

N.S. colleges take lead

# Atlantic region gives direction

by Don Soucy

Four veteran leaders of the National Union of Students - Union nationale des etudiants have resigned from their positions on the NUS/UNE Central Committee. The announced their decision at the bi-annual general meeting of NUS/UNE held at Carleton University in Ottawa last weekend.

Their resignations were due to their realization that they had done their jobs, and it was time to be succeeded by new people with new ideas.

A groundswell of popular support rose up from the plenary to draft Sheila Ryan from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College into one of these important positions. At first Ms. Ryan declined the job, stressing her priorities being, her own College and the building of a strong Atlantic Federation of Students - Federation des etudiants atlantique.

As the conference proceeded, however, it became apparent that Sheila was the best person for the job. She displayed vivacious leadership capabilities and expressed sound new ideas. It was generally felt that she could be counted on to do the job if she assented to it.

Ms. Ryan finally did assent to it after intensive lobbying from many NUS/UNE members, including the resigning C.C. members. They convinced her that her role on the new C.C. would be beneficial to N.S.A.C., AFS/FEA, and NUS/UNE as a whole.

Along with the reasons of Ms. Ryan's obvious qualifications, the move to draft Sheila was seen as a desire by NUS/UNE to place more emphasis upon the smaller colleges

because a large number of student leaders come from the bigger universities. It was sometimes felt by some students that the unique needs of the smaller institutions were de-emphasized.

Sheila Ryan joins Brian Perkins, president of the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, who was elected this spring to the 12 member Committee. Both are from colleges with enrollments of under 500 students.

NUS/UNE leaders also placed heavy emphasis for more representation from the Atlantic region in the Union's decision making positions. That region led the way for the rest of the country in showing enthusiasm and leadership for National Student Day.

Another consideration in Ms. Ryan's favor is the NUS/UNE desire to have more women on its committees. With Ms. Ryan, the C.C. now has two women members.

Ms. Ryan's new position on the C.C. is as a member at large. There are two such positions on the Committee, both elected by the plenary of all the member institutions of NUS/UNE. The other ten positions are voted on by the members of each individual province who vote for one member to represent their province.

The C.C.'s role is to implement the policies and strategies as determined by the national plenary. They do this by co-ordinating national action and by providing direction to the NUS/UNE staff.

The replacement of the four resigning C.C. members was seen as new direction for NUS/UNE. The four resigning "old hacks", as they referred to themselves, had been



Delegates to the National Union of Students [NUS / UNE] conference in Winnipeg last May.

Dal Photo / Johnson

with the organization throughout its struggling birth pains.

A few years ago, for example, Don Thompson, one of the four, accepted the job of Treasurer at a time when NUS/UNE was \$20,000 in debt.

Though presently NUS is by no means absolutely financially stable, it is beyond the constant make it or break it days which these four helped to guide it through. There lies the crux of the situation.

During NUS/UNE's growth, the C.C. had to react to panic situation after panic situation. It was necessary to achieve large growth and solid credibility. In short, the C.C.'s task was to build an organization.

Now that there is a national union of students, the C.C. has to deal with new objectives and new strategies. Thus, the "old hacks" felt it was time for a new perspective for the C.C.

Delegates to the NUS/UNE conference will meet again at the Atlantic Federation of Students

(AFS-FEA) conference October 29-31 in Sackville, N.B.

## MacDonnell generates enthusiasm

by Don Soucy

"We've done the research. We know where the government is shirking its duties. Now's the time to stop talking and to take unified action against their regressive policies."

Bernie MacDonnell of Dalhousie had NUS/UNE delegates from across the country pounding the tables with enthusiasm with their impromptu speech delivered at a conference workshop on National Student Day (NSD).

The enthusiasm he generated carried over into the final plenary of last weekend's conference which was held in Ottawa. There was nothing left for the delegates to say except express unanimous approval of a Nova Scotia College of Art and Design motion that "NUS/UNE re-affirm its commitment and solidarity for National Student Day and direct the central office to make NSD its top priority until November 9."

At another NSD workshop, Sheila Ryan of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College mentioned how some students at the conference were expressing concern over the lack of strong central co-ordination of NSD activities. She spoke of how they could learn from the Atlantic view of NSD.

"In the Atlantic we don't have a central base with a big budget or a lot of fieldworkers," she told the delegates. "We know that if anything is going to get done then we'll just have to help each other to go out and do it ourselves".

Other Atlantic delegates pointed out how throughout the conference discussions had revealed ways on how the region can work together on NSD activities. Atlantic Colleges and Universities are getting together to pool their knowledge for conducting workshops and seminars dealing with student issues.

