

Easing the busing blues

by Christine McLean

Twenty minutes is all you need to get by bus to that 'oh-why-did-I-schedule-it-that-way' eight-thirty class from Dartmouth. The Halifax Transit Corporation provides a special direct service bus from the Dartmouth Shopping Centre terminal which leaves at 8:08 and again at 8:38. This bus (Spring Garden Road No. 1) will take you, without having to transfer, directly to Dalhousie and then along its regular route.

Also for the benefit of student and worker commuters to the area, a bus (McDonald Bridge No. 1) passes the university gates on Coburg Road at 3:30, going directly downtown and across the bridge. Although this one bus runs at the time of greatest demand, it leaves those of us who will watch the sun set through classroom windows this winter to tackle the usual three or more buses home later in the day. The fare structure prevents expansion of the direct transit service. All

of us who have in the past regularly bothered the games room attendant or the Killam circulation desk ladies for our quarter, two dimes, and a nickel of exact fare, can easily imagine the problem of preventing commuters from going all the way to Dartmouth without paying bridge fare.

But things are looking up. The notorious bridge bus crawl along Gottingen Street at rush hour will be alleviated by a new provision which will allow buses only to use

the center lane there and still take a right turn onto North Street. This shortcut saves ten minutes of travelling time, in most cases enabling students to catch the bus earlier than the usual one and maybe even get home before their supper has to be warmed over.

With the exception of the Woodlawn and Colby Village buses, which service the ferry crossings, the Dartmouth and Halifax Systems are timed to coincide as often as possible. Those cold winter waits at the terminal should not be more than ten minutes — that is, your bus should get you before frostbite does.

The Public Utilities Board does not allow a special student rate. As a result, a minimum of twenty dollars a month eats into tight student budgets. Car pooling is the best alternative. If you are interested in trying to save some money and bother this way, but do not know the commuters in your area, then just consult the Student Ride Board in the lobby of the S.U.B. for information.

As assignments get heavier, it is the loss of time which begins to hurt more. To save time by getting better connections, it is wise to pick up bus schedules in the buses or at the S.U.B. enquiry desk and also take advantage of Transinfo at 426-6600.

And it will not be too long before you will find that reading and sleeping on the number eleven (if you are lucky enough to get a seat) is all just a part of student survival.



The Dalhousie to Dartmouth bus is still in operation as a method for students to shorten travel time.

Dal Photo / Mooney

AFS increases students' fees

by Allan Zdunich

Delegates to the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS/FEA) executive meeting decided to recommend a fee increase for membership in the organization.

At the September 25 and 26 conference held in Halifax, delegates felt that AFS/FEA should hold referenda on each campus to allow the students to decide if they wish to belong to AFS/FEA. Membership/fee referenda were seen as a way of delivering the AFS/FEA message to the student body.

"It's important for students in the Atlantic region to understand that the provincial governments work very closely on student aid and educational policy, and that the AFS/FEA is the only working student organization which takes into account problems of a regional nature." John Colville, Nova Scotia Caucus Chairperson, stated at the conclusion of the meeting.

The fee referenda also includes an increase to \$1.00 per capita for each student in the member institutions. Colville explained that "In the past, AFS/FEA has been unable to work beyond the policy phase of student activity because of a shortage of funds and the lack of a central coordinating mechanism." A fulltime employee was seen as a possible way of achieving a coordinating mechanism. The fee increase followed the thinking of other student organizations, such as: the National Union of Students (NUS/UNE), Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), B.C. Student Federation (BCSF), and the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS).

Representatives to the AFS/FEA executive meeting in June voted to



Representatives to the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS / FEA) Executive meeting in Halifax September 25.

Dal Photo / Johnson

double fees in order to make the budget for the organization \$3000. Delegates to the September meeting felt this was still inadequate to make the organization viable. Representatives at the October general meeting will determine if the fee increase is to take effect. The AFS/FEA executive voted unanimously to support National Student Day, November 9th.

National Student Day is a day of concern, when students across Canada will examine government policies regarding education. On some campuses this will take the form of two hours of teach-ins, on others the cancellation of classes for day-long teach-ins, and on others protests at the legislature. National

Student Day is November 9.

The motion of support was moved by the Nova Scotia Caucus Chairperson, John Colville, and seconded by the New Brunswick Caucus Chairperson, Ken Hefferman. The motion read: "be it moved that the Atlantic Federation of Students/Federation d'étudiant d'atlantic executive will actively support and participate in National Student Day through its Atlantic organization."

Representatives announced plans to prepare at least two posters, and at least two pamphlets for the Atlantic region regarding National Student Day. The NUS/UNE poster will not be used in regional advertising of National Student Day.

The Atlantic Regional Coordinator for National Student Day, Don Soucy, told the Gazette that the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) will prepare the first poster for AFS/FEA September 28 and will start distributing it by October 1st. The first pamphlet will be ready the following week.

The agenda for the AFS/FEA conference October 29-31 in Sackville New Brunswick was prepared. Six items will be discussed by delegates: Student Aid, the role and direction of AFS/FEA, campus services, Federal-Provincial Educational Financing, National Student Day, and employment.