

New executive officer speaks out

by Susan Fullerton and Samantha Brennan

Up on the fourth floor of the Dalhousie SUB Judith Guthrie sits in an immaculately tidy-looking cubicle of an office. It smacks of its new resident—a clean desk top and uncluttered walls reflect the newness of Guthrie to her latest post.

She is just getting her feet wet in one of the most demanding jobs in eastern Canadian student politics—executive officer of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS).

The new kid on the block, she is scrambling to catch up with the older players in this well-established game of student politics.

The job as executive officer marks a shift in Guthrie's lifestyle from "objectivity" to activism.

Guthrie began a career in journalism believing firmly in the "politically unbiased" nature of the media. Years later, after a series of jobs at various radio stations across the country, a disillusioned Guthrie left journalism stripped of her "lofty ideals".

Unsure of where the future was to lead, Guthrie dabbled in everything from preveterinary medicine to small business before settling in Halifax.

Although a self-professed "rootless Canadian", she plans to stay in the Halifax region for the next few years.

Guthrie sees the role of the SUNS executive officer as being the "connecting tissue" between students' unions and the provincial government.

SUNS is being forced to play a larger role in student politics because of the increasing frustrations with the national student organization, she said.

Some Nova Scotia universities, never very happy with CFS, are planning to pull out. St. Mary's University voted last spring to leave CFS, and both the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and Dalhousie have referendums planned for the spring.

Guthrie will have to help SUNS grow accustomed to its expanding role as a student lobby group in provincial and federal matters.

As well, she has big boots to fill as executive officer. She is following in the path of Peter Kavanagh, a legend in the regional student political scene.

Both Guthrie and SUNS will have to tackle some tough issues in the coming months as universities begin to set tuition increases and the government announces funding for summer employment.

These two problems are part of a much larger dilemma, she said. Accessibility is being threatened today, said Guthrie. "Only the rich can afford to send their kids to university."

Less than three weeks into her job, there is already plenty of government red-tape and bureaucratic foul-ups to deal with. Provincial student bursaries are late and the tuition deadline for most universities is here or already past.

Slowly her desk is becoming cluttered.



Judith Guthrie, new SUNS executive officer.

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Mike Crystal resigns as coffeehouse manager

by C. Ricketts

Mike Crystal, manager of the Cafe Genesis XXII coffeehouse, tendered his resignation to student council at the January 22 meeting.

"It's just a matter of moving on," said Crystal. "I don't care who's right or wrong, I just wish the best for the coffeehouse."

Crystal started the coffeehouse as a pilot project of the student union in the fall of 1982. He resumed his position as manager during Orientation '83 because "no one else wanted the job" he said, adding he saw the coffeehouse as a means to "get Arts Society people involved."

Last spring, as a result of tremendous apathy, the Arts Society was faced with a motion which, if passed, would have ended its existence at Dal.

Arts Society president Roger Dillon said at the beginning of the fall term about five society members, including himself, volunteered to help run Cafe Genesis XXII. Support dwindled into the term because of "course-loads" and because "sometimes there was no coffeehouse."

"I'd come to work and three or four musicians would be playing on the third floor SUB stairs," said Dillon. He added that over the past two months he had received "three or four" complaints about Cafe Genesis XXII and an operating budget had yet to be prepared.

Crystal contends the coffeehouse was cancelled only on the Sundays which fell on holiday weekends.

Janet Robertson, Arts Society VP, said she and three others have formed a committee which will present a proposal to the DSU's entertainment committee to resume management of the coffeehouse. "We will try to get more Dal students to play and get away a little from folk music," she said.

Crystal received a unanimous vote of thanks from council for his role in campus, provincial and national politics over the three years.

THE CRISIS IN EDUCATION

As the numbers go crunch at Dalhousie

by Geoff Martin

While the budgeting process at Dalhousie is already complicated enough (as we saw last week), it is confused further by the variability of the levels of tuition, the government grant, and the rate of pay for unionized employees of the university.

Government Support

Though fiscal year (FY) 1984-85 begins April 1, the planners in the administration can only guess at the level of government support, which makes up over 85% of the university's budget, and which will not be announced until June or July if last year's experience is any indication.

In short, throughout the entire budgeting process the university administration can only guess how much government support we can expect.

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC), which operates under the Council of Maritime Premiers, is also

important in this process. It makes recommendations to each provincial government on the level of public funding for each university—this is decided through a complicated system of course and programme weightings.

For this reason, Provincial Education Minister Terry Donahoe and Premier John Buchanan are important figures, because they and their federal counterparts, exercise the ultimate power over the financial health of Nova Scotia's post-secondary institutions.

Tuition

The annual debate over the level of tuition also causes headaches for budget planners in the university. Every Spring, the Board of Governors must make a decision regarding the level of tuition for the coming September session.

The board must keep in mind that the university administration has made assumptions regarding

the increase in tuition throughout the whole budgeting process. Obviously, there could be a budget crisis if the board refuses to increase tuition when an increase was assumed in the proposed budget.

On the other hand, if the students are well represented on the Board, the student interest must be taken into account when debating tuition increases. For example, if tuition is increased by a certain amount, will that make a university education unaffordable for some students? If so, then the board faces a controversial choice.

Increasing Salaries

Finally, the university budgeting process is also complicated by the possibility of an unexpected wage increase, which could come after the end of a collective negotiation with one of Dalhousie's employee unions.

For example, in July of 1984 the present Collective Agree-

ment of the Dalhousie Faculty Association expires, meaning that after 3 months into FY 1984-85, the university will have to negotiate a new contract with Dalhousie professors, which might cost the university more than the present budget plan anticipates.

With the final establishment of budget levels and "faculty envelopes", the focus of the planning process then moves to the faculty level. At this stage, the Deans play an important role in utilizing their now-scarce resources.

Given the many individuals involved in the budgeting process, internal politics is important in determining how subsequently available resources are shared among the various university cost centres.

Some Current and Upcoming Issues

Redistribution: With a 4% real reduction in the faculty envelopes for the coming fiscal year, there is ongoing debate about

whether "across the board" cutting is unfair or not.

Many in the faculty of Arts and Sciences are now arguing that their faculty is educating more students while the total faculty budget has dropped sharply in real *per capita* terms. A redistribution fund has been proposed, and even went to the floor of Senate on Monday, January 16, though no progress has been made so far.

The current grievances of some faculty in Arts and Sciences may also lead to the implementation of **enrollment restrictions**, which would result in the turning away of people previously considered qualified to attend the university.

The King's-Dal Dispute: A dispute has arisen between Dalhousie and the University of King's College over the amount of financial and teaching support

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