

Letters

SOS
So-So

Dear editor,

With the Dalhousie Administration (DA) and Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) contract negotiations entering conciliation last week, students and the Dalhousie community have expressed much apprehension and concern. In fact an unaligned student coalition has been formed on campus called Students Opposed to a Strike (SOS). A student coalition whose spokesperson Kevin Young believes that "students are not in a position to protect their interest". This would not be the case if unaligned groups such as SOS and Dalhousie students mobilized in support of the DFA.

Dalhousie students and faculty have been hit hard by recent federal cutbacks resulting in massive fee hikes, overcrowded classrooms, diminution of quality courses, and cutbacks in university libraries. In April of this year students at Dalhousie University mobilized in opposition to the cutbacks, now the DFA is fighting the same battle. If the administration does not agree to the DFA's demands some professors disenchanted with the work conditions at Dalhousie will leave the university. As the administration has made it clear that these professors will not be replaced, the net result will be fewer professors and larger classrooms at Dalhousie.

Furthermore, as working conditions at Dalhousie worsen, the moral and thus teaching effectiveness of professors will falter. Who suffers most in this situation?

The students will suffer as the quality of education at Dalhousie University continues to slide at the hands of the administration.

The DFA is fighting to prevent deterioration of working conditions at Dalhousie and it is in the students interest to unconditionally support the DFA's demands. The administration is not fighting to improve working conditions or student education at Dalhousie. Unlike Kevin Young of SOS, I believe that students can protect their interests by mobilizing in full support of the DFA and clearly demonstrate to the administration that we are not going to suffer further cutbacks. If the DFA goes on strike as a direct result of educational cutbacks and the administration's insensitive attitude towards faculty and student interests, the faculty and students must stand together in solidarity on the picket lines. In 1988 the Dalhousie Student Union remained neutral during the 20-day faculty strike, let's not make the same mistake in 1990. Students must mobilize to fight further cutbacks and support faculty demands.

Frank Jones

International Socialists

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Time for a new policy

loans and bursaries.

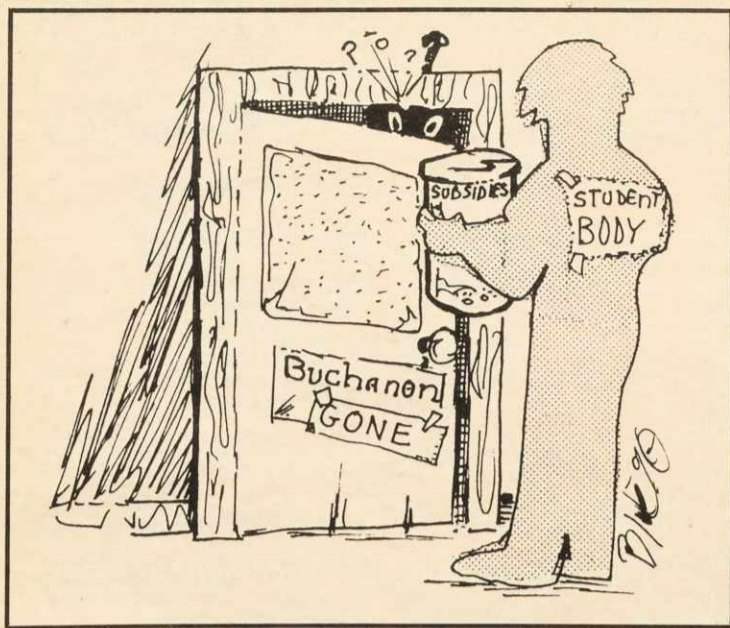
Post-secondary education (PSE) funding initially comes from the federal government. The allocation of funds for PSE to any particular province is based on a national per capita entitlement, multiplied by that province's population. The revenues from 13.5 personal and 1.0 corporate tax points for that province also go toward PSE and health.

Once the provincial government gets this money, they divide it between health and education. For most citizens, the issue of health care carries more weight than university funding. The impact of funds going toward hospital beds is more obvious than the impact of funds going towards future graduates. Politically, allocating money into health care is safer and more strategic.

Perhaps the federal government should not lump PSE funding with health funding. It is hard to argue that better lab equipment is more important than human life. However if the youth of this country is expected to be the future doctors, researchers, and well-educated politicians then education funding is more important in the long run.

Everyone is always trying to pass the buck. Universities blame underfunding on the provincial government, who in turn blame it on the federal government. Now that Nova Scotia has a new provincial leader, maybe the necessity for more financial support should be closely examined. There is a new guy in town - maybe there should be a new policy.

Allison Johnston



The provincial government of Nova Scotia has just lost their leader, John Buchanan, to the Federal Senate in Ottawa. Looking back over Premier Buchanan's reign, it is interesting to note his government's role in post-secondary education funding. Headlines spanning several years read: "Funding cut 'extremely serious'", "...support to universities will decline...", and "...increase for universities 'inadequate'". Economics and financing seem to be neverending concerns and questions at Dalhousie University. Our Faculty and Administration are in conciliation over such issues, and tuition hikes are always dangling over the heads of the student body, as well as taxes on

Opinion

... I'd like to know...How do you define success?

