

20% fee hike sparks . . .

The great tuition debate

by Alistair Croll

On December 11th, 1989, Dalhousie University announced plans for a \$3.2 million increase in tuition revenues. This increase will mean a 20 per cent increase in average tuition fee for students at Dal.

Tom Digby, vice-president internal of the Dalhousie Student Union, said the planned increase is a direct result of federal funding cutbacks. "The federal government had promised Canadian universities \$6.8 billion dollars in funding from 1987 to 1994 above and beyond their usual grants," he said.

The money from the federal government usually goes directly

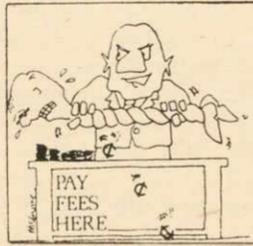
into tuition costs, but with this funding gone, students can expect to see sharp rises in their tuition costs. There will be an average tuition hike of about 20 per cent, with a 40 to 50 per cent increase in tuition fees at the professional school level and a 15 to 16 per cent increase in arts and sciences.

In response to these increases, the Dalhousie Student Union has organized "the Great Tuition Debate". This debate, which will be moderated by Sodales, the Dalhousie debating society, will bring together key people in the tuition fight.

Scheduled to speak for the increases are Dalhousie President Howard Clark and Dr. Peter

Butler, a Dalhousie professor who runs Decima Research, a Tory polling organization. They

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will be debating Alexa McDonough, the provincial NDP leader, and Royden Trainor, ex-chair of the Students Union of Nova Scotia.

The debate will include presentations both for and against the increases, discussion among the four representatives, and possibly questions from the floor.

Digby has been working on the debate, which will take place in the SUB cafeteria on January 24th at noon, since the increases were announced. "After the strike last year, Dal has been in a tight financial position," he said, "but 52 per cent of Dalhousie students don't receive any financial support from home, and 50 per cent have part-time jobs."

Digby sees many other possible solutions to the problem. "They should go to the alumni. Now's when you ask them for money, when they're making it — not when they're students." Digby also mentioned the idea of offering student loans which would be paid back when the person earned a certain level of income.

Nova Scotia's share of the federal funding would have worked out to around \$75 per student, Digby said.

Digby was not optimistic about the turnout at this debate. "Dal students aren't known for their enthusiasm at this sort of thing," he said. "We're expecting about 40 people, but if we get 100 we'll be very happy."

Government taxes loans

by Chris Lawson

OTTAWA (CUP) — Students borrowing under the Canada Student Loan program will have an extra three per cent to pay back after 1991.

Secretary of State Gerry Weiner announced a three per cent "administration fee" on student loans last month, to recoup costs of defaulted loans.

"If you need a loan, you obviously don't have a lot of money," said Canadian Federation of Students Chair Jane Arnold. "And yet they're making these people pay more. This is really regressive."

Secretary of State official Len Westerberg said the fee, which will apply only to new loans, will

be tough on students now, but will help them in the long run.

"If we don't start getting some of the (defaulted loan) money back, the tax payer will end up with the bill," Westerberg said.

He said students have defaulted on \$150 million worth of loans. "That's money we can't loan out to students," he added.

Westerberg said the new fee would bring in \$60 million in the first year. He said it was part of the government's overall effort to reduce spending.

"It's tough, but students aren't the only segment of society being affected by cuts," he said.

Westerberg said the new tax wouldn't affect students' decision to go to college or university.

"I don't think it's going to affect students," he said. "But it

depends on the student's outlook, whether he's determined to get through school, and he's willing to work, or whether he's just looking for a free ride."

Arnold said the fee had nothing to do with cutting costs.

"It's a tax," she said. "It's a money-making venture. That they would tax a loan is absurd."

In 1987-88, 221,268 students borrowed more than \$588 million through the Canada Student Loan Program. Canadian Federation of Students statistics show about 20 per cent of them will graduate owing more than \$10,000 from both federal and provincial programs.

"People are really up in arms about this fee," Arnold said. "It's really slimy."

