

Dalhousie council holds funds

by Valerie Mansour

The Dalhousie Student Council has voted to withhold funds committed to the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS) until it receives a financial statement from the organization.

Student Union President, Robert Sampson, said at the council meeting Sunday, "we cannot put the students' money into AFS until we see exactly where it is going. AFS has had problems all summer and is presently on shaky ground. We have to get the organization back together before we invest our money in it. Our move is a responsible one."

AFS has suffered from organizational setbacks this summer with the resignation of its only full-time staff person, and persistent delays in determining an accurate financial statement.

Don Soucy, secretary co-ordinator of AFS, said that "considering they had not seen the books, Dalhousie is perfectly legitimate in withholding their fees. But now the statement is available, so Dalhousie should contribute their share to the organization."



Dal Photo / Grandy

The Dalhousie Student Council decided, Sunday night, to withhold funding from the Atlantic Federation of Students. The debate was short, with counsellors agreeing unanimously that they did not want to put their money into the organization at this time.

Last February, Dalhousie students approved of membership in AFS in a campus-wide referendum. This meant that, at registration, along with the student union fee, each student would pay one dollar for AFS. The organization does not

have a valid constitution which would demand payment in September, thus Dal's move is legally possible.

In a telephone conversation with Acadia Student Union President Dave Arenburg, the *Gazette* learned

that Acadia too may be holding back its AFS funding. Sympathizing with Dalhousie, Arenburg said, "it is unfortunate this has had to happen, but right now it is the proper thing to do."

Mike McInnes, chairperson of the Nova Scotia Caucus of AFS, said that he expected Dalhousie's move. "In a way it was justified, but the financial statement is out now, and I hope that Dalhousie will retract their stand."

After considering the financial statement, McInnes told the *Gazette* that "AFS is \$5000 under." This, however, was borrowed money which the organization plans to pay back with its anticipated revenues of about \$22,000 from membership fees.

AFS has 12 member institutions representing each of the four Atlantic provinces and works at a regional level on student concerns such as tuition hikes, unemployment, and student aid. Last March, AFS, along with the National Union of Students, organized a well-attended march on Province House against education cutbacks. Its only source of funding is the per student levy from the various post-secondary institutions.

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Coalition calls demonstration

The Halifax-Dartmouth Metro Coalition of Support for the Unemployed has called for the "all-out participation" of students, labour and the unemployed in a protest demonstration, September 28. According to Coalition organizers, the march will begin at 11:45 at Victoria Park next Wednesday. Demonstrators will march through the downtown area and then congregate outside Halifax's main UIC office on Spring Garden Road.

At a September 15 meeting, Coalition members decided "that the demands of the demonstration be the basic human right to meaningful employment and self-respect, and that it be recognized that part of the means to achieve that objective be an end to all forms of wage controls, repeal of Bill C-27, the new UIC legislation, and an end to cutbacks in education and social services."

Members of the Coalition emphasized the importance of their demands. Susan Kenney, unemployed and a member of the Committee of the Unemployed, said that "these are the major areas of attack by the government on the majority of Canadians," and that "unemployment is directly linked to these attacks." Don Soucy, from the National Union of Students, added that it was "clear that it is the same conditions which are all at once keeping wages down, increas-

ing unemployment, decreasing accessibility to higher education, increasing corporate profits by 15% in the first half of 1977, and forcing cutbacks in health, education, and other social services. Therefore, broad based unity is needed and must be reflected in both our demands and our strategies. We must remember that there is strength in numbers."

Georgina Chambers, a member of the Coalition, will make the initial address to the crowd. Jack Haley, Chairperson of the Cape Breton Committee of Concern for the Unemployed, which over the past summer organized a series of occupations in federal buildings, will kick off the march.

Plans are for Gerald Yetman, Nova Scotia Federation of Labour president, and Soucy, as the Central Committee member for NUS in Nova Scotia, to speak at the UIC office. They will be joined by a member of the Committee of the Unemployed.

This past summer, many provincial student organizations and other groups across Canada have attempted to form Coalitions as well. The Canadian Labour Congress, while embarking on a large media campaign on unemployment, have indicated that they are leaving the job of organization and mobilization to the provincial federations.



The national press coverage given to the actions this past summer in Cape Breton has led to Nova Scotia assuming the leadership in struggles against unemployment. Students and workers across the country are waiting for the next move. Successes here may spur action in the other provinces.

The National Union of Students, Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, Halifax-Dartmouth District Trades and Labour Council, N.S. Women's Action Committee, In Struggle, the Communist Party of Canada, New Options School, Voice of Women, and the Halifax Committee of the Unemployed are all members of the Coalition.

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