



Tim Hill, Dale Godsoe and Terry Donahoe battle it out in "The Great Debate". The three candidates in the Halifax-Cornwallis riding debated education policy to an audience of Dalhousie students Oct. 30. Photo: Susan Latter Dal Photo

Hill and Donahoe slug it out in the Great Debate

By MICHAEL DANIELS

What was called the "Great Debate" between the electoral candidates in the Halifax-Cornwallis riding turned into a contest between NDP candidate Tim Hill and Education Minister Terry Donahoe, the PC incumbent.

Donahoe opened the Oct. 30 debate in the McInnes room of the SUB by saying he had been accused by his opponents of doing less than he should for post-secondary education in Nova Scotia.

Donahoe cited a number of statistics to support his government's commitment to Nova Scotia universities. He said the total operating grants to universities have increased from \$80 million to \$156 million since the Progressive Conservatives took power. This year, Nova Scotia ranked first among the provinces in increases in operating grants to universities.

Donahoe said bursaries had also increased from \$6.4 million to \$9.2 million.

Hill began attacking Donahoe at the start of his own opening remarks. He said Donahoe was using statistics to justify six years of neg-

lect of the education system by the Tories, "but statistics can be twisted."

Hill said Donahoe cut bursaries to students, forcing them to make up the difference in student loans. He also said the government has done nothing to solve the housing problem.

"Now with an election, Donahoe and the government says let's discuss a solution," he said. "Meanwhile, I have friends at Fenwick who are living with three people to a [bachelor] apartment."

Dale Godsoe, the Liberal candidate for the riding, said the concerns about post-secondary education are consistent and real. She said Nova Scotia's universities are an important resource which must be developed.

"They [the Buchanan government] see it [the post-secondary education system] as a financial liability," she said.

During the question period, Hill continued his attacks on Donahoe's policies, while Donahoe attempted to defend himself by counter-attacking.

Hill criticized the government's bursary system, saying there isn't just less money this year, there are also more people competing for that money. He said the criteria also make it difficult for students to get the bursary they're entitled to.

"I call out for a change in criteria and the mix between bursary and loan," said Hill.

Donahoe said, "For Tim, or anybody, to suggest that there will be less money this year than in the past is a complete bastardization of the facts."

Godsoe compared the bursary system to a thick sandwich, where the bursary was a very thin slice of ham between two extremely thick slices of bread, which were student loans. Students, she said, have to go through one thick slice of bread to get to a thin slice of ham and

then again to a thick slice of bread. This brought a cry from the audience of, "Where's the beef?!"

At one point in the debate, Donahoe made an attack of his own against Hill.

"I'm struck that he [Hill] says out one side, 'We should plan our university system,' " he said. "Out another side, he says, 'I don't know [how to solve the problem], and then he turns full circle and wants to throw money at them."

Hill countered by saying, "Mr. Donahoe is an expert at circular argument."

Hill continued his assault on Donahoe, saying he had not done enough in his position as minister responsible for the advancement of women to make women more equal. He said the government had made an important commitment to women 10 years ago, but did not progress very far from there.

"It is not satisfactory for a woman to earn two-thirds of what I hope to earn after next Tuesday," Hill said.

He said it was not enough to have just a policy of equal pay for equal work, rather the government must have an affirmative action program.

Equal rights legislation, Donahoe said, "must promote affirmative action and other programmes to ensure that every person in the community be equal."

Donahoe said the recent publication of the Nova Scotia plan of action for women will lay the groundwork for solving women's rights problems.

On university underfunding, Donahoe said it was because Nova Scotia had so many universities "to cut up the pie," and university administrations had an "insatiable desire to spend money."

Hill said, "I don't think we should fuel the desire to spend by throwing money at it."

Universities must take a step back and look at defining their roles and their goals," he said.

Donahoe said he didn't think the universities have been fulfilling their roles.

"As long as there are make up programmes and remedial programmes, or if this prof or class is a gut class, then the universities are not fulfilling their roles," he said.

In his closing statement, Hill said the Halifax-Cornwallis race is a very close election, and the votes of 4000 more students than last time will make a difference.

"Donahoe knows that," he said. "That's why he spends two hours in the Grawood lounge, talking to students."

Hill asked where Donahoe was when the Students' Union of Nova Scotia wanted to discuss student aid and couldn't find him for two months.

"Do you think he will be around the Grawood after next Tuesday?" he said.

