

# News

## Nova Scotia student movement becomes Canadian

by Cathy McDonald

The Nova Scotia student movement entered a new era last weekend.

All but one student union agreed at a conference to dissolve the Students Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) and join the new Canadian Federation of Students as a provincial component.

Formerly the provinces had autonomous organizations that cooperated loosely in lobbying efforts with the federal government.

At the conference hosted by the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, SUNS became CFS-SUNS, as a part of the reorganization of the Canadian student movement into a service plus political body, replacing the National Union of Students and the Association of Student Councils.

The recent successful referendum at Dalhousie, where students voted 1655 to 913 to join CFS, brought the total of Nova Scotia members to four. Saint Mary's was the first Canadian institution to become a member last year, joined this year by the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in a unanimous "yes" vote with one abstention, and a couple of weeks ago by King's College students.

Out of a fee increase of four dollars per student, one dollar will be channelled back into CFS-SUNS, to help finance a second full-time fieldworker. Currently one CFS Atlantic fieldworker is responsible for coordinating activities in New Brunswick, PEI, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

Saint Francis Xavier voted against the signing of the agreement. "The executive has adamantly expressed they don't

like (CFS)," said Judy Cumby, Vice President of the student union.

St. F.X. wants to see some concrete results from the lobbying efforts of CFS in lessening government cutbacks to universities and improving student aid. She said the campaigns this year made an impression on the government where students demonstrated across Canada against reduced education funding.

CFS-SUNS fees will remain at their current level for members who intend to run CFS referenda, and also for those institutions that are not interested in joining CFS.

Discussion at the conference on requesting CFS-SUNS members to guarantee they will run referenda within a certain time period was dropped on the indication St. Francis Xavier and possibly Acadia University would leave the organization.

"St. F.X. doesn't want to run a

referendum," Cumby said. "There's no one on council that would run a 'yes' campaign."

St. F.X. is currently paying \$400 to SUNS.

Peter Rans, president elect of the Dalhousie student union, said Dalhousie will be paying \$7,000 to \$8,000 to CFS-SUNS. "Over a long period of time students (at Dalhousie) will be upset if people don't want to run referenda. SUNS has tried to accommodate the differences of opinion (between institutions) over many years. It hasn't been heavy-handed."

Mike McNeil, past president of Saint Mary's student union and chairperson of CFS, said "St. F.X. will join in a couple of years, but you don't push it."

SUNS chairperson Sandy Spencer said St. F.X. should give their students a choice by running a referenda. If it failed, they could still be members of the provincial organization.

Cumby said the council will deliberate in April whether it will run a referendum on CFS membership.

Dalhousie, Saint Mary's, King's College and Mount Saint Vincent Universities and the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design voted in favour of signing the national provincial agreement between CFS-SUNS and CFS. Absent from the conference were Acadia, Technical University of Nova Scotia and the Dalhousie Association of

Graduate Studies.

Executive elections which were to be held as this year's terms finished, were postponed until a May conference. Because of the failed conference in Antigonish in February that didn't make quorum, proper notice of elections couldn't be given. A steering committee was formed to act as interim executive.

A report from the campaign workshop was postponed until the May conference as debate over the new CFS-SUNS constitution took up the final plenary session. Issues of priority include student housing, whether student loans will be charged the prime interest rate, residence fees and the student position on the federal-provincial negotiations over funds for post secondary education.

"SUNS has become a credible organization," said Rob McClellan, CFS Atlantic fieldworker. He referred to the fact student leaders were able to hold meetings with the three provincial party leaders two weeks ago as a part of the National Week of Action protests. He credited SUNS with the successful lobbying for an increase of \$500 in student bursaries last year.

CFS-SUNS representatives intend to meet with the provincial cabinet at the end of April to discuss a new student aid program.

## Future of Art Gallery still up in the air

The future of the Dalhousie Art Gallery is still undecided despite strong public reaction to the news it might face closure next year.

Elimination of the Art Gallery, and other items such as varsity sports and student counselling services, was proposed in a report from Vice President Shaw

cuts, strong negative reaction from the public to news of the potential closure has given the Gallery a strong boost of confidence. Linda Milrod, director of the Gallery, feels they have won a temporary reprieve.

"We will be here next year," Milrod said, "and probably the year after." Milrod feels the major task now facing the Gallery is to find additional

the Dalhousie Faculty Association, feels it would be very unfortunate if the Gallery were to close next year. Axworthy is glad the administration is looking at options in the budgetary process, but wonders if they are starting in the right place. "I find it rather ironic," said Axworthy, "that the university is searching for means to cut the budget while at the same time incurring



Hart/Dal Photo

to the Dean's Council as a means of trimming expenditures if drastic measures become necessary.

The administration has not changed its viewpoint. "If I had to guess," said Shaw, "I would say the Gallery's operating budget will not be suspended." However, no decision has yet been made, explained Shaw, adding that ultimately the gallery's future lies with the Board of Governors.

Despite the uncertainty of the administration's position on the

funding. This will hopefully ensure a secure future for the Gallery.

Milrod believes the "drastic measures" list was tossed out by the administration to test public reaction. The response came by letters and phone calls to the administration, saying "Don't do it." In a recent memo to Milrod, Shaw said the administration was "surprised and impressed with the number of letters showing strong support for the Gallery".

Chris Axworthy, president of

large capital debts like the new rink and the President's house.

Regarding closure of the art gallery, vice-president Shaw emphasized he had never suggested it was a firm decision or even a likely one that such drastic measures would ever have to take place.

Shaw noted the final decisions concerning Dalhousie's 82-83 budget will be made in two to three weeks time, when the university receives its operating assistance budget from the provincial government.

## Balcony Square staff to the Underground

SCARBOROUGH (CUP) The staff of The Underground, a newspaper formed at Scarborough College after the student council (SCSC) closed the Balcony Square, has announced it will no longer negotiate the problem with the current council.

The Balcony Square had been the official college newspaper, but was closed by the council executive after an allegedly libellous comment was published last month.

SCSC president Ted Grinstead released a report March

17, titled "Autonomy for Balcony Square." He called for the immediate reopening of the Balcony Square, if the disputed comment was retracted. Grinstead pushed for a student referendum early in April, to ask that \$2.25 of the \$19 full-time student fee the SCSC collects be directed to the newspaper. The autonomy proposal would mean separate incorporation for the paper, removing legal liability from the student council.

In rejecting the SCSC proposal, Shona Nicholson, editor of The Underground, said the Balcony Square is dead.

## Gazette editor elected

by Cathy MacDonald

Ken Burke was elected editor of the Gazette this week for the 1982/83 year. Burke is a second year Arts student majoring in English.

Burke hopes to get more people involved and committed to the Gazette next year to upgrade the coverage of news at Dalhousie, especially Senate and Board of Governors, and a

more in depth look at issues that affect Halifax and Dalhousie, in features.

"If we have good quality and quantity of Dalhousie and student news, we'll be in a position where we wouldn't cut a story for a gossip column," he said.

Out of an eligible 33 voters, 23 used their right to vote in a preferential ballot.