

Scottish leader speaks at Dal

by David Rollo

On Friday 14th March, Mr. William Wolfe, Chairman of the Scottish National Party, addressed a lunchtime meeting in the MacMechan auditorium. This was the first of a series of meetings in a North American tour which includes visits to Sydney, Ottawa, Toronto, Guelph, Harward and Princeton. His visit to Ottawa has been scheduled to include meetings with Donald MacDonald, Mitchell MacPherson, Flora MacDonald, and Tommy Douglas.

In his introductory remarks, Jim Lotz, the chairman of the meeting at Dalhousie, indicated that the proceedings would be as open and informal as possible, as is the case in most Scottish Nationalist meetings.

Mr. Wolfe outlined the history of the Home Rule movement in Scotland, beginning in the 18th century with groups such as the United Scotsmen and ending with the rejection by Westminster, in 1927, of a Scottish Home Rule Bill, sponsored by the all-party Scottish Home Rule Association. This led, in 1928, to the formation of the National Party of Scotland which, in 1934, joined the Scottish Party to form the Scottish National Party. The aim of the Scottish National Party, since then, has been to win a majority of the 71 Scottish

Parliamentary seats. The S.N.P. will then have received a mandate from the Scottish people to negotiate the setting up of a sovereign Scottish Parliament.

The recent upsurge in support for the S.N.P. began, Mr. Wolfe pointed out, in November 1961, at the Bridgeton by-election. It continued in 1962 when, in June, Mr. Wolfe came second in the West Lothian by-election. The first Parliamentary election victory, since 1945, was in November 1967 when Winifred Ewing was returned, for Hamilton constituency, at a by-election. This success in the 1960s is important since it began about ten years before North Sea oil was considered an economic possibility. Oil has acted as a catalyst rather than a cause of the growth of the S.N.P.

Mr. Wolfe traced this increasing success of the S.N.P. in terms of popular votes and Members of Parliament returned. The General Election in October 1974 witnessed as S.N.P. vote of 840,000 (30% of the popular vote in Scotland) and the return of 11 Scottish Nationalist M.P.s. This placed the S.N.P. second to Labour, who were only 6% ahead of them. Mr. Wolfe concluded from this, and more recent evidence, that possibly the

next General Election, and almost certainly the one after that, would see the return of a majority of Scottish Nationalist M.P.s from Scottish constituencies.

He attributed the recent success, and probable future success to a variety of reasons. The most important is an increasing self-confidence among the people of Scotland in their ability to create a just and progressive social democracy, as a nation, without interference from Westminster and Whitehall. Mr. Wolfe outlined the organizational structure of the S.N.P. which is not only democratic and decentralized but is relatively free of sex discrimination (e.g. 50% of the leading executive office bearers are women).

One of the most encour-

aging features of the meeting was the extent of audience participation and not merely from those with Scottish accents. In this course of the discussion Mr. Wolfe hinted that enthusiasm and hard work were even more responsible than oil in helping the S.N.P. to make the most of its electoral chances. This was a point which may cause Canadian political activists to apply what they have learned from Mr. Wolfe's visit to their own situation. Also, Mr. Wolfe indicated that he was learning a great deal from his Canadian visit and replied to one question that the Canadian experience of American investment would cause him to reconsider the question of the U.S. role in the Scottish economy. The S.N.P.'s chief concern in this sphere

has been, hitherto, devoted mainly to opposing U.S. exploitation of Scottish oil resources.

It was revealed by the chairman of the meeting that a Chair of Canadian Studies had been established at Edinburgh University in 1974, the first of its kind in Britain. There has recently been an increasing interest in Canadian questions in Scotland and Mr. Wolfe's visit should help to make Canadians more aware of Scottish political and cultural concerns. It has therefore been decided to form a group, in Halifax, who could discuss how best to develop this mutual interest, in a Nova Scotian context. Enquiries are welcome and should be addressed to Jim Lotz or Greg MacLeod or myself at P.O. Box 3393, Halifax South P.O., Halifax B3J 3J1.

