

# Cuts coming soon

By TOBY SANGER

New shoes are being traded in for butcher's knives at Dalhousie as both the university and the student union consider how best to make cuts without tears after receiving their six month financial statements.

While the student union has already made plans to reduce programming and entertainment expenditures in order to cope with its \$116,000 deficit, the university is trying to decide whether to do "major surgery" on programs or on services for students to reduce the projected \$1.1 million deficit.

Brian Mason, Dalhousie's recently appointed vice-president of finance and administration, admits he doesn't have a lot of optimism about the process, especially if the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) doesn't recommend the 7.8 per cent increase in base

funding the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) requested from the advisory body last week.

The MPHEC forecast an increase in funding for 1987/88 of 5.3 per cent which would keep government funding per tuition dollar at about \$3.50, down from a level of \$5.50 in 1979/80.

Mason says the firm of Ritchie management consultants was brought in to help stretch the university's resources but "there are some places we just can't stretch it anymore. It's demoralizing for the staff and frustrating for the users... and it certainly eats away at the fabric of the quality of education."

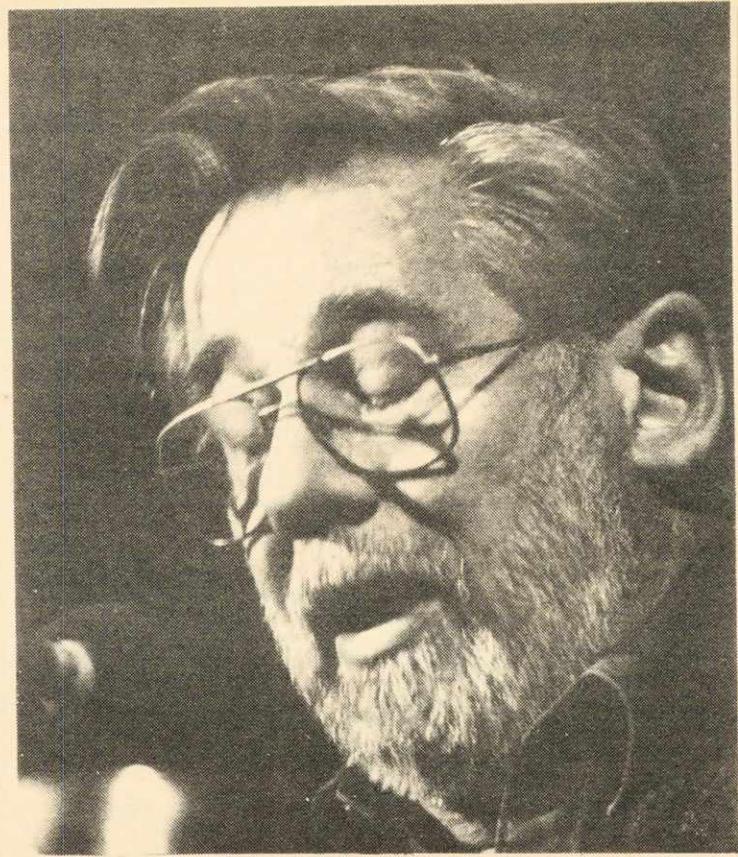
He says in the new year, freezes will be imposed in certain areas, but says just which areas hasn't been decided on yet.

Despite an impressive and well-organized campus entertainment program, the student union has taken a beating because few students have turned out for the events. Consequently, DSU treasurer Sean Casey says rebuilding the SUB's entertainment program will have to be stalled in the second term as live jazz in the Grawood and other events will no longer be offered on a regular basis.

The student union lost about \$3,000 on the dinner theatre program, \$3,500 on Oktoberfest in the SUB; is down \$6,000 in revenues on the Sunday cinema program and has lost \$2,000 each on Supersubs and the academic enrichment programs.

In addition, over \$6,000 will be lost on the handbook because few ads were sold and the printing bill was higher than expected. These losses have led to losses in other areas, too. A bad cash-flow situation has meant the student union won't earn the \$11,000 it had expected from short term investment income.

Casey laments "we're in a rebuilding process but we're just getting the lumps now."



Morningside can't afford to send him on the road so Gzowski sells his celeb status for price of a plane ticket here. Photo by Russ Adams

Not bad, eh?

## Gzowski rambles and ruminates

By SARA C. FRASER

Some people are their own best listeners. Peter Gzowski host of CBC Radio's "Morningside", says he has to be: he describes himself as a "surrogate listener" for over one million Canadians.

The reluctant star of what is the most popular show on the air-wave denies his celebrity status. To a small but devoted audience of 45 at the Student Union Building last Thursday night, Gzowski claimed, "I'm just a guy doing my job."

Gzowski's talk was as rambling and leisurely as his appearance. He considered subjects from his personal dislike for neckties to his views on our "national character".

Morningside, a mix of interviews and music, lets him go tieless. Broadcast across Canada from 9 a.m. to 12 noon every Monday to Friday, it reaches Canadians from St. John's, Newfoundland to Victoria B.C.. Those who are busy in the morning can tune in to "The Best of

Morningside" at 10 p.m. every night.

