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Dalhousie says good-bye in style Farewell CFS

by Heather Norman

Two Dalhousie Student Union delegates who went to a recent Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) conference took along some commemorative t-shirts.

On the front, the shirts say "CFS Farewell tour '94." On the back is a cartoon depicting Dalhousie as the first domino in a falling line. The caption says "the first domino has fallen."

Hal Maclean, Vice President External and Bret Leech, Treasurer, designed and paid for the shirts. They say they spent about \$300 to make 40 shirts. At the national conference in Hull Nov. 8-14, they sold the shirts for \$17 each.

Leech says the shirts were popular with other schools considering pull-out referenda this year such as Mount Allison, UNB St. John and UNB Fredericton.

Dalhousie recently voted to leave CFS but its membership isn't up until June 30, 1995. That means they still have full membership rights including conference attendance.

But Leech says he and Maclean got a mixed reaction when they

showed up at the conference.

"Some people were upset that we pulled out. Some people were upset that we showed up," he says. "Some people thought that we had quite a bit of audacity to show up after we pulled out."

Both Maclean and Leech say it's important to go to CFS events in the next six months in order to protect Dalhousie's remaining interests in the organization.

"If they want to give our money back for the entire year, then we won't show up," says Leech. "But as long as Dal students have given their four dollars a year, then we have every right to show up."

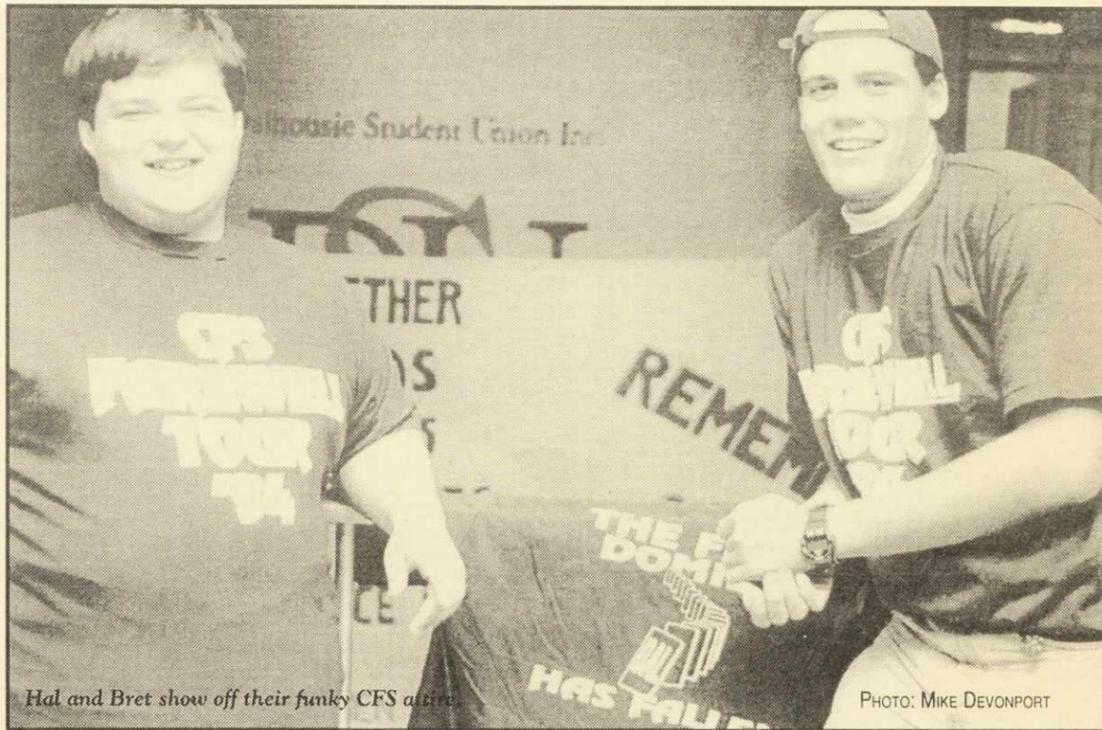
Maclean says it would be a mistake for the DSU not to participate while it still can.

"They still in theory represent us to Ottawa," he says.

It is also part of his job as external VP to represent Dalhousie students as fully as possible.

"There are a lot of people on campus who did vote for CFS," he says. "And it's still my job to represent both sides."

Maclean says he saw this conference as "one more chance to reform



Hal and Bret show off their funky CFS attire

PHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

the organization."

But he says he came home tired and frustrated.

He says the conference focused more on the internal workings of CFS as an organization than it did on issues directly concerning students.

He says he tried to amend the agenda to discuss policies on issues like social services reform. But plenary shot him down and administrative issues took priority.

Maclean says one of the most frustrating things that happened during the week was on the last day. He arrived at the conference at 9 a.m. when the plenary session was supposed to start. But, he says, "half the people didn't bother to get out of bed." Attendance was so low they didn't reach quorum. Those who did show up couldn't get anything done.