Donahoe's closing statement centered around his six years experience as Minister of Education. He said Nova Scotia should have the experienced people in the government who can sit with the new federal government and get the capping on EPF (Established Programmes Financing) funds removed. He also said a PC government in Nova Scotia would be able to get more from the federal Tories than the other parties could.

Donahoe said he had often been to the Grawood.

"I will continue to go back to the Grawood anytime there are any of my friends there who will buy me a beer," he said. □

New CKDU will begin broadcasting in new year

By BILL MITCHELL

Dalhousie's student radio station CKDU-FM will begin broadcasting to the Halifax community by January.

Although the station was scheduled to go on air in October station manager Doug Varty says the most likely starting date is Jan. 1.

Varty blames the delays on waiting to get to go ahead to broadcast from the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Committee (CRTC), and the slowness of the studio construction.

The carpenters had taken much longer to put down floors because the job was not their top priority, said Varty.

He says the delay was not discouraging membership.

"At the CKDU-FM General

Meeting last week, only 26 people turned up. But people don't join a radio station to go to meetings," he said. Varty says the turnout was good considering the delays.

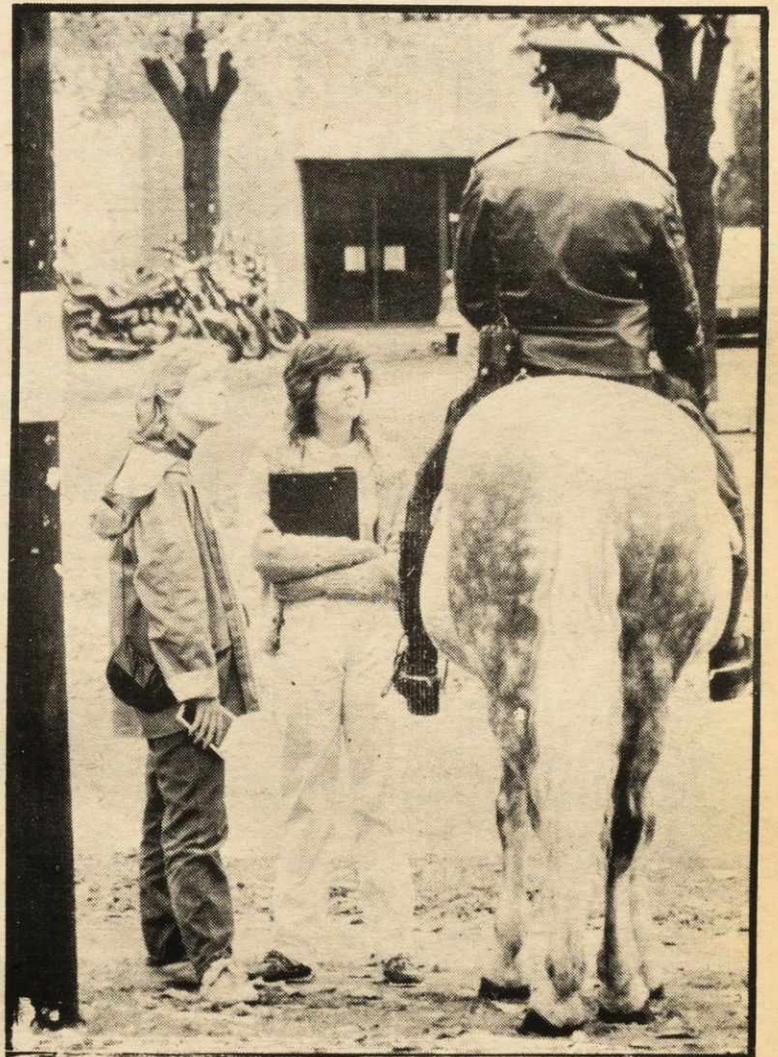
He says the delay has proved to be an advantage in some ways.

"The Public Affairs department have been able to build up files and background material, with the extra time," says Varty. He says there is no financial loss because of the delay. Costs of royalties, telephones and wear of equipment have been saved, says Varty.

On a personal level, Varty saw advantages to the delay.

"It has meant that I have been able to get used to the environment at Dal, and to be a station manager again."

Varty was involved with the radio station at the University of New Brunswick, CASR. □



Members of the Halifax Police Department conduct a "gallup" poll on campus. Photo: Darryl C. MacDonald, Dal Photo.