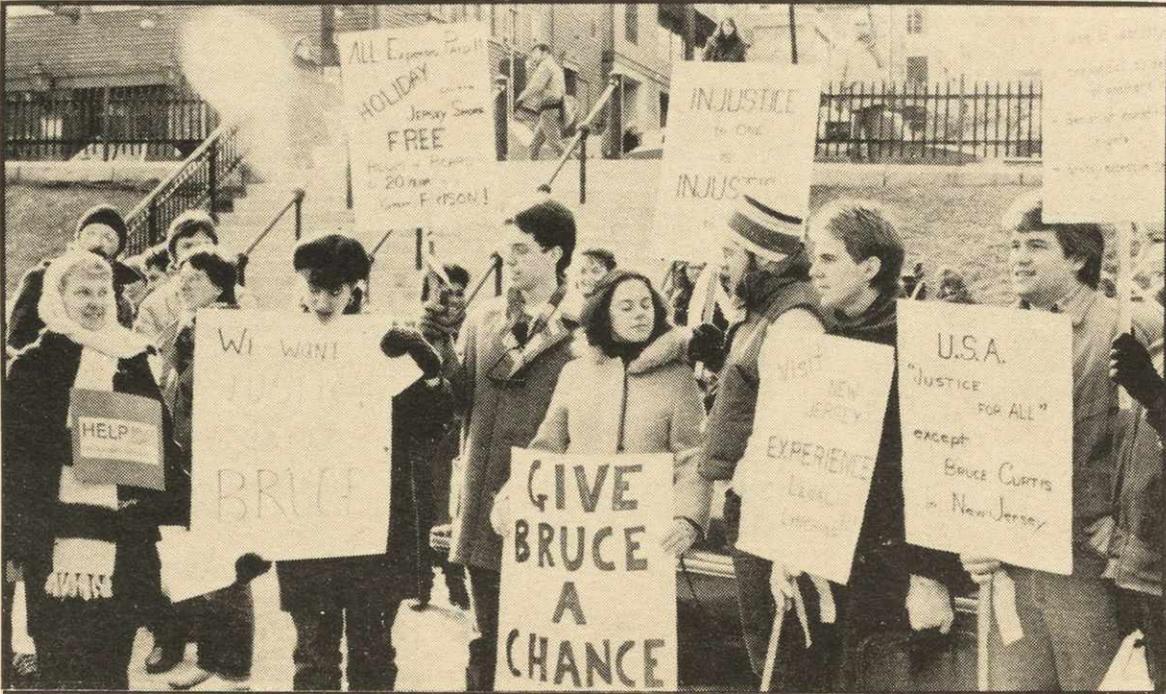


# THE GAZETTE

Volume 118, Number 18

Dalhousie University, Halifax

January 30, 1986



A vigil for Bruce Curtis took place in front of City Hall last Saturday to mark Curtis' fourth year in prison. Photo by Todd K. Miller, Dal Photo.

## Tuition agreement at risk

By CHARLENE SADLER

WITH THE PROVINCIAL government's announcement of a zero per cent increase in university funding, the tuition agreement between the students and the administration could dissolve allowing fees to continue rising. The agreement, which was made last February, was designed to put a ceiling on tuition fee increases. It stipulated the student union would raise its fees \$15, eventually generating \$750,000. This money would then go to the university in the form of a donation to the Capital Fund Drive.

In exchange for the money, the administration guaranteed fees would not increase more than four per cent each year for three years. After the third year the increase was to be renegotiated to the cost of living.

In an article in the *Halifax Chronicle Herald*, Andrew MacKay, president of Dalhousie, indicated the agreement might have to be reviewed if government funding were to be reduced.

"The problem with the agreement is that the university is getting substantially less than it expected from the provincial government," says Catherine Blewett, president of the Dalhousie Student Union. "Student fees are a potential source of income if all other avenues dry up."

Blewett says that's why Dal's classes are so crowded. "The province gives funding for each student so the university is taking more than it can actually accommodate to gain revenue from the additional students," she says.

Robbie Shaw, vice president of finance at Dal, is "wary but not alarmed" by the government's announcement to freeze funding at last year's level.

"The agreement can only be

broken by the administration if there is a fundamental change in the method of fund raising," he says. "A zero per cent increase does not necessarily warrant this."

Shaw also says it is possible the government is not serious about zero per cent increase in funding.

"If they are serious, they obviously don't understand the issue," he says.

Neil Ferguson, DSU treasurer, says he gives the government's announcement more weight.

"Given all the cutbacks in student aid, we must take the government at face value," he says.