Maclean says even though the plenary couldn't do anything, CFS

still has to pay people like the translators for being there. He says it was a waste of time and money.

Leech says he was frustrated at the end of the conference too.

In his report on the conference to council he says "Dal students made the right choice. There's a dichotomy of interests across this country, and from our perspective, CFS just doesn't fit the bill anymore."

Lots of answers but no questions

by Jana Kutarna

ANTIGONISH, N.S. (CUP) — Social reform salesman Lloyd Axworthy wrapped up a two-day tour of Atlantic Canada last week, leaving behind many unanswered questions and much frustration with the political process.

A panel discussion at St. Francis Xavier University was billed as a chance to "come out and learn about as well as share your views" on the government's green paper on social reform. But many in the audience felt there was no time for this after the human resources minister had spoken.

Axworthy's comments centred around eliminating the social "safety net" structure that exists in Canada.

He said education programs could use more money in order to be effective, but this money will have to come from the students themselves.

Axworthy spoke for about 20 minutes, followed by four panellists, who spoke for 10 minutes each.

Axworthy, in what he referred to as "good university style," also requested additional time to respond to the panellists' comments, leaving little time for questions from the audience.

Many of the 300 students, faculty and members of the community who prepared questions beforehand wondered whether or not Axworthy wanted to hear their views.

"They did the same thing with the constitutional issue," noted education student Gerard MacLellan. "[Axworthy] made it seem as if he

was legitimately asking for the voice of the public."

Political science professor Rod Haddow was one of the panellists. He said the forum was not designed to get public input on the green paper.

However, Haddow added that it was supposed to enable discussion within certain parameters already set by the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development, which is travelling the country for five weeks.

"The notion wasn't so much that we would be having input through that particular session on the document, so much as we would be clarifying its significance and debating its merits," Haddow said in an interview.

"And I think Axworthy prevented that from happening, to some extent."

Economics professor Marilyn Gerriets, another panellist, agreed.

"It really is a struggle when he's trying to get as much time to himself, and it's very difficult to stand up and say, 'Mr. Axworthy, sit down.'"

But others were less critical of Axworthy's eagerness to capture the limelight.

John Gillis, vice-president of the Young Liberals, said the session could have been based less on the panel and more on student participation, but felt that Axworthy's comments were worth listening to.

"Not everybody agreed with him, but he listened to people's concerns, and I think he made it apparent that he's trying to do something positive. He didn't come in there with a high

and mighty attitude."

There were other concerns with the forum. Some believed the process offered little opportunity to learn about the actual nature of the government's proposed reforms.

Haddow said, "I think it would have been better for his own purposes had he made a briefer state-

Students protest reforms

by David Chokroum

OTTAWA (CUP) — More than 14,000 students demonstrated on Parliament Hill Nov. 16 against the federal government's proposed social policy reforms.

"They say cut back — we say fight back," chanted the protesters, who occupied the grounds of Parliament Hill for the day-long event.

The protest was organized by the Students' Federation of the University of Ottawa and the Canadian Federation of Students. It was attended by students from 25 universities and colleges from Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes.

Under reforms proposed by Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy, the government would cut \$2.6 billion in federal transfer payments to Canadian universities and colleges.

The reforms have been condemned by student leaders, who claim that cuts to federal funding may drive tuition up to \$4,000-8,000 per year. Axworthy emerged from the

House of Commons to address the crowd. But protesters pelted him with macaroni, eggs and litter when he reached the podium.

"I'll send you the bill," Axworthy joked, brushing egg from his suit. Axworthy defended the proposed cuts to the crowd, saying that students must take a greater financial responsibility for their education.

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and then let people ask questions.

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appearing on CBC Radio's Maritime Noon in Halifax before going to Antigonish.

Other commitments during this time included a community gathering in Bridgewater and meetings with student leaders, university presidents and politicians.

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way or the other*

"This idea that [students] are exempt from broader reforms is ridiculous," he said.

But students did not take well to Axworthy's implications that only the elite attend university, according to University of Toronto student union president Gareth Spanglett.

"Axworthy referred to that fact

that why should 80 per cent of Canadians fund 20 per cent of an elite group? He came out really aggressively and made it clear this is going to happen one way or the other," Spanglett said.

Over chants of "bullshit" and "Axworthy, c'est pourri," Axworthy said the proposed reforms have not yet been adopted by the government and the proposal is still open to discussion.

"There is no government policy at this point," Axworthy said.

"Come around the table and work with us to find solutions," Axworthy said. "Do you have the guts?"

But time to negotiate with the minister over the proposed cuts is running out, Spanglett said.

"To go out and tell people to come out and get to the table, he's got a five-week period, and we're already into week number three. The figures will be done for the February budget," he said.

Progressive Conservative Leader

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