

Cutbacks hit students

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education commission and the Atlantic Association of Universities have sold out to the governments of the Maritime Provinces. Rather than condemning the governments for their response to a body they established for the purpose of financial recommendations, the MPHEC and the university presidents are politely accepting this crisis situation by congenially speaking of belt-tightening.

After receiving reports from the post-secondary institutions in the region, the MPHEC decided that in order to merely maintain last year's level of services a 14% increase in operating grants would be necessary. The commission said post-secondary education in the Maritimes had reached the crossroads and the direction it would take in the coming year hinged directly on the level of government funding.

The commission cited last year's low level of funding and escalating costs as factors that were contributing to an increasing disparity between post secondary education here and other parts of Canada. They did not foresee the possibility of any immediate reversal of this trend. However, a three year plan was proposed that would have begun this reversal, the first step being the 14% increase.

As in the past, the Council of Maritime Premiers ignored the Commission's recommendation, slashed the amount in half and announced that New Brunswick will receive a 6.7% increase, while Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island will get 7.7%.

These cutbacks in funding will lead to drastic cutbacks in the operations of the Maritime institutions. This "belt-tightening" will affect students, faculty, and support staff. Tuition again will rise, and course selection, number of professors, and general services are apt to decrease. Faculties and support staff will not receive an increase in salaries even equal to the rise in the cost of living, and will be forced into strike situations.

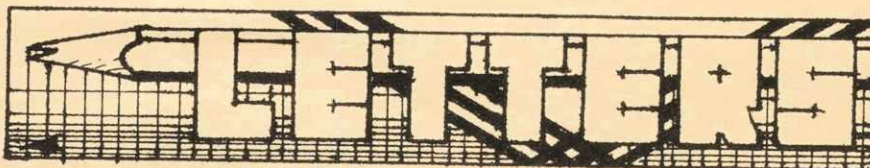
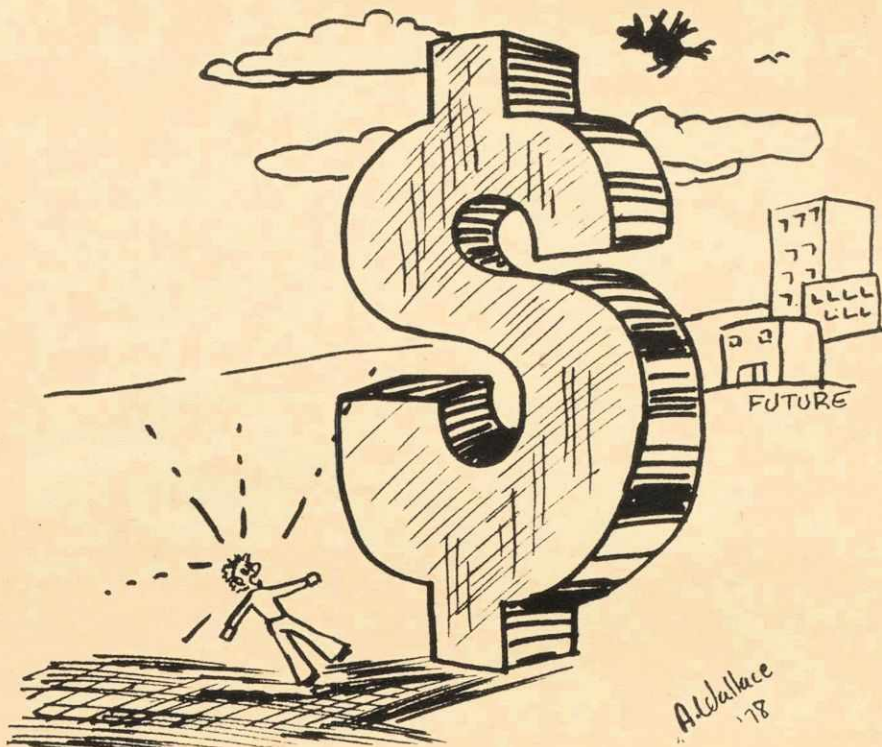
Accessibility and quality of education is again being attacked. Students from low and middle-income families will find it harder to attend university because of increased tuition. With the rising costs of food and rent, insufficient student aid and chronic unemployment, many students are being forced out of our universities.

Last year's student march resulted in positive action — in June, the universities were awarded an extra grant. Pressure again must be applied so that students will not be denied access to university.

Tuesday night, students gathered at Dalhousie to form a committee to plan action. AFS and NUS were there; Gazette people were there, one student council member was there, but very few concerned students from the general population. It is a vital issue that will greatly affect you.

