

# Suggestions from CFS's Olley on going radical

By Carolyn Ryan

Prince Edward Island's loss of 600 student/youth jobs this summer in federal government cuts is merely a fraction of the 70,000 jobs axed through the new government's restraint measures, said Beth Olley, chair of the national student organization Canadian Federation of Students, to UPEI Student Union Councillors enjoying a wine-and-cheese party on her behalf.

Olley was in town over the weekend to raise campus awareness of CFS and to help in the SU's campaign protesting job cutbacks. It was the first visit by a CFS chair since UPEI joined the four-year-old lobby/services organization last spring in a referendum vote.

"The actual cut in funding for youth job creation is not \$85 million as we've been told, but \$185 million over last summer," said Olley, adding that the original amount budgetted before final cuts had been \$100

million less than the previous summer's amount.

She said staff in CFS's national office (Ottawa) are trying to fight the cuts by talking with federal Minister of Employment and Immigration Flora MacDonald, and by encouraging student

unions to carry out postcard and letter campaigns.

"This is extremely effective," she said, for, although it takes only a few seconds to address a postcard and costs nothing to mail it to the government, the recipient must have each one

personally answered. This is costly in both staff time and postage.

Besides, said Olley, on a "scale of concern" the government uses, a single postcard means 50 people are concerned about something. A handwritten letter signals that 100 people are concerned but didn't take the time to write. Those statistics add up to quite a few votes in a successful postcard blitz.

One thing that may work here to excite community interest, said Olley, is to compile a list of the communities that benefitted from Summer Works projects, and try to enlist their support.

"The federal government knew what it was doing when it announced those cuts in the middle of November, when few students were looking for summer work," she told Councillors.

"Tell people to start looking for summer work now. Then you'll get support."



*A brief summary of the services the Canadian Federation of Students supplies to its members:*

— The political branch lobbies politicians on matters such as student unemployment, post-secondary underfunding, child care in educational institutions, women's issues on campus, and problems experienced by foreign students.

— The Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP) which helps Canadian students find summer work and accommodations in New Zealand, Belgium, Ireland, and especially England. Last year about 800 students went on SWAP working holidays, supporting themselves by working in restaurants, pubs and hotels.

— Travel CUTS, a travel agency "run for students, by students". The nearest Travel CUTS office is in Halifax, but it handles P.E.I. busines.

— Studentsaver, one of the most visible CFS projects. By using their CFS membership cards, students are eligible for discounts at participating businesses across the country.

— Canadian Programming Service, a coordinating bureau for speakers and bands on the campus circuit. Members share the costs of bringing an otherwise unaffordable lecturer or group to the region.

## MPHEC report released

A report released last week by the group deciding on preferred funding for regional universities has recommended that UPEI get an increase in provincial funding of 4.5% to maintain the university at its present level of services.

However, UPEI President Peter Meincke says the amount recommended by the MPHEC (Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission) does not take into account the rapid increase in enrollment faced by UPEI and other Maritime universities, which stands at a cumulative 30% over the past

several years.

"Per-student government funding in 1979 was \$4700," said Meincke at a university Senate meeting Friday, "while today it is \$3000."

Our university may not be given even the status quo increases, though. Last year for the first time, the provincial government did not accept the MPHEC recommendation and gave UPEI only a 3.6% increase.

"If the Maritime governments continue with the precedent they have set," said Meincke "we may get only a 2.25% hike this year."

He told Senators that the Association of Atlantic Universities had in an earlier report advised an increase of 10% in funding.

The MPHEC report now goes to the Council of Maritime Premiers for consideration.

"This is the same message we've been getting for the last five or six years," said Meincke, "with one difference. Now we don't know what the federal government, with its restraint program, is going to do about post-secondary funding either."

## Dal profs strike, students stay neutral

HALIFAX (CUP) — More than 10,000 Dalhousie University students could be confronted with a picket line Jan. 28 if the university faculty's demands are not met by the administration this week.

Chances are the students won't be taking sides. The university's student council vowed to remain neutral in the dispute and may take legal action against the administration for loss of academic time if a strike occurs.

