

MacKay gives conflicting message to press and public



by Ken Burke

Declaring he is "bullish" on raising tuition fees next year, University President Andrew MacKay has gone public about Dal's financial woes. However, his statements on necessary funding levels are seemingly contradictory and difficult to decipher.

At a press briefing on "the state of the university" called February 22, MacKay told assembled media representatives if the province institutes 6&5 wage controls on University employees a funding increase of 9-10 per cent would be sufficient for the university. However, in a later interview on radio station C100, MacKay said "cutbacks are inevitable even with a 12.1 per cent increase in funds."

MacKay's statements are also contradictory to a report issued this year by the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) which recommends a 12 per cent increase in funding if the province institutes wage controls. The report states a 15 per cent increase is needed if controls are not brought in. President MacKay is the chairperson of the AAU.

MacKay also seemed cautious about relating the severity of Dalhousie's financial status. While announcing a \$2 million deficit expected for the coming year, he painted a rosy picture of the university's "continuing tradition of excellence". In the radio interview, MacKay said Dalhousie's financial and academic position should be better in two or three years. "We are strong, and will gain greater

flexibility," he said.

MacKay sees tuition as a likely means of increasing revenue. "If there is no significant increase in funding, student fees is the only area where we have any flexibility," he said, adding that, "I have begun to think very bullishly on student fees."

MacKay tempered this statement with an acknowledgement that student aid and bursaries have not kept pace with tuition hikes in recent years. "For many students, the resources just haven't been available," he said.

MacKay also said, in the past, the provincial government has threatened to cut back on grants if universities raised tuition beyond a certain point.

Responding to a question, MacKay said the Board of Governors was not considering raising tuition, which now makes up nine per cent of the operating budget, to the national average of over 12 per cent. "It sounds silly, but we could raise fees 20 per cent every year for four years, and we'd probably still be below the average," said MacKay.

During the press conference, MacKay continually pointed to Dalhousie's reputation as "the largest and most important institution in the region". MacKay stressed the importance of Dalhousie as a research centre, noting that while the university ranked "about third" in the country in National Science Research Council (NSRC) awards, government funding for research at

Dalhousie was low by Canadian standards.

"We rank second or third last among universities in funds for medical research," said MacKay.

MacKay also criticized the provincial government for its removal of promised funding for the 1982-83 operating year after Dalhousie had committed the money. In particular, he singled out the withdrawal of \$750,000 for a new program in Occupational Therapy. The program is operating even though the funding on which it was based has been removed.

MacKay expressed concern over the uncertainty of federal funding arrangements. Aside from the potential cap of six per cent on an increase in funding, MacKay said if no agreement is reached between the Feds and the provinces by March 31, the federal government has said they will renew funding at last year's levels. "That would be a severe blow to all universities," he said.

While all university departments are under review under his "Restraint and Renewal" campaign, MacKay said no decisions had been made on phasing out programs yet. "The President doesn't have a hit list," he said, adding "The president has a lot of ideas."

MacKay warned that areas such as cultural activities, varsity sports, and community services are in danger of being cut back or eliminated next year. "I'm worried that even in the Dal community people think of that as an area to be cut," he said.

President MacKay has come out stating he is "bullish" on tuition fees for next year.

Childerhose/Dal Photo

Dal disarmament referendum says "No Nukes"

Staff

Dalhousie students got into the debate over the testing of cruise missiles in Canada two weeks ago by voting in favour of Canada halting its participation in the nuclear arms race.

Students voted 56.3 per cent in favour of the question "Should

Canada oppose and not participate in the development, testing, and deployment of nuclear weapons" during the Feb. 14-16 student union general elections.

Organizers of the "yes" campaign said the position taken was a strong one. "Not only did Dalhousie students vote against Canada's testing

of the American cruise missile, but they opposed research and industrial cooperation on nuclear weapons systems," said Cathy McDonald, coordinator of the committee.

