

# SUNS prepares brief

by Valerie Mansour

The Students Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) describes the March 21 protest march as "a success" but urges students to continue fighting.

At a meeting of metro institutions last weekend SUNS decided to write a brief explaining the Nova Scotia students' view of the crisis the education system is in. "We're basically explaining our four demands", said Janet Mrenica of the SUNS steering committee. "Freeze tuition fees, increase the funding level to institutions, plan post-secondary education, and no differential fees for foreign students."

"We're not satisfied with the commercial media's coverage of the march, so the brief will be going to all the media as well as members of the legislature", Mrenica said.

"We'll be explaining why the march was held and why the petition was circulated."

"We have to make sure action continues. There's lots of energy that shouldn't be wasted."

SUNS is now putting their emphasis on the Boards of Governors at the different institutions. "We'll be sending the brief to the chair of each board", said Mrenica. "The student reps should be aware of it and prepared to speak to it", she said.

Gail Picco of the Dalhousie Cutbacks Committee said "we're worried that it is going to be difficult to get students to focus on administrations instead of the provincial government. It's important for students to realize administrations aren't their buddies."

"They can cut some of their spending in areas that don't

benefit students", said Picco.

The committee is doing a leaflet called "Where do we go from here?" which will address the whole campus, showing them how government underfunding is effecting everyone.

"The committee feels the march was positive in the number of people who showed up and the support for freezing the fees", said Picco. "The problem is the political mileage the politicians got out of students' interests."

"We're leaving the provincial organizing to SUNS with our cooperation and help on campus", she said. "It's more important for us to focus on the administration now. The committee feels student union people can't be trusted in the long run against administrations because of their close ties."

## UIC overpayments

# Battle will continue

by Valerie Mansour

Nova Scotians who were ordered to give back overpayments in Unemployment Insurance have lost another step in their battle against the government.

The Canadian Umpire's Board recently ruled that the 5,058 people affected must give back the money, thus upholding the initial ruling of a three person board of referees. Due to a computer error, each person received benefits of \$400-\$600 more than intended.

Ginny Green, of the Halifax Coalition for Full Employment which is representing some of the people affected, was disappointed the ruling came down without any substantiation. "We expected a half-intelligent decision," she said.

Green said the next step would be to appeal to the Federal Court of Canada. "We're putting our legal and political arguments together so both will be heard", she said. "Proceedings will start

right away."

The Coalition claims that when people collect their benefits in good faith with no possible knowledge of any error, the law does not give UIC the power to make up its mistakes at the expense of the people.

"The unemployment rate used by UIC is so far from the real situation that in fact Nova Scotians on unemployment insurance are usually underpaid, not overpaid," according to the Coalition.

"Our focus is changing now", said Green. "We are placing more emphasis on political organizing. About 200 of the affected people have signed up now, and we're setting up committees in different parts of the province."

"We're basically playing it by ear", she said. "We're organizing people, getting publicity, and setting up a defence fund."

There are two other groups affected in British Columbia and Montreal, according to

Green. "They were late receiving their letters asking for the money back, so they are just now going through the same process we have gone through", she said.

The Coalition believes their strength lies in numbers. "As our numbers grow, UIC and the government will have to take more seriously our determination not to pay."

"The Canadian government has written off millions and millions of tax debts to wealthy companies; the Nova Scotian government has allowed MLAs to keep overpayments of \$14,000: why can't the unemployed—whose faith in all cases was accepted by Mr. Dubinsky (Louis Dubinsky, of the Umpire's Board) have a simple \$400-\$600 written off?" the Coalition asks.