SMU forum on violence

by Janice Fiander

The shooting of fourteen women in Montreal last December was the focal point for the panelist participating in a recent forum on "Violence Against Women" at Saint Mary's University. Grace Pretty, Co-Chair of the Women's Caucus of Saint Mary's University, welcomed the audience, which consisted mainly of women.

The first panelist to speak was Susan Shaw, Sexual Harassment Officer at Saint Mary's. Shaw emphasized her view of the Montreal slayings as an act of violence against women and not a "single random event". She addressed the issue of power by telling a story in which male and female vie for the possession of a ball. The message was, "Put the ball down."

Blye Frank, sociologist and professor at Acadia University put the event at Montreal into a

social context. He asked the audience to consider the "practice of masculinity at home, in the church, at university". He also stressed his view that our emotions, desires, needs, and fears are shaped by the environment in which we live. Frank sees the need for long-term goals to bring about societal change. He referred not merely to acts of domesticity on the part of men, but to the examination of the social and cultural arrangements which give men power.

Journalist Tom Regan approached the issue from a personal standpoint. He expressed his initial disbelief that such a tragedy could ever happen in Canada. Regan raised several issues, one of which was the role the media plays in promoting sexism. He cited as an example of this the importance placed upon physical beauty as a criterion

upon which television and radio stations hire female staff. In closing, he related a message which addressed men, asking them to speak out against violence because neglecting to do so is an unspoken approval.

The last panelist to speak was Sharon Fraser, a freelance journalist who teaches at Mount Saint Vincent University. Fraser also spoke about the media, said, "Media outlets turned Montreal into an 'us against them' situation." She continued by saying that "the coverage took away our right to grieve", and that the coverage excluded women who are victimized every day. Fraser emphasized that "men must make the commitment to make wife-beating and sexism unacceptable behaviour in our society."

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AIDS education video at Grawood

by Padraic Brake

It was a typical 'Friday night' crowd at the Grawood for the shooting of the AIDS awareness video by the Students Union of Nova Scotia last week.

"The video will be used in peer education programs in universities as a lead-in to discussion workshops on AIDS awareness," said Sandy Goodwin, executive director of the National Post-Secondary AIDS Education Program.

One of the actors in the video, Marc Ducharme of Acadia University, said that despite the fact that most people think education is spreading about the disease, there's still a lot of gay-bashing, and the idea that AIDS is some sort of gay disease.

"I come from a school where there is a narrow-minded response to AIDS," said Ducharme. "I wasn't expecting it from Dalhousie, but you just have to spend a night here to experience a lot of it."

While the video was being filmed, a number of people arrived at the bar without knowing an AIDS awareness video was being recorded.

A few of those men left remarks on the walls of the bathroom located just outside the bar, including phrases such as "Thank god for AIDS, now fags

will be able to kill each other" and "AIDS should be only for fags, not for babies or people who have drug transfusions; so all you fags die quickly".

The homophobic reaction on the bathroom walls was repeated by a few within the bar volunteering to be in the video.

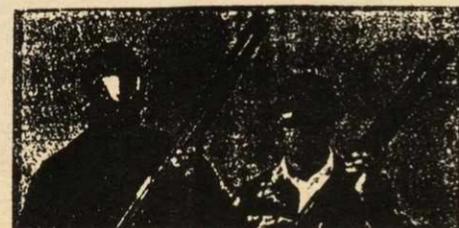
A volunteer in the bar who gave his first name as Tim said, "Tattoos should be put on those who have AIDS on a place where they can't be seen, a place where it could only be seen when they are naked."

He further said "everyone should have blood tests" to see if they have AIDS.

None of the volunteers interviewed could name a single symptom of AIDS infection.

According to Peter Wood of the Persons with AIDS Coalition, "Being HIV positive doesn't necessarily mean that you'll get AIDS, and there are a number of symptoms that are associated with being HIV-positive that could be symptoms of something else."

Wood said chronic fatigue, swelling of the lymph nodes, night sweats that go on for over a month, sudden weight loss, unusual skin rashes, and diarrhea that persists for over a month are some of the symptoms of being HIV-positive.



Blatant filler
or a
profound statement?