## South Africa

EDMONTON (CUP) -- Sixty-one people were arrested here for attempting to stop a sports event in a weekend demonstration against South Africa's racial segregation policies.

After several hours of picketing, the anti-Apartheid demonstrators sat in the middle of a cricket match September 18 between a local team and the "Robbins II", an English team which frequently plays in South Africa despite a United Nations' sanction against it.

Despite the efforts of the Crown prosecutor, all the arrested were released on bail with a warning to stay away from the park.

The following day about 150 demonstrators again picketed the games, although no one repeated the sit-in.

The arrested demonstrators complained of police harrassment while in jail, including withholding medical and food services for women, and threatening non-whites about their immigrant status.

The weekend demonstration followed a rally the preceding week against the South African government's responsibility for hundreds of deaths of black and mixed-race people in more than three months of racial uprisings.

Speakers denounced Canada's economic and political ties with South Africa, and the sports competitions between the countries.

Cecil Abrahams of the South African Non-Racial Olympics Committee said the more than 50 Canadian corporations operating in South Africa "reap super-profits at the expense of the very lives of the majority black population."

"Only through the ending of all imperialist aid to the minority white government will this inhumane system be destroyed," he said.

## Anti-Apartheid

The recent uprisings in South Africa are an indicator of explosive social tensions that have been building in the country for the past century due to Apartheid.

A local spokesperson for the Southern African Information



Harvey MacKinnon Dal Photo/Walsh



Dal Photo / Walsh

Susan Johnson the Canadian University Press [CUP] fieldworker for the Atlantic Region enjoying a joke during her recent visit to Halifax. As the regional representative of Canadian University Press [CUP], Johnson visits student newspapers in the Atlantic Region [ARCU] to offer help and advice on the production of the paper.

Group says that "black Africans are struggling against a system which condemns them to virtual slavery."

The oppressive regime of John Vorster has responded to protesters by slaying hundreds of Black and "coloured" (mixed race) protesters in a massive witch-hunt campaign. Recent riots and massive demonstrations were ignited by the attempt to force Blacks to learn Afrikaans (language of the Dutch settlers) in schools.

Western economic links with South Africa are vital to the country's economy. Canada at

present is the eighth largest trading partner of South Africa. Last year, imports increased 65%, while exports to the racist society increased by 36%. This relationship directly supports a society based on racial segregation and oppression. At the same time the Canadian government publicly condemns apartheid.

Liberation movements throughout Southern Africa have called for an international boycott of apartheid. Effective economic sanctions

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# National Student Day

by Bernie MacDonnell

Over the past few years students across the country have become seriously concerned with the drift in education policy. The positive and forward-looking decisions of the sixties have given way to retrogression and neglect in the seventies. (While eight years ago it appeared that Canadian governments were moving earnestly in the direction of equal access to post-secondary education, today it is clear) The movement towards equal accessibility initiated with the Canada Student Loan Plan of 1964 has been all but forgotten as both federal and provincial governments continue to slash funding to students, regardless of their needs.

In response to these actions student leaders have presented countless briefs and petitions to governments outlining our fears and substantiating the decay of education policy throughout the country. Yet, still the cutbacks continue. This year alone, at the provincial level Nova Scotian students lost \$1.5 million from their bursary program while the federal government axed the opportunity for youth program and thus contributed to the worst student unemployment on record.

Words clearly are not enough. Government must recognize that the base of the students population

and, indeed, the mass of Canadian society support our claims for a just education system.

To that end, the National Union of Students has designated Nov. 9th as National Student Day, and has called upon all students to spend the day educating themselves to the complexities of our problem.

It is hoped that through this discussion and debate the grass roots of the student population will rise to play a more active and visible role in our relations with government. In this way the students body will assure Canadian governments that we are bargaining in earnest; that we do not intend to stand idly by as they attempt to turn back the clock in education policy.

It is incumbent upon us at Dalhousie to get behind this national project and organize for November 9th. Preliminary plans have already been drawn up but much remains to be done. I would like to take this opportunity to urge all interested students to come to an organizational meeting on Thursday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, the second floor of the SUB, to obtain further information and to begin work leading up to Nov. 9th. Canadians deserve a just education system we must work



Dal Photo / Walsh

Arts Representative Bernie MacDonnell represented Dalhousie at the NUS/UNE conference last weekend in Ottawa.

together to preserve it now and build for the future.

## Students support CLC

VICTORIA (CUP) -- British Columbia's student leaders have voted their support for the Canadian Labor Congress' Day of Protest and committed themselves to a national student action fall.

Delegates to the B.C. Student Federation conference here September 18-19 agreed unanimously to organize their campuses for National Student Day November 9, although some abstained from supporting the CLC general strike October 14.