He says the change is in the amount of government funding and not the source, which is the basis for rearranging the agreement.

"If the recommendations of the Royal Commission are implemented, we might have to open negotiations on the agreement," says Bill Jones, Chair of Senate.

Under the circumstances, Ble-

wett says she is not optimistic and does not expect to see the agreement last for more than a year.

"It's not entirely the administration's fault. Their hands are tied. If they don't have the money, they don't have the money. But the administration has got to realize that it can't milk the students," she says.

Blewett says some students are not fully aware of the problem.

Dal students are under the impression that the Royal Commission won't affect their tuition, she says. "But if we lose the agreement they could be paying double fees," she says.

Nancy Cameron, DSU community affairs co-ordinator, does realize the gravity of the situation.

"Right now, we are paying the highest tuition in the country. Losing the increase ceiling placed on tuition could result in massive fee escalations. It is an issue that every Dal student should at least be aware of," she says.

## Protestors brave cold for Curtis

By BRUCE FANJOY

ABOUT 50 PROTESTORS braved freezing temperatures Saturday to take part in a vigil for Bruce Curtis, the young Nova Scotian many believe to have been victimized by an American court.

The Halifax vigil, attended by Bruce's parents, was one of several across the country commemorating Bruce's 22nd birthday, his fourth behind bars.

The Halifax demonstrators assembled in Parade Square on Barrington St. before marching

to Scotia Square, where the American consulate is located. The group sang songs and a letter to Lawrence Raicht, the American consul general, was read.

The controversy dates from the summer of 1982 when Bruce, a recent graduate of King's-Edgemoor school in Windsor, NS, went to visit a schoolmate, Scott Franaz, in New Jersey. On the morning of July 5th, while Bruce was sleeping downstairs, Scott shot his violent step-father to death. Awakening to gunfire, Curtis grabbed the rifle Scott had given him and ran for the back door. Before he reached the door,

## Students ask for assistance

HALIFAX (CUP) — After an article was printed in the *Gazette* about the Dalhousie Student Union's concern for starving students, members of the Dalhousie community have come to DSU council asking for assistance.

The council gave out meal tickets to ten students who came to the offices looking for food last week.

The DSU is organising a food service consisting of meal tickets which students in need will be able to pick up at the chaplain's office, counselling services, health services and the DSU.

"We've already received some distress calls since we announced the food bank would be starting," said Reza Rizvi, Dalhousie Student Council vice-president.

So many students are broke because the Nova Scotia student aid department still hasn't processed all the loan applications, Rizvi said. The student aid department computerized this year and has been several months behind.

"The student I saw today just found out he didn't get his loan but at this point he said he cared enough about his education to go without food in order to pay for tuition," said Rizvi.

Rizvi says another problem is the attitude that people in the Western World don't starve and that they are often too proud to

admit they don't have the money to buy food.

"But if we can have a real outpouring of generosity to people in Ethiopia, why can't we care about those who sit next to us in class?" he asks.

The local media has paid lots of attention to one student cited stealing food from the women's residence garbage, but many council members feel the journalists are missing the real story — students who are not doing anything to get food and who are suffering from malnutrition as a result.

Nancy Cameron, DSU community affairs coordinator, has been working with the Metro Food Bank since September. She said, "It is good issues of student survival are being questioned. It has just taken too much sensationalism to make people start thinking."

"It's an aggravating issue. People don't realize that the maximum bursary is \$1700 and there is not much left over for food when you pay tuition and rent," he says.

Cameron says, "I think it's important to recognize that it is an economic problem and a good time to start lobbying the provincial government about the inadequacies of the student aid system."

## Flashers elude police

By HEATHER COUTTS

TWO FLASHERS HAVE repeatedly exposed themselves on the Dalhousie campus this year.

Dalhousie Security has received five reports of flashing since the first of January. Incidents have been reported in the School of Business, the Education building, behind Shirreff Hall, and at the corner of LeMar-

chant and South Streets. "This is not just happening on campus, it's happening all around Halifax," says Max Keeping, Director of Dalhousie Security.

"Dalhousie Security is presently working in conjunction with the Halifax Police Department to come up with a program to catch the flashers," says Keeping.

"These flashers don't hang around. They do their thing and then they're gone."

Violence has not accompanied any of the sightings so far.

Jolene Pattison, a Dalhousie student and council representative on the Security committee, saw a flasher through a window inside the Education building a few weeks ago.

Pattison contacted security immediately.

"We tried to see where he went but they couldn't catch him," she says.

Pattison has helped to organize a walk-home service which will begin this week. The service will operate Sunday through Thursday from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Students will be given a number to call if they wish to be accompanied across campus.