

# THE GAZETTE

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## Royal Commission sparks protest

By MARY ELLEN JONES

STUDENTS WILL LOBBY the Nova Scotia government ministers in protest of the Royal Commission on Post-Secondary Education issued on December 20, 1985.

The Commission, which offers 115 recommendations including higher tuition, no bursary system, and increased differential fees, has angered student leaders.

Students' demands for more accessibility have been "thrown out the window," said Catherine Blewett, DSU president.

Reza Rizvi, DSU vice-president, says, "if the report goes through the overall implications would mean only the rich will be able to afford to go and even then only the intelligent of the rich."

The Dalhousie Student Union in co-operation with the Students Union of Nova Scotia are organizing a lobby day on Jan. 20. They will go to Province House to lobby each minister of the

government and members of the opposition separately.

"We want to have the lobby day before the speech from the throne is read in parliament," said Rizvi.

"If the government is going to implement these recommendations, they will be contained in the throne speech," said Blewett. "We must sway the opinion of the media and the politicians."

The students have had some difficulty speaking to the minister of education.

"The minister of education won't meet with us now. This is outrageous, but not newsworthy. If the minister won't meet on lobby day, that's news," said Blewett.

While Blewett disagrees with most of the commission's recommendations, she agrees the quality of education has to be discussed.

Besides the lobby day, there are plans for open forums and brainstorming sessions with President Andrew McKay.



Catherine Blewett is concerned about student starvation. Photo by Todd K. Miller.

ate student at the University of Western Ontario.

The two groups showed examples of students who claimed they were robbed of credit, including an unidentified researcher whose work was printed with his professors' names instead of his own. "Except for minor changes, the paper remained the same from the time of writing until the final printing," the brief said.

The professors argued they had paid for the work and therefore it was their property. The student has since taken legal action to recover ownership.

Although most cases are not this extreme, Lovis says the problem is so widespread it can not be ignored. "The most common complaint is that a student doesn't get credit for her or his work," she said.

The federal Copyright Act does not protect ideas, but only their form and manner of expression. The Act will soon be reviewed by the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, and the two groups are currently preparing a report on copyright reform.

The current lack of legal protection, coupled with costs and the fear of reprisals from colleagues and professors, curtails a graduate's means of retribution, Lovis says.

"Students are reluctant to sue because their employers are also their professors and advisors," she says.

Lovis says the graduate associations have asked graduate deans to help build routes of academic appeal for researchers at all Canadian universities. Graduate researchers also want guilty professors to be penalized.

"Just as there exist penalties for a student who plagiarises, there should be some penalty for faculty members who do not give appropriate credit and/or compensation for graduate work," the brief says.

Lovis says graduates in many disciplines complain, but "computer software is a major issue in itself."

Donald Savage, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, says although the teachers association has no official policy on authorship and ownership, "copyright lies with the creators. Where there's genuine collaboration, copyright should be given to those involved."

However, Savage admits "the problem is in determining authorship. It would surely depend on the facts of every situation."

Graduate researchers are also abused because their funding comes from granting agencies, and not the universities where they work, said Bev Crossman of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers. "They can't be unionised because universities aren't the employers. It's a big problem. A lot of them are paid less than teaching assistants," she says.

## Food for thought

By MARY ELLEN JONES

HORROR STORIES OF starving students have prompted council members into action.

"I have heard of students who are picking food out of the garbage of Howe and Sherriff Halls in order to survive," said Catherine Blewett, DSU president.

Blewett says she feels some responsibility to see if a food bank for these starving students can be set up.

"I don't know whether DSU has attempted this before," said Blewett, "but I am getting good response from the alumni who are willing to help."

Blewett says she does not want to see a token effort. "If we are

going to implement it it has to be worthwhile."

She will be speaking with members of the administration and Beaver Foods to see if something can be worked out.

"This is the most unpleasant thing I have heard about all year," said Blewett. "We complain about housing and tuition — what about eating?" Blewett said implementing the food bank will be difficult. "It's hard to tell if students are in that position. It's not something they are about to advertise."

"The Student Union has a lot of responsibility — if not to doing the whole thing, then to bringing it together," said Blewett.

## Banking machine practical

By VALERIE MATHESON

FOR MANY DALHOUSIE students, banking is much easier since the installation of the Personal Touch Banking machine (PTB) in the Student Union Building.

The machine was installed in the SUB during the summer at a cost of \$150,000 to the Royal Bank, and began operation the first week of September.

The area in the SUB where the PTB is located was not being used before. "This cuts down costs for us," says Reza Rizvi, executive vice-president of DSU.

DSU has a three-year contract with the Royal Bank in which the DSU pays no rent or maintenance for the area. "The banking machine was put in to provide a service to the students, not as a profit-maker for the bank," says Rizvi.

Recently DSU transferred its account from the Bank of Montreal, which had investments in South Africa, to the Royal Bank of Canada. However, all Canadian banks now invest in South Africa.

One of the reasons the DSU

chose PTB is that the Royal Bank is the only one which has automated tellers not connected to the bank itself. "It's a practical thing," says Rizvi, "I don't think anyone will dispute the convenience factor."

DSU was told by the bank officials that the machine is more heavily used by students than was expected.

"We'll just have to wait and see how people feel about the PTB when the contract runs out," says Rizvi.

## Students want credit

OTTAWA (CUP) — Graduate students are repeatedly cheated of research credit by professors and have little recourse for justice, say two graduate organizations.

According to the National Graduate Council and the Ontario Graduate Association, authorship and ownership of academic work are among the greatest problems graduate researchers face. In a brief presented to the Canadian Association of Graduate Schools' annual conference in St John's at the beginning of November, the two groups showed student research is often misused and published without proper credit.

"We discovered that this is a very major problem across the country," says Liz Lovis, a gradu-

## Changes in federal wage

By PAT FAGAN

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT is increasing the federal minimum wage, says Federal Labour Minister Bill McKnight.

McKnight recently said the wage would be raised from \$3.75 to \$4.00 per hour, effective in May 1986. The last wage revision was in May 1981.

"This increase not only reflects the Government's commitment to an equitable minimum wage but also brings the federal minimum wage more in harmony with the rates in other jurisdictions," said McKnight.

The federal minimum wage applies to an estimated 600,000 employees, according to Labour

Canada. These include workers in fields such as banking, air transport, railways, broadcasting and other areas under federal jurisdiction.

As well, McKnight announced the elimination of the federal youth minimum wage. As of May, the \$4.00 per hour rate will apply to all employees, regardless of age. The youth wage was previously set at \$3.25 per hour for people under the age of 17 years.

Nationwide, the provincial minimum wage currently ranges from \$3.65 to \$4.50 per hour. In Nova Scotia, the rate for employees over the age of 18 years is \$4.00 per hour, while the minimum wage for underage and inexperienced employees is \$3.55 per hour.