Most representatives admitted they had not planned specific activities for November 9, but said they were considering teach-ins, forums and workshops.

An open forum with provincial attorney-general Garde Gardom and education minister Pat McGeer will be held at the University of British Columbia, according to UBC delegate Moe Sihota.

Delegates voted their opposition to the federal Wage and Price Controls Program following a long debate, after hearing CLC education director Art Kube say the government should control rising prices in housing, food and energy to remove upward pressure on wage demands.

Kube said OFY and LIP grants provided "a feeling of contributing socially desirable work", and were "an example of what can be done in a society."

Individual campuses are supposed to initiate their own activities on National Student Day, but the National Union of Students, which acts as a coordinator, will release a "statement of principles" for the participating student unions' consideration soon.

CLC Day at Dal  
"We're out to stop the rip-off by taking the day off". So goes one of

many Canadian Labour Congress slogans pertaining to the October 14th Day of Protest. Organizing for the day has been pushing ahead in Halifax and the CLC has decided upon the following:

- 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Grand Parade - Downtown Program: Singing "O Canada" Union Local Speakers Guest Speaker - Homer Stevens Union Songs (song sheets provided) More Speakers
- 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 Noon March on Province House Then back to the Grand Parade
- Further activity on the Dalhousie Campus may possibly include a rally on the 12th in the Student Union Building, featuring speakers representing the different organizations involved, and throughout the week of the 14th, an information table in the Student Union Building Lobby.

## Residence problems

TORONTO (CUP) -- The Ontario government's solution to a bureaucratic paper problem has deprived residence students across the province of the right to appeal rent increases to the provincial rent review board.

From July, 1975 until May, 1976, all universities in Ontario were classified as landlords who were expected to justify every rent increase exceeding eight per cent. Unfortunately, the system wasn't very well organized.

"The way it was set up, we would have had to file a separate form for every student," University of Toronto administrative director E. G. McDermid said. He said they would have needed two or three more "girls" in just to handle the paperwork.

According to McDermid, one university had gone through 70,000 pieces of paper to plead its case. Not wishing to deplete Canada's forest, universities across Ontario notified the government that the rent review, as it existed, simply could not be applied to university residences.

At this point, the government had two options, said David Warner, provincial New Democratic Party education critic. Universities could remain under the rent review by using a form of "class action", allowing the universities to file only one form for each residence or type of student. Warner said this would have simplified the procedure for the universities and students would still feel protected.

Instead, the government chose the second option. Sid Handleman, Ontario's minister of consumer and

commercial relations, announced that university students did not require the protection which the rental act provided, and proposed that universities be exempted from the eight per cent ceiling.

The only right which students retain is that recognized student councils or association must be "consulted" before any residence budgets are passed.

### UPEI STUDENTS ROLL BACK RESIDENCE RENT HIKE

CHARLOTTETOWN (CUP) -- The student union at the University of Prince Edward Island has foiled the university administration's plans to raise residence rents as high as 26 per cent.

In appealing the rent hike to the provincial Supreme Court the union succeeded in bringing student residences under the PEI Landlord and Tenant Act and the Rent Review Act.

Under the Landlord and Tenant Act students in residence are no longer subject to immediate room search and eviction, while the Rent Review Act limits rent increases to 8 per cent yearly, unless the landlord can justify a greater increase.

Provincial Rentalsman John Comeau has allowed the administration a 12 per cent rent hike.

The UPEI administration now says they must cut some student services.

University president Ronald Baker says he has "every sympathy" for the students, but "for fifths of their education is funded through subsidies, and that's not including grants and loans."

### Nova Scotia Residence Rights

Residence students in Nova Scotia have no legal protection. Barbara Beach, Dalhousie Housing Secretary, has said that students are excluded from both the Residential Tenancies Act and the Rental Review Board.

The Rental Review Board deals with appeals by members of the public who feel that their rent has been raised over the eight percent limit. The board can intervene in hopes of reaching a compromise between the landlord and tenant.

The Residential Tenancies Act deals with all other landlord problems.

Since we are not under the jurisdiction of any legal board, the university has the right to greatly increase residence fees, although they have yet to extend them beyond eight per cent. This, so far, puts us in a better position than many tenants who must contend with cost hikes made by landlords who feel fair in constituting a greater increase.

However, in the event that a fee hike for the university does take place, students have no legal opportunity to appeal the problem. Barbara Beach hopes to set up some type of board to give opportunity to unjust cases. This would probably consist of coming before the Dean and Director of housing.

At the present time our lack of protection has brought no serious problems, but we must keep aware of what might happen in the near future.