Executive introduced

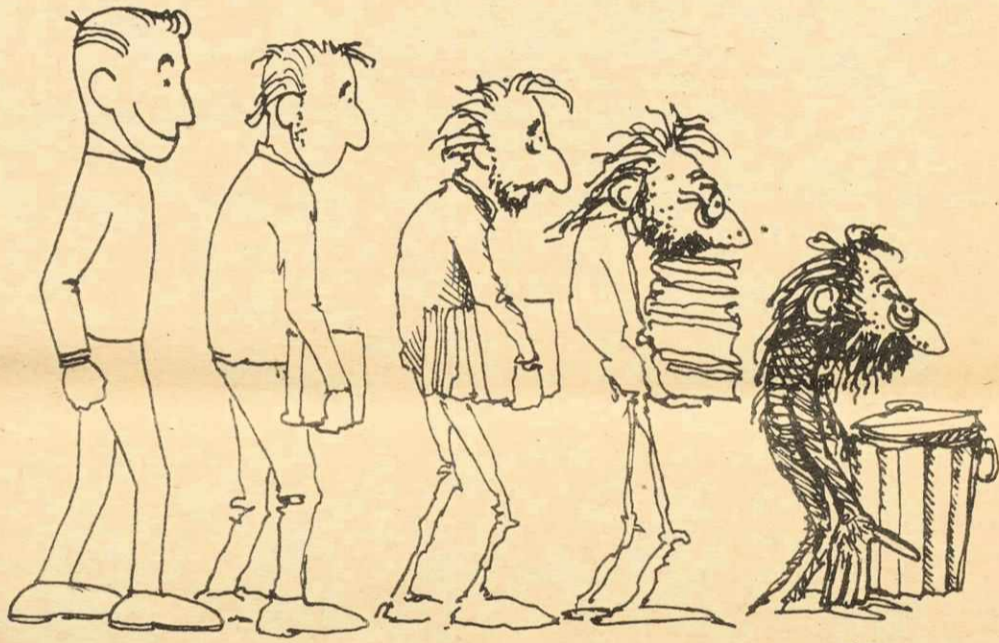
by Stewart Metcalf

Carleton Campus students were introduced to the new Executive of the Student Union last Thursday night at a meeting held in the Tupper Building. While crowds were not turned away at the door, many representatives of the various Health Professions' societies were present. Lorne Richardson, chairman of the meeting, opened it with a few remarks of the past history of the Task Force, explaining that it had been largely successful to date in increasing effective communication between the Union and the students of the Health Professions. He then introduced Bruce Russell, President; Ann Smiley, Vice-President; Mark Crossman, Treasurer; and John Graham, General Manager, who were present representing the Union. Other Union representatives attending included Lorna Muzzeral of Nursing and John Hamilton, the Medicine representative on Council.

Bruce Russell briefly outlined the situation of the Carleton Campus bookstore, explaining that it would be open again next fall from early September until November with a much expanded inventory of sundries. Dugal Chisholm, President of D.M.S.S., agreed with John Graham who pointed out that the problem last year of textbook selection was

not a bookstore problem, but one between the faculty and students who each wanted different books. This problem is being resolved this year through increased faculty-student communication.

The discussion then turned to the proposed Carleton Campus social facility and although the idea itself seemed generally to be acceptable, there was little agreement among the Carleton Campus students present as to what should actually be included in the facility, (i.e. bar, pool table, lounge, society offices or whatever). Bruce and Ann Smiley stressed the need for a greater consensus among Carleton students as to what they wanted as the Union was not prepared to invest over sixteen thousand dollars a year into any project without significant student support. As a result it was decided that ballots for indicating what should be included in the proposed facility, would be circulated among Health professions students throughout the coming week. This would provide some rough guidelines around which the Union's officers could draw up some definite proposals over the summer, for presentation to the Task Force in the Autumn. Those proposals met with general satisfaction and on this note the meeting was adjourned.



IT'S YOUR UNIVERSITY - GET EVOLVED

NUS fee hike!

by Robert Metcalf

For the National Union of Students (NUS/UNE) the 1974-75 academic year is ending on an upbeat. Its financial situation has improved greatly thanks to over eight thousand dollars in grants made by student unions from across the country. These grants are in addition to the fees paid by the NUS/UNE members.

The special grants are only for this year, but preliminary indications are that the NUS/UNE fee increase from 30 cents to a dollar will be successful. It has received final approval at Lakehead, Carleton and Dalhousie. A referendum at the University of Calgary, which has not been a NUS/UNE member, gave 60 percent approval to joining at the dollar fee rate. Unfortunately a two thirds majority was necessary, and another referendum will be necessary to authorize the fee payment.

At Simon Fraser University and the University of British Columbia the preliminaries to fee increase have indicated support for NUS/UNE. It appears that difficult technical require-

ments will be the only possible obstacle.

Another source of optimism is the growing number of non-members who are not preparing to seek membership in the national union. Among the universities where it is planned to hold a NUS/UNE referendum are Alberta, Western Ontario and Memorial.

Other student organizations and government are recognizing the National Union of Students as the organization that speaks for Canadian students.

There has always been a good working relationship between NUS/UNE and the Ontario Federation of Students. It appears that relations with the new Atlantic Federation of Students will also be good, while two other organizations in the formative stage (B.C.A.S.U. in British Columbia and ANEQ in Quebec) have already indicated interest in working through NUS/UNE at the national level.

The growing competence and success of the NUS/UNE national office in Ottawa is probably a major source of the improved

finances and membership. Through that office most student unions became aware of and had a voice in planning the national Post Secondary Student Survey that is being conducted by Statistics Canada. The input into surveys is continuing so that supplementary surveys along lines prepared by NUS/UNS will also be conducted by the federal government.

The struggle for federal and federal/provincial levels is still in progress, and it has already involved many student governments in a majority of provinces. Only through the existence of a national organization has that struggle been possible.

The atmosphere at the 1975 NUS/UNE annual meeting in May, and the ultimate effect of the organization's student aid campaign, will determine whether the current optimism is well founded. However, it now appears likely that after an eighteen month stall the national union is about to become a strong and useful part of the Canadian university scene.