

Student action leads to **Bus pass**

by **Tony Tracy**

After much lobbying by student groups in Halifax, a discount bus pass system is finally being implemented by Metro Transit.

The passes, which should be available towards the end of this month, will be valid for a period of one month and will provide unlimited use of the bus system during the entire week. The passes will be non-transferable, and in order to ensure that passes are not 'shared' by family members or friends, Metro Transit stipulates that the pass must be signed in order to be valid, and that only the person whose name appears on the pass is eligible to use it.

The cost of the passes will be \$36.00 for non-student adults, \$18.00 for seniors, and \$32.00 for full-time students under the age of 25. Part-time students and all students over the age of 25 will not be eligible for students passes, as Metro Transit does not wish to "open the floodgates" in this, according to Don Mielke, Marketing and Consumer Relations Officer for Metro Transit. Mr. Mielke justified the price discrepancy between seniors and students by saying that "historically, the seniors have received a 50 per cent discount in their fare with Halifax Transit, whereas students were paying full fare until now." Metro Transit "has to look at this from the down side; that is, from the loss of revenue involved," says

Mielke, "although we feel that it is going to be a very successful system and will generate increased ridership."

The Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) has been very active over the past year in lobbying both Metro Transit and local municipal politicians to obtain a student discount bus pass system. Paul Card, Chair of the SUNS Bus Pass Committee, was "very happy that Metro Transit has finally acted on the recommendations of SUNS" and felt "encouraged by the savings involved".

However, Card is "discouraged that the growing number of part-time and mature students are left out" of the student discount. He said these "non-traditional" students should be able to benefit as well.

Card says he understands Metro Transit would be concerned about potential loss in revenues, and this in fact is a "good effort" on their part.

"The wheels of bureaucracy will turn, but only one tooth at a time," says Card.

The bus passes have come at a good time for students to take full advantage of savings, as the price for a single-zone trip will soon increase to one dollar from the present 85¢. The \$32.00 student pass price was based on 40 trips per month at a reduced student rate of 80¢ per trip. Thus, any student who rode the bus more than 40 times per month would save money.

