February.
- The Province's failure to abide by guidelines recommended by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission on minimum levels of funding necessary to maintain a 'respectable' standard of education.
- The failure to plan education responsibly, as indicated by the costly fiasco in August and elimination of the Atlantic Institute of Education well into its fiscal year.
- Failure to initiate a serious job creation program so students may secure financial resources for the school term.
- The need for a more equitable student aid program based on accessibility.
- The need to freeze tuitions at the

present level, or at the very minimum guarantee they will not exceed the federal government's 6-5 guidelines.

Information will be distributed at malls in the Halifax-Dartmouth area on Thursday. Kavanagh hopes members of the Dalhousie Faculty Association will be there dressed in robes to help hand out pamphlets.

As the marchers convene at the Grand Parade on Friday afternoon, speeches are planned by student leaders. Afterwards the crowd is scheduled to continue to the steps of Province House for a mock marriage to protest the student aid policy of classifying many students as independents, and more eligible for student aid, only if they are married. A draw for a year's tuition at any Nova Scotia university will be made after the ceremony.

Everyone should turn up in front of the Dal SUB by 1:00 p.m. Friday to pick up posters and generate hype," says Kavanagh. "Bring a lot of spirit," he said. "Noisemakers might also be a good idea."

The March will proceed down University Avenue to South Park Street, on to Spring Garden Road, and then to the Grand Parade. From there it continues on to the Province House mock marriages.

Invitations have been extended to Dalhousie University President Andrew MacKay and Education Minister Terry Donahoe, but the RSVP's have not yet been received.

## SUNS on Dal campus

by C. Ricketts

The upcoming "Week of Education", from October 12-16, will place the spotlight on the Dalhousie SUNS committee.

The Dal SUNS committee, acting for the Student Unions of Nova Scotia on campus, will be responsible for organizing some events. Dave Rideout, Dalhousie's VP-External and committee chairperson, says the intent of the week is to make students and the general public more aware of the state of post-secondary education in Canada.

The Week of Information, sponsored by the Canadian Federation of Students, is to be a cooperative

effort for the nine universities in the Student Unions of Nova Scotia (SUNS).

Throughout the year, the Dal SUNS committee is, involved in other activities as well. "We're trying to keep on top of the political situation," said Rideout.

Information is collected regularly by the Committee on cutbacks, transfer payments through Established Programmes Financing (EPF), the question of direct funding to the universities by the federal government and Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) recommendations. Registration quotas and differential fees also are being investigated.

The SUNS committee, under the auspices of SUNS, also tackle non-academic problems common to university students across the province. Last year SUNS carried out housing and sexual harassment surveys, and examined the possibility of one health plan being implemented for all Nova Scotia universities.

Rideout noted there will be particular problems for students in the next few years as the tail end of the baby boom works its way through the universities. "A lot of things have happened, even just this summer. It's time to get out and do something about it," he said.

## Dalhousie hit hard by floundering finances

by Cathy McDonald

If your finances were in the same state as Dalhousie's, creditors would be moving in quickly.

Dalhousie's deficit increased by 46 per cent last year to reach an all-time high of \$10.4 million. Robbie Shaw, Vice President of Finance, said budget restraints for university departments will be at least as severe as the eight per cent reduction last year, but the deficit won't even begin to deteriorate.

"There is little prospect of reducing (the deficit) in the next few years," says Shaw.

Suffering from high interest rates and smaller increases in government grants, the university has seen its deficit grow from \$2 million in 1980, to \$5.6 million at the beginning of last year, to its current \$10.4 million. Dalhousie paid \$4.1 million in interest last year, as opposed to \$2.6 million the year before.

Through a stringent budget review process last year, the university could almost have broken even in 1982/83, according to Shaw.

However, the cutbacks announced by the provincial government in late August will mean a \$1.9 million deficit this year, to add to Dalhousie's total.

Jay Doucet, a student representative on the Board of Governors, said the outcome of the current

negotiations with the Dalhousie Faculty Association will be critical, as every two per cent (across the board) increase in salaries means a \$1 million increase in university expenses.

Although the situation is severe, Shaw said there are worse implications for the future.

The Nova Scotia government announced in August the money allocated for alterations and renovations will no longer be forthcoming to post secondary institutions in the province. This will mean an annual loss to Dalhousie of \$2.1 million.

"We now have less professors, less staff and more students," said Shaw. Dalhousie is teaching less hours, and some optional courses are only being offered every two years. "The question is how many times can we do it (cutback) before the entire university disintegrates," said Shaw. "Or do we start lopping a part off?"

Jay Doucet said, in the short term, the University's major hope is that the province will grant sufficient money.

Doucet said the university cannot trust the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, with which it discusses its budgetary needs. The MPHEC advises the provincial government, but "nobody trusts the MPHEC any-

more; the province just ignores it anyhow," Doucet claimed.

He referred to the fact that the government gave less money to the universities than the MPHEC had recommended last spring, and then in August cut that amount further, four months after it had been approved.

The university has no plans to pay off any of its debt for the next five years, until it can get a major fund drive happening, as well as generate revenue a few years down the road by implementing the recommendations of a commissioned space study. Doucet said the university hopes to start a fund drive for \$15-25 million, starting in 1984.

"The space study is the blueprint for cutting physical plant costs," said John Graham, Director of University Services.

Houses are more expensive to maintain than buildings, he explained. Through a plan that involves moving five faculty departments to different buildings, and some new construction, faculty offices will be moved into campus buildings.

When asked how the Board of Governors discussed Dalhousie's financial situation at its last meeting, Doucet said decisions were mostly entrusted with the President and the administration. Two people fell asleep.



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**Vice President Robbie Shaw, pensively pondering the future of his kingdom of Dalhousie.**