Gzowski says listeners are an integral part of the show, since the myriads of mail he receives each day provides many of its ideas. "Our typical listener," he said in an interview at the CBC studios in Halifax "is smart and well-informed".

But our "Canadian attitude" in general? Gzowski chastises gently, recalling one incident in which a friend looked up and apologised to the driver of a golf cart that had just run over his foot. "This," he said, "is part of being Canadian."

"I think we've become confused about what makes us distinct. I think it goes back to what we define as our culture. If it has a capital 'C', I think we've realized that it's something we need to preserve." He looked back on government recognition and consequent funding of the arts, but worries about the future. "What are we going to do about that part of our culture that doesn't start

with a capital 'C'?

"We have to work not to be American. The Americans conquer, we cope. He talked about our social safety net of medicare and unemployment insurance, but says these are "symptoms of a basic attitude"; while publishers in the U.S. released *Dr. Ruth's Good Sex*, he said, Canadian publishers gave us *Safe Sex*. "Americans have good sex, we have safe sex," he said.

Gzowski says free trade, like many things, is "over his head," but he understands putting it all on the bargaining table would be "like jumping in front of a bus." It would take away what makes us Canadian, he says.

Gzowski, or 'Peter the Great', as a recent "Saturday Night" article called him gets humble in the Canadian tradition. "I still haven't been to Paris, France, but I almost bought a house in Paris, Ontario," he said with a barking laugh. He doesn't approve of his own fame. "When people become bigger stars than the people they

interview", he says, "THAT'S WRONG!"

One reason for his success may be that, in Gzowski's own words, Canada is "celebrity-short". "We often create celebrities in this country before they're ready to become celebrities... that's why Wayne Gretsky gets to endorse 23 different products at the same time."

Like Gzowski, the CBC (celebrating its 50th year) is "part of the fibre of this nation." But like Gzowski, whose wispy grey hair looks permanently uncombed, CBC is showing its age. He laments that there are now ratings for the radio shows, but says they have to "because everyone's pointing the gun at them."

Gzowski says the CBC is in dire straits. "We are right at the bone, and the white is showing."

"There's no CBC television in the way that there is CBC radio" he claims, "there are dials in the country that haven't moved since 1936, and that's all right with me."

Morningside, he says is as important to Canada as our apologetic attitude. "Radio is the most intimate medium known to person-kind," he says, carefully as always using a neutral term.

Morningside has an almost cult-like following of listeners, people whose occupations are as diverse as the personalities Gzowski interviews each day. Singer Ian Tyson listens in Alberta on his "walkperson" while driving his tractor, but most listen at home or in the office "if things are slow." Gzowski says "it is an elitist show, but it's open to anyone who wants to join that elite."

Gzowski adds that the Canadian national motto should be "not bad eh?" in the mold of so many pioneers in science, technology and the arts whose ideas, kept low-key, often have been claimed by the U.S.. The inventors of insulin are a good example. "But," he says, "this is my land, and I like it, and it's 'not bad'."

## The politicians and the hacks

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Power and privilege. Privilege and power. To even the most casual observer, there's a very high concentration of both qualities at Canada's first ministers' conference, held in Vancouver in late November.

There are four CBC trailer trucks parked near the high-fashion fur shop at the Hotel Vancouver. Massive orange cables run along the ground, and smaller blue ones cascade from a window on the second floor, where the whole shebang is taking place.

The politicians are, for the most part, clean-shaven, middle-

aged white men, wearing the blue, grey and occasionally brown suits which look equally at home in the nation's law firms and the board rooms as on Parliament Hill.

To enter the conference hall, journalists must use a separate entrance from their elected representatives, just six feet to the right. Security guards are quick to stop the person who unwittingly assumes that one entrance should be good enough for everybody.

To confuse things further, most of the journalists have that corporate look, but become easier to identify when they play media-

hype games with their lap computers, or scurry to the press scrums when the prepared speeches drone to a close.

Make-up crews adjust the ministers' complexions for the newscasts, to spread the latest blab and buzz. But the TV image is the tip of a manufactured iceberg, and political flacks zip to and fro in search of the right person, of access to power and privilege. Oh, stoop to conquer.

The big topic — the real topic — is lumber and tariffs, export taxes, stumpage fees. The back room bargains, the last minute calls to Washington, the wheeling, dealing, boardroom, back-room thrill of it all.

## Correction

In the story "Dal to host Chemistry conference" in last week's issue of the Gazette, Professor Joan Norton's name was incorrectly given as Jane Morton. Also, Professor Norton teaches physics at St. Mary's University and not biology at Dalhousie as was stated in the story. As well, Norton's husband,

Gerald Harris, whose name was incorrectly given as Harold Morris and who is 39 and not 93 as stated in the story, is an associate professor of tort law at the Dalhousie Law School and not a janitor at the public library as the story incorrectly stated. The Gazette apologizes for the error.