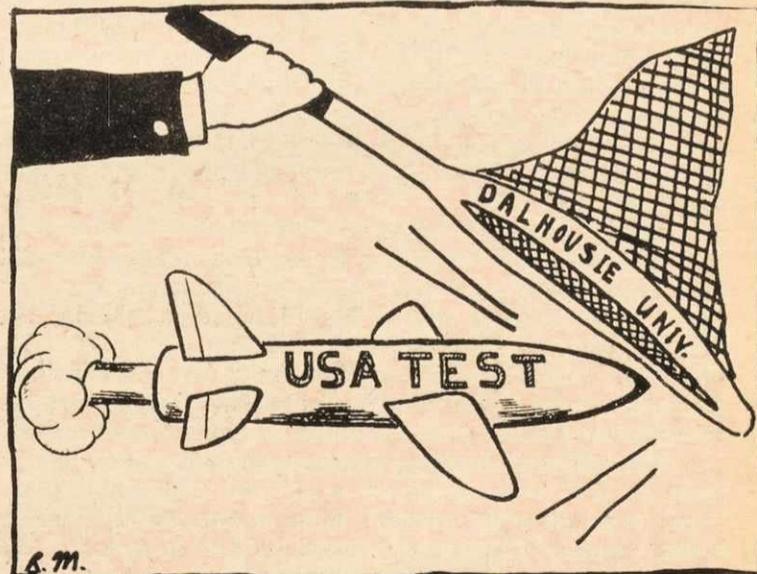
Although voter turnout was low - 1500 out of a possible 6,000 voters - the "yes" committee were pleased that the 56.3 per cent surpassed a January Gallup poll tally where 52 per cent of Canadians said they opposed testing of the cruise in Canada.

Opposition to Canada testing the cruise comes hot on the heels of a strong reaction in Europe to NATO's decision to deploy 572 cruise missiles there in 1984. Opposition has taken the form of huge protest demonstrations and a burgeoning peace movement.

The Dalhousie "yes" committee based its campaign on the dangers the cruise poses to international security. It says the small, 18 foot missile cannot be seen by satellite, and because of this "unverifiability", would prevent any future agreement between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. on arms limitation.

There was no committee organizing a vote "no" campaign, although Chief Returning Officer Janine Saulnier attempted to find students to campaign in opposition to the question.

Saint Mary's student council



Education commission in shape-up stage

by Ken Burke

Three weeks after its formation, Nova Scotia's Commission of Inquiry into post-secondary education is still deciding what shape it will take.

The commission, which was accused by faculty and student groups of inappropriate and politically based membership, will be reviewing all aspects of post-secondary education funding and operations. The commission will then report to the Minister of Education with policy recommendations.

Commission members are currently deliberating over the Inquiry's structure and schedule. Peter Butler, Adviser to the Minister on Post-secondary Education, expects an Inquiry budget to be

approved by cabinet within the week.

Commission chair Rod MacLennan said the commission is not likely to begin public hearings soon. "That should be quite some time in the future," he said.

"Within the month we may invite submissions to the commission and do that in a public way," he said.

The commission already met informally with several university presidents last week.

Commission member Joan Gregson Evans was reluctant to state which form Inquiry hearings might take until the commission had met further. "We have a lot to explore before we can do anything," she said. The commission has met twice since its February 9 inception.

nearly brought the issue to its students for a vote, but a motion to run a referendum worded "The students of Saint Mary's University support the testing of the cruise missile in Canada" was defeated four to six last Sunday with two abstentions.

Drew Franklin, VP Internal, brought the motion to council, and said it was an important issue on which he wanted "to see what students think". The motion was defeated, Franklin said, because

council felt the referendum contradicted the student union's membership in the Coalition Against Nuclear War, a pacifist Halifax organization that opposes the testing of the cruise. Saint Mary's students joined the coalition in a 70 per cent referendum mandate last fall.

McDonald said Dalhousie's referendum campaign was fairly low-key. Several people campaigning for the "yes" committee said they were taunted by catcalls of "communist" during the campaign.