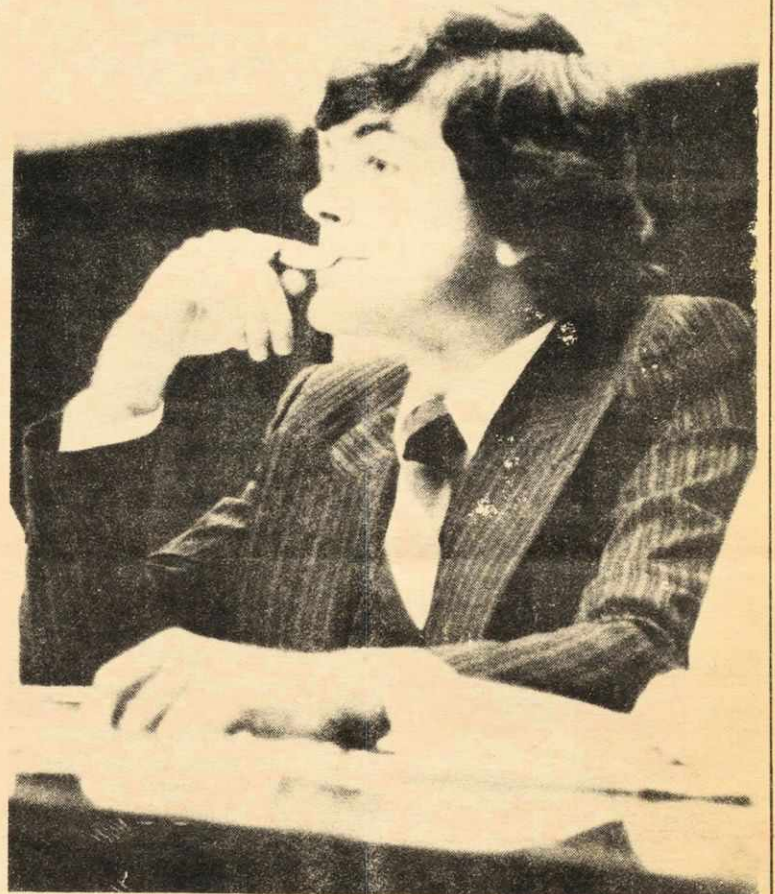
"In this province 1 out of every 8 people is affected", Green concluded. "The overpayment is the epitome of what UIC does to people all the time."

# Council briefs

The last meeting of the 1978-79 student council was spent discussing next year's budget. After going through each departmental budget, council voted to accept the budget for the upcoming year. In assessing revenue and costs, treasurer John Murphy predicted the Student Union will operate with a \$757.00 surplus for the next fiscal year.

There was some deliberation concerning the Gazette budget, particularly concerning the salary of the editor. The Gazette explained to council that at least two full-time people, a business manager and editor, are needed, and because of this, a salary increase is necessary. Due to the full-time nature of the job, the editor will not be able to take a normal course load, thus disqualifying himself for a full student loan. After some deliberation council decided financial constraints would not allow a raise at the present time but instructed the Gazette to approach the summer council to come up with a suggestion to put before the new council in September.

Some debate came out of the entertainment policy for the SUB for next year. As proposed by programming director Fiona Perina 40 discos will be held in the SUB. Some council members found the number excessive and put forth a motion to decrease the number to 32. After debating the revenue generated from these events Council voted to go with 40 discos.



Vice-president Graham Wells at Sunday's council meeting.

Last Sunday's new council meeting was short as very little business was brought up. Graduate representative Bill White was elected by council to be the second delegate to the National Union of Students Conference in Vancouver in late May. White defeated law representative Michael Lynk for the position. White will be joined by president Dick Matthews to make up the Dalhousie delegation.

No applications have been received for the positions of Pharos editor, director of photography and director of community affairs. The Recruitment Committee told council these positions are usually filled during the summer months.

Council debated the Ombudsman report with regard to the position of treasurer. For more details see page 3.

## C.U.T.S. YOUNG ADULT ADVENTURES

overland hotel or camping treks '79

European	* 10 weeks from U.S. \$950.00
London-Kathmandu overland	* 82 days from U.S. \$820.00
US Explorer	* 40 days from U.S. \$689.00
African Safari	* 12 weeks from U.S. \$1560.00
South America	* 82 days from U.S. \$1280.00

\* available for shorter periods of time

ASK US! . . . THERE'S MORE!

Information:

Canadian Universities Travel Service  
SUB, Rm. 122 Dalhousie University  
424-2054

**"WE CAN MOVE YOU"**  
CANADA'S NATIONAL  
STUDENT TRAVEL BUREAU

TELETRAVEL  
424-2054

travel  
information

Mondays 7-10 p.m.

TELETRAVEL  
424-2054

This  
Week



This week and next: **Farriers**

**DICK TURPIN'S**

Sounds like fun! — The entertaining pub

Scotia Square 425-6700.