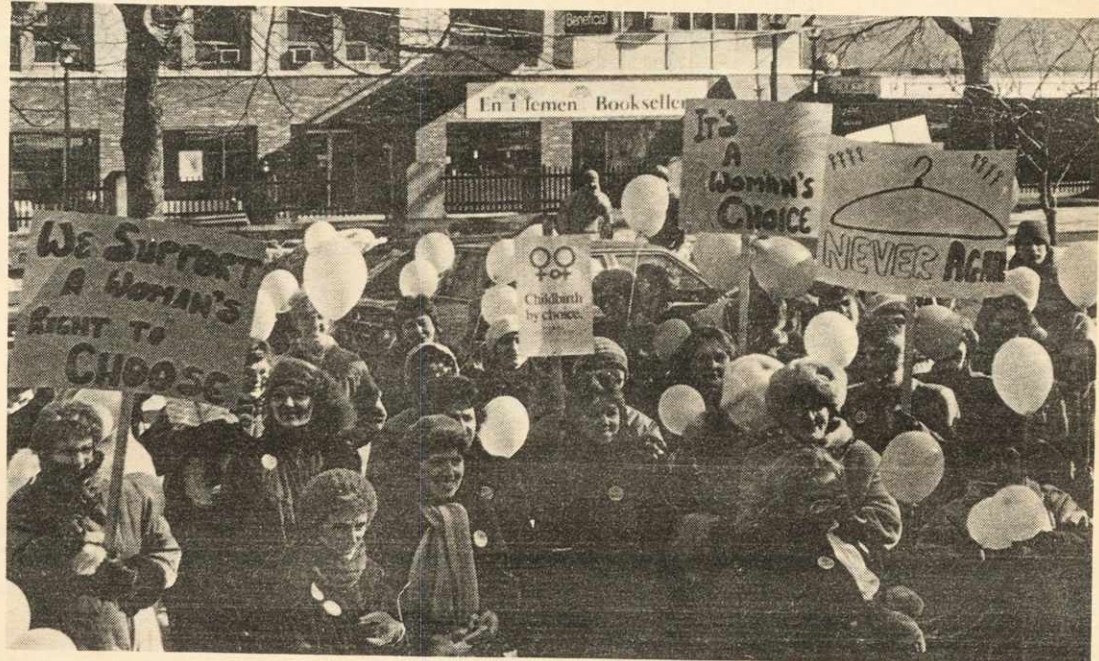


PHOTO: ELLEN REYNOLDS

Placards, pink balloons and 50 people celebrated the Supreme Court's decision making the abortion law unconstitutional Friday, Jan. 29 in the Grand Parade.

"This has been a public gathering in support of choice. It was brought to you by pro-choice activists who are very, very happy today," said Amanda LeRougetel, one of the organizers.

DSU deep in debt

by **Geoff Stone**

The Dalhousie Student Union is looking at as much as a \$117,000 debt this year, but has few words on what will happen as a result of the massive deficit.

Shane Feriancek, DSU Treasurer, says the 1987-88 budget prepared by last year's treasurer did not reflect a number of costs to the DSU this year.

Included in this are costs for the yearbook, an over-budget for advertising revenue, poor revenue from the summer Greenwood, unforeseen taxes, and delay in receiving revenue from

the administration.

Feriancek described the budget problems the union is encountering, but did not say what the DSU will be doing to face its deficit.

Feriancek said while 3 instalments on the Pharos yearbook were budgeted for this year, he has had to make a total of six payments, essentially tripling the budget for the yearbook.

The other three payments, which include 2 payments for the 1985-86 yearbook and one extra payment for the 86-87 yearbook, were somehow not accounted for by the previous treasurer. "I'm not sure why he missed it," says Feriancek. The unbudgeted expense adds up to \$35,000.

As well, Feriancek says the projections for advertising, made by the summer DSU advertising manager, were well above what has been received. Feriancek says the projected revenue of \$30,000 was unusual as there was no prior history of achieving that kind of revenue.

Other expenses included a loss in revenues from investment because money owed from student fees was not paid by the administration until December, instead of the usual date of 41 days after receiving them. Feri-

ancek said the reason for the delay was an old accounting system in Dalhousie's financial services. The system is being improved and the problem shouldn't happen again, said Feriancek.

Feriancek said the largest part of the deficit is from taxes that were charged to the DSU from a provincial audit. But Feriancek says much of the \$57,000 owing should be successfully appealed. Included in the taxes was internal photocopying, which has never been taxed from other Student Unions, Feriancek says.

Asked about the taxes and the deficit, many Dalhousie students say they have heard about the audit from the CBC or newspapers, but they did not know the full extent of the deficit.

Some students were quite concerned with the extent of the problem. One student said while the deficit does bother them, the cutbacks at the university are more important at present.

Another student questioned how the Student Union runs, saying that if the executive of the union could perhaps be a former student without any academic responsibility, and if the DSU could be run in a more businesslike manner, this sort of situation could be avoided.

Atlantic Insight chooses innovator award

Innu protest award

by **Martin Doucette**

"To most of us, it's a big mystery," says Hannah Cowen, a representative for Nova Scotians in Solidarity with Native Peoples.

She is talking about the prospect of a NATO base in Goose Bay, Labrador, and the effect this will have on the native people there.

Atlantic Insight Magazine has announced its Atlantic Innovators of the Year awards. Their

choice this year is Claris Rudkowski, a small business woman from Happy Valley-Goose Bay.

Rudkowski uses her skills and energy to support the existence and expansion of the Canadian Forces Base where NATO jet pilots practice low-level flights and bombing runs with nuclear-capable aircraft.

The NSSNP protested Atlantic Insight's choice last Thursday night at the Holiday Inn in Dartmouth, where an awards dinner

was held for the winners.

That day, January 28th, wasn't exactly a day at the beach. "I was very pleased with the turn-out," said Cowen. "There were about forty people, and we've had less than that on beautiful days."

The NSSNP questions Rudkowski's service to her own community, and they see her "community service" as fierce opposition to the Innu community's quest for survival and self-

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