

# Hicks talks increased tuition

by Elissa Barnard

Dalhousie University will find it "very difficult to hold the line on student fees" if the 9.5% increase in operating grants recently recommended tax by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) is accepted or reduced by the Council of Maritime Premiers, university president Dr. Henry Hicks said Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference after a meeting of the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU), Hicks said that, because the 9.5% applies only to the 70% of university revenue which comes from government grants, it means an actual increase of only 6.5% in Dalhousie's total revenue for 1979-80, unless other sources of revenue are increased.

The AAU had originally requested an overall increase of 17% because of low increases received in the last two years, Hicks said. The 6.5% increase is less than last year's increase of approximately 7.5%.

If operating grants were to rise from 10 to 12%, tuition fees would probably not have to be increased, vice president Dr. W. Andrew MacKay said in an interview.

When asked about the MPHEC's position that tuition should rise with the cost of living, MacKay said he favors an increase in tuition, though not necessarily as much as the cost of living, provided that student aid increases.

Nova Scotia bursaries rose by 10% last spring, Deric Burton, special assistant to Education Minister Terry Donahoe, said. As for another increase in bursaries this year, "I don't think the Conservative government has given it any thought yet." After four years of government study, there has been no increase in the federal government's Canada Student Loans, he said.

With enrolments beginning to decline by a significant amount and the effects of insufficient money for the last three years being felt, Maritime universities could face a serious crisis within five

years, Dr. Owen Carrigan, president of St. Mary's University said at the press conference.

"The danger exists in pricing students out of a university education, and out of the residences, as the cost of room and board, not perceived by the public, skyrockets," he added.

Hicks said he was "reluctant" to think the present increase would affect the quality of education, partly because professors do not find it as easy today to go elsewhere for larger salaries as they did five years ago.

The AAU has not been able to impress its need for funds on the Council of Maritime Premiers because universities are traditionally unpopular, Hicks said. The only solution is to convince politicians and society of the value of universities, economically and as far as the value of education is concerned.

There is no method to push the government to agree to the 9.5% increase," MacKay said, "It is simply a recommendation to the Council."



Dal president Henry Hicks told a press audience that the university was in good financial shape ...since we haven't paid 200 employees for awhile" he explained with a chuckle.

## Students say money should count

by Valerie Mansour  
Canadian University Press

Post-secondary education should be accessible to all those who have a desire and a capacity to learn rather than those who have the ability to pay, student representatives told the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission January 23.

"Students do not reject the suggestion of a further increase in tuition fees solely on the basis of the increased immediate financial strain",

B.J. Arsenault, chairperson of the Students Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) told the commission.

"The concern for a healthy educational system that can provide real benefits for our society-at-large reflects the kind of global perspective with which students view educational opportunities."

MPHEC policy was strongly criticized by SUNS. "In its report, the Commission suggests that tuition can be expected to rise in line with the cost of living. It is difficult to understand the rationale behind this, especially since there is no explanation provided. Is the assumption that a university or college education is just another item on the shelf that must jump in price along with hamburger meat?" Arsenault added

Kevin Gauthier, president of the University of Prince Edward Island Student Union, told the commission that it is time for those who are concerned with post-secondary education to stop hiding from the problem, to face the situation squarely, and to demand that this senseless, haphazard, and totally directionless obsession with cutting back be stopped and, as

far as possible, reversed".

"The Commission has in successive financial plans warned government of the consequences of the funding cutbacks which have been imposed, but government has refused to listen. MPHEC funding recommendations are consistently ignored. This is very disturbing in itself, since you are the experts who know what university requirements are; but even more disturbing to us is the manner in which the Commission has accepted without question or complaint government funding which you know very well will cause serious hardship to the very institution which you are delegated to protect."

Commenting on whether the SUNS meeting with the MPHEC would have an effect Tim Harding of St. Mary's said, "we were called in after the fact. The recommendations had already been made."

"We discussed many different areas and the Commission made several comments but we were on two different wavelengths. We were trying to get them to change and they were only interested in our reactions."

Harding also said the Commission would be asking three students to sit on a committee studying student aid in the Maritimes, but they gave no indication of how or when these students would be selected.

## CUPE closing Dalhousie

by Alan Adams

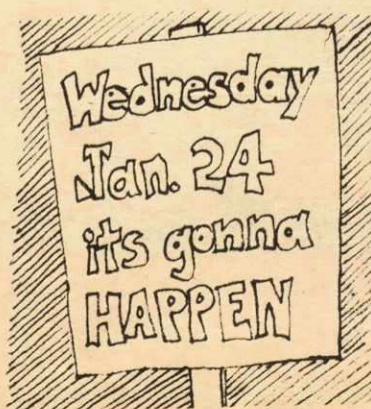
A day of protest in support of CUPE 1392 will be held on January 24, CUPE representative Al Cunningham announced yesterday. Cunningham stated that the goal of the protest is to close down the university for the entire day.

Speaking at a press conference at the Lord Nelson Hotel with Gerald Yetman of the Halifax-Dartmouth District Labour Council, and Gerald MacInnis, President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, Cunningham stated that over 1000 "and possibly 2000 trade unionists" will journey to Halifax to join forces on the picket lines on the day of the protest.

MacInnis said that the Halifax-Dartmouth District Labour Council "will be really going all out" in support of CUPE 1392. He added "it's a raw deal for any university to fire people who are on a legal strike and then contract out

their work." MacInnis compared Dal's actions to "taking a swipe at everybody in the labour movement."

Yetman said the Federation of Labour "is really behind this one like they have never been before over a strike." He added "the fight at Dalhousie is a fight of the whole labour trade-unionist movement." Yetman said that he had sent a telegram to Premier John Buchanan and Minister of



## Student aid Reps resign

SACKVILLE, N.B. (CUP)—New Brunswick student representatives on provincial student aid committees have resigned their positions.

Four representatives from Mount Allison University, University of New Brunswick, St. Thomas University, and

Université de Moncton decided against staying on the committees because of a lack of progress.

"As students, our existing mode of input into the Student Aid Programme not only lacks thrust but also the scope necessary for proper contribution in attaining a competent programme," read the resignation letter of Mike Downs, STU president.

Steve Berube, UNB president, suggested that one student from New Brunswick be appointed to sit with the three directors of Student Aid in the Maritimes. "This will insure adequate input on the students behalf as well as the students point of view on proposed changes brought forward by the Director."

These two presidents, as well as Fraser Sealy of Mt. A. decided to resign at a meeting of the New Brunswick Coalition of Students held January 13. The rep from U de M resigned in November for similar reasons.

Also at the meeting the NBSCS decided to meet with N.B. Premier Richard Hatfield to present their reasons for adequate student aid, and the association between tuition increases and dropping enrolment.

The NBSCS is a loosely structured organization of New Brunswick student union executives.

Labour Kenneth Streach "asking them to go to Dalhousie and encourage the administration to withdraw its contract with Modern and ask them to return to the bargaining table" in an attempt to end the almost 12 week old dispute. He added that he has received a reply from Streach but has yet to get one from the premier.

Cunningham said that support for CUPE 1392 has reached a national level with telegrams and financial support arriving daily at strike headquarters.

The Saint Mary's University Faculty Union (SMUFU) has come out strongly in favor of caretakers. In a letter to Cunningham SMUFU said "Dalhousie's actions, if not a form of quasi-slavery in which employees are sold like chattel to one employer to another, at the very least, represent an ill-disguised method of strike-breaking."