Think about whether you can pay more for your education next year. Something can still be done but it will take a lot of honest concern on the part of all students at post-secondary institutions in the Maritimes.

by Valerie Mansour



Forgetful Ms

Dear Ms. Editor:

At the last council meeting most council members expressed a sincere concern with the context of our beloved Gazette. The general feeling was that for too long our paper has concentrated on a national rather than a University scale. Whether our Editor is highly influenced by the CUP Regional Office which is so readily at her disposal or feels the issues at Dalhousie are not important is a question we must ask.

So often the Gazette accuses many individuals and groups of conspiracies and patronages, yet let us look back at the Gazette. Our Editor has openly admitted that quotes are often used, yet never really said. "They would have said it anyway" is her rational. A move has been afoot for some time now to obtain autonomy, a move which intends to apply for N.S. corporate status. Mind you such a move was done behind the backs of both council and the executive, not to mention the students who have paid for this paper. Let's put the facts straight Ms. Editor, it is high time you put the students of Dalhousie first and left your pithy undermined political games home.

Council has put up with your pithy undermined comments long enough, now let's look at some facts. Since this administration has come to office more physical changes have taken place than ever before. We need only look at our Green Room, Cardroom, Grawood, Bookstore, Gazette Office and Pharos Office to see concrete evidence of change. It was this council that took part in that march on Province House last February. Carlton House, an issue lagging for some 4 years, was realized under this administration. The Dalhousie Drama Society received a good deal of time to enable them to start up. Domus was aided and now will remain as a permanent entity on campus. Our work with NUS, AFS, the Board of Governors, Senate Council, Senate and every damn committee that exists within the

university administration. How soon you forget so much Ms. Editor.

Issues such as I.D. cards, double stamp events, student services, prescription drugs, relations with our fellow institutions are merely a few topics which are constantly dealt with. Yes Ms. Editor it is evident you have had trouble finding this information, yet you so often remark how little local, on-campus news there is.

I outlined some of the good things in which our Council has done, mind you we have made mistakes. It is really too bad that our student newspaper can't see both sides of the coin. Much work has been done and much more is needed. I can only hope that the Gazette will see its way to objective reporting in the future.

Sincerely,
Robert Sampson
President
Dalhousie Student Union

Gazette not a Ms

Editor's note:

Although the editor often has to take the flak for what this newspaper does, people should keep in mind that "Ms Editor" is not the Dalhousie Gazette. The Gazette staff is made up of a wide assortment of people, and decisions about what the paper does are handled democratically.

I cannot remember having told Robert Sampson that we make up quotes. We do strive to do honest and accurate reporting and try to print exactly what people have said.

The Gazette is not planning to incorporate behind the backs of anyone. Much research has to be done before such a big move is made. Before telling council how we can become independent we must find out ourselves.

There is more going on at Dalhousie than we are writing about—increased campus coverage is an aim of the Gazette this term. But there is also a big world out there with lots of things happening. We try to achieve a balance in our coverage of national, regional and local issues.

Letters continued on page 5

the dalhousie gazette

The Dalhousie Gazette is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union. The views expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or staff. We reserve the right to edit material submitted for space or legal reasons, or if considered offensive to our readers.

The deadline for advertising is the Friday noon preceding publication. Articles and letters are due Monday noon. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity, if necessary, will be granted. Letters should not exceed 600 words, and must be typed if more than 100 words.

The Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's Oldest College Newspaper, is a founding member of Canadian University Press. Our office is on the third floor of the Student Union Building. Our mailing address is The Dalhousie Gazette, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., B3H 4J2. Telephone 424-2507. The subscription price is \$7 per year (28 issues). ISSN 0011-5819

Editor: Valerie Mansour
News Coordinators: Scott Vaughan and Jeff Round
Entertainment Coordinator: Gregory Larsen
Sports Coordinator: Peter Hayes
Advertising Director: Anita Lathigee
Circulation Manager: Joe Wilson

This issue was brought to you by:

Daniele Gauvin, Denise Roberge, Marc Allain, Andrew Gillis, Dave Purcell, Harvey MacKinnon, Geri Geldart, Hung Ping Chow, Sheena Masson, Mary Hamblin, Eric Lawson, Mark King, Michel J. Sarek, Michael Cormier, Cheryl Downton, Murray Kingston, David Angus,
Anu Rautaharju, Bruce Grant, Anthony Wallace,
Robin Metcalfe Brock Nash