Since last week's Gazette article titled "Frosh leaders spoil Shinerama," I've had some...no...make that several concerned individuals come up to me expressing their disappointment at what they considered a very misleading representation of one event of one frosh week. They were upset that nowhere was there any mention of the majority of frosh leaders who volunteered their time from 6:30 a.m. (clowning around on MacDonald Bridge) to 10 p.m. (counting over \$15,000 in loose change) on Shinerama Day....no mention of the majority of frosh leaders who spent a whole week making Fall Orientation '90 the best ever held at Dalhousie. How can you overlook the many successes of one event...and one week by the actions of a group not representative of the whole? These are all very valid concerns.

However, above all these allegations, speculations, opinions and attitudes lies the true meaning of Shinerama. Do you know what it is? Out of all the people who know what Shinerama is about...even those wonderful volunteers...relatively few realize its powerful essence.

Why did we send Dal student throughout Halifax, Dartmouth, Bedford, and Sackville to shine shoes? Did you ever stop to ask...let alone wonder?

Shinerama is a fund-raising campaign on behalf of the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CCFF). Money raised goes directly toward Cystic Fibrosis (CF) research, which in

turns help CF patients. Dal is one of about 70 Canadian universities participating in this charity, which is the largest run by university students. Imagine that...amidst the ignorance, apathy, and the race for the top that so many people are caught up in...university students across Canada combine their time and efforts to help in a worthy cause.

CF takes the lives of more Canadian children than any other inherited disease by attacking their respiratory and digestive systems. This is caused by a thick mucus that coats both the lungs and stomach...making breathing and absorbing nutrients very difficult. This mucus also leaves young CF patients highly susceptible to bacterial infections which usually leads to further complications. To date, there is no known cure or control. Instead, those living with CF must undergo rigorous therapy programs and take over 20 pills each and every day. One in 20 Canadians carries the gene for CF. Today, CF patients are expected to live to just over 20 years. *The age that most of us are at now.*

Canadians are the forerunners in CF research in the world. This is because of the work CCFF has done and in particular, events like SHINERAMA. Without efforts like Shinerama, Canadian researchers would not have been the ones who discovered the CF gene last August; the life expectancy would still be about 4 years old (when this terminal disease was discovered in the early 1960's); and there would not have been the development of improved treatment and new drugs which allow the CF patients to take about 20 pills instead of 100 pills every day.

Now more than ever there is an

urgent need for funds. Funds to help find a cure, find out how to prevent CF, find a way to detect carriers, develop better treatments and understanding of the disease, and to help the families of CF patients bear the expensive and physically tolling responsibilities. *Every single cent is important.*

This is Dalhousie's 25th year of involvement in Shinerama. Only five years ago, we raised \$3000. This year, we did not reach our goal, but the \$15,000 we raised is definitely something to be proud of. When you think of the 450-500 people (not the 700 we had hoped for) who came out and spent a day clowning their you-know-what's off, shining shoes, standing out there on the streets for a gruelling 5 hours, helping to make that day go just right...how can you not be proud of the what we did. Who cares about the people who weren't there! The people who were there is what really counts....and I congratulate each person who was there with me. You better believe that what was done that day made a big difference.

We had a number of successes that should not go without mentioning. With a turnout that was smaller than last year's, we did better per person on average. We had individual frosh like Abhi Samant who raised over \$400 by himself and Matthew D'Entremont who went out of his way to shine computers and massage ankles for money. The success of each participant was incredible. Shinerama's first-ever BLITZ CREW was a huge success and our very first CAPTAIN SHINERAMA will leave lasting impressions to all who encountered him. I'm sure that the "Captain & Crew" will be

around for many years to come. The clowns who were posted on MacDonald Bridge (6:30 a.m.) raised an unexpected \$150 in 45 minutes of just bouncing around between cars. Also, Dalhousie hosted a very successful Maritime Press Reception & Luncheon ("to Officially Kick-Off the Campaigns of the Participating Maritime Universities") which was attended by a number of corporate dignitaries, provincial cabinet ministers (including Joel Matheson), the mayor of Halifax, Mary Clancy, local government officials, and so on.

When I think of Shinerama, I like to think of the wonderful kids I have met who have CF. We were very fortunate to have one nine-year old at our press reception who stirred the hearts of all who was there. Imagine being that age knowing that you had something that would make you die and you didn't know when but you knew it would come. It is a gripping thought which many CF patients have faced with a spirit of vitality that would knock you off your feet. Our feisty nine-year old, Talia, talked of taking swimming and synchro lessons, gymnastics, jazz dance, tennis, and all sorts of other things. It is disturbing to imagine the lives of innocent and spirited kids being shortened abruptly.

In my opinion, Shinerama this year was a definite success and will always be for as long as it continues. Thanks to all the people who were there. I hope you realize what you did. \$15,000 will go a long way in this noble cause. So if you ever hear CCFF's slogan "Give the Breath of Life" you know that 's exactly what we did on Shinerama Day at Dalhousie.

Lilli Ju