

# Election apathy

...cont'd from page 1: "ELECTION"

"Some of that money is possibly going to go toward a computer centre in the Student Union Building," she said.

Also, in the two other questions, students are being asked if they would like to remain in the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) at a cost of \$2.60 per student per year, and if they "wish to continue to pay" a \$4 per full-time student (\$2 per part-time student) per year levy to the Gazette.

The Gazette question was asked twice last year and was approved both times by the vast majority of voters. However, the first set of elections were thrown out on the grounds that the election was not accessible to all Dalhousie students, and in the second set of elections, referen-

dum quorum (of around 900 votes) was not attained.

Finally, there are two non-questions (also known as 'plebiscites'). They are being asked to gauge student opinion.

The first one, "Do you want Dalhousie University to once again start its football team?" needs no explanation.

The second plebiscite question asks students whether they support the federal government's or the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations' approach to education funding. There is no box for "none of the above."

The DSU usually has to struggle to get decent levels of participation in its election processes, but using the first election forum as an interest indicator, this year's by-election may be exceptional only in its apathy.

# Québec sovereignty worries universities

...cont'd from page 1: "QUÉBEC"

Rebello agrees, saying it would not be in the interest of a sovereign Québec to get rid of English universities.

"Many young people are for the independence of Québec but not for the abolition of English institutions," he said.

"For Québec, it would be a bad choice not to preserve the quality of McGill and support it after the referendum."

The main issue for Québec francophones, according to Rebello, is the self-empowerment they will be given with sovereignty and the ability to decide their own destiny.

"It is important to have control to choose what we want. After sovereignty, it will be impossible for us to blame anyone else," Rebello said.

"The French don't want to change the life of anglophone Québec. We just want the majority of Québec to control Québec."

But Carruthers is less optimistic. Québec students, like much of the province's population, are weighing the choices in the referendum against the economic and political realities, instead of simply thinking of the issue as one of language or nationalism, he said.

"These are days of realism. You can't just wave a flag and hope the population will follow," he said.

While student leaders in Québec have their opinions on the sovereignty option, student organizations both inside and outside Québec are split on whether or not they should plan an active role in the referendum campaign.

Some are taking a decidedly pro-active approach, while others are remaining neutral.

Rebello said his federation has decided to actively support the sovereignty option based on feedback from its members.

Last year, referendums were held on the campuses of all FEUQ members, asking students whether the federation should

take a stand on the future of Québec and where it should place its support. Seventy per cent of voters wanted the federation to take a position, with 64 per cent favouring a sovereigntist stance.

"It was a clear mandate for us," Rebello said.

Although the federation is not campaigning itself, it has set up the Mouvement des Étudiants pour la Souveraineté, with a mandate to organize on every university campus in Québec, Rebello said.

But only one English university in Québec, Bishop's, has decided to actively campaign against sovereignty. An active No campaign called DEBUNC — Decision Evident Bishop's University No Campaign — has already been formed on the campus, and the council plans to launch an education campaign to get students enumerated.

But other student leaders, both inside and outside Québec, are being careful not to take a public stand on the referendum.

"Everybody is walking on eggshells," said Axel Barnabe, vice-president of external affairs at the University of Ottawa student council. "We are trying to avoid any controversial arguments."

He said students at the bilingual university, where 35 per cent of the 7,000 Québec students are francophone, are well-versed on the issue. But the school's council has chosen only to facilitate discussion on the campus, and not take a stand.

Concordia's student council has also decided to remain neutral during the campaign, but will be holding their own referendum next month, asking both the official referendum question and posing a second question: "Do you want Québec to separate from Canada?"

Carruthers, however, says it is not the role of a student organization to take a stand on sovereignty.

"Students contribute to our budgets and it's not our role," he said. "The cost of alienating anybody is greater than the stance of taking a non-partisan view."

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## October By-Election

### Referenda Questions

Whereas: Dalhousie University aims to raise \$35 million to enhance academic, student, and physical services on campus through their Capital Ideas Campaign, and

Whereas: the Dalhousie Student Union has voted to solicit the wishes of its membership on this matter through referendum,

"Do you support an annual levy in support of the Capital Ideas Campaign of \$25 per full-time student (\$20 per part-time student) for five years with the funds directed toward enhancements in computers, classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and campus security?"

Yes  No

Do you wish to be a member of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) at a cost of \$ 2.60 per student per year?

Yes  No

Do you wish to continue to pay a \$ 4.00 per full-time student and \$ 2.00 per part-time student levy to the Gazette?

Yes  No

### Plebiscite Questions

Whose approach to education funding do you prefer?

- Canadian Alliance of Students' Association (CASA)  
 Federal Government

Do you want Dalhousie University to once again start its football team?

Yes  No

### Election of Two Senators

Drew Campbell

- Yes  
 No

Shannon Crowell

- Yes  
 No

**Get out and Vote October 11, 12 and 13\***

\* Please note, senator elections are only October 11 and 12

### Poll Stations - 9AM to 5PM

SUB, LSC, A&A, Howe Hall, Shirreff Hall, Killam Library  
Weldon Law Building, Tupper Building, Dalplex, SBA Building