"The student union's prime responsibility is to the students, to see that our interests are protected," says student council president Alex Gigeroff.

"I'd hope that once they (both sides) see how badly students are going to be affected they may go back to the table."

The student union is offering strike information to students through a special bulletin and making every effort to ensure student who respect picket lines will not be penalized for missed exams and late term papers.

The faculty wants the administration to start paying into its pension fund, which it stopped doing in the spring, and to grant them a salary increase comparable with those awarded to other Nova Scotia university faculty. The administration has offered a 12 per cent increase over two years, but faculty members say the increase only amounts to 4.6 per cent annually, at least two per cent less than other associations were granted, when additional factors are considered.

The 728-member faculty association walked out for a one-day work stoppage Jan. 16 and planned to meet Jan. 24 to discuss progress at the bargaining table. It will initiate full strike action if contract negotiations reach an impasse.

Robbie Shaw, Dalhousie's vice-president of finance, has resigned in the midst of the deteriorating labour relations. Though he denied his resignation was linked to the dispute, the continuing conflict between the faculty and administration has thrown the university's financial problems into the spotlight.

Dalhousie faces a \$25 million accumulated deficit and the administration fearing monetary penalties from the provincial government for having a debt in excess of a certain percentage of its operating grant, refuses to increase faculty salaries substantially.

Caroline Zayid, student council vice-president external, says she hopes the recent spree of attention on Dalhousie will allow students to bring home the issues of university underfunding and the government's role in the school's financing.

The strike would be the faculty's first.

Meanwhile in Ontario, a faculty strike at Trent University was narrowly averted six hours before the job action was scheduled to begin. The faculty and administration agreed on a three-year contract, with a 6.7 per cent increase in salaries and benefits in the first year and the remaining two years subject to binding arbitration.

Full-time faculty salaries at Dalhousie range between \$19,000 and \$67,000 a year. Full-time salaries at Trent will now average between \$26,000 and \$61,000.

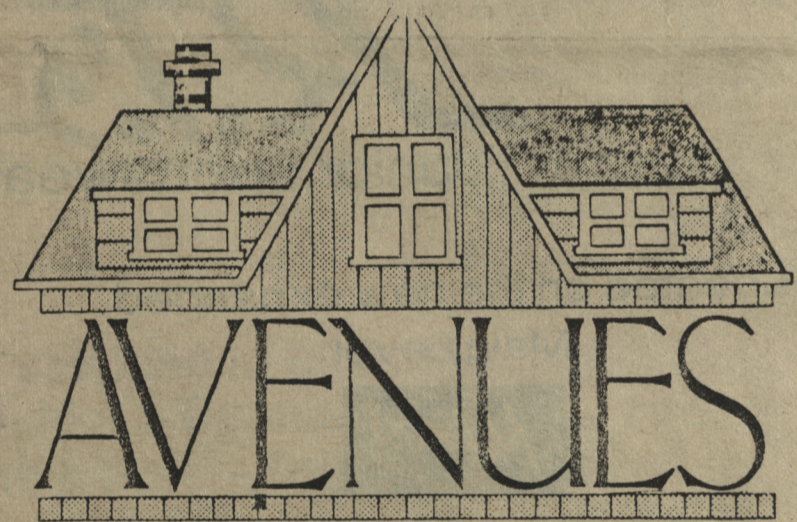
## Bernardine Hall bursary

An award of \$500 will be made in conjunction with other bursaries awarded from the Memorial Bursary Fund to an applicant who:

- 1) is a Junior or Senior female student living in Bernardine Hall and has lived there for at least two years.
- 2) has an average of 70% or better in last semester's work
- 3) writes a personal essay about what she has participated in during her years in Bernardine Hall — i.e. how she has helped promote residence spirit.

Selection will be made by the Scholarship and Awards Committee and two people from Counselling Services.

Applications must be received in the Registrar's Office by February 8, 1985. Applications may be picked up either in the Registrar's Office or in the Department of Student Services.



TONIGHT

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