

# Cashing in on credit

By GEOFF STONE

DALHOUSIE PAID \$36,000 last year to Continental Credit Consultants to collect late tuition and residence payments.

The university collected \$146,000 in late payments through Continental and paid the agency 25 per cent of this amount. Seventy-two thousand dollars have still not been collected. This delinquent amount is left with Continental to collect but is written off in the university budget.

Collection agencies were first brought to Dalhousie in 1984 by Robbie Shaw, former vice-president of finance. According

to Mike Wright, director of finance for Dalhousie, they were brought in because of the large amount of fees left outstanding each year.

Students are encouraged to try and explain their inability to pay after they receive at least two letters from financial services, says Wright.

Some students have complained of difficulties in dealing with the collection agency when they are able to make their late payments. Last year, one student was not able to pay her debt because she was told she had to deal with the collection agency and financial services would not reveal the address of the agency.

Students who have been willing to pay the university instead of the collection agency have been told to go to the agency because the university's agreement with the agency stipulates the university cannot collect debts once they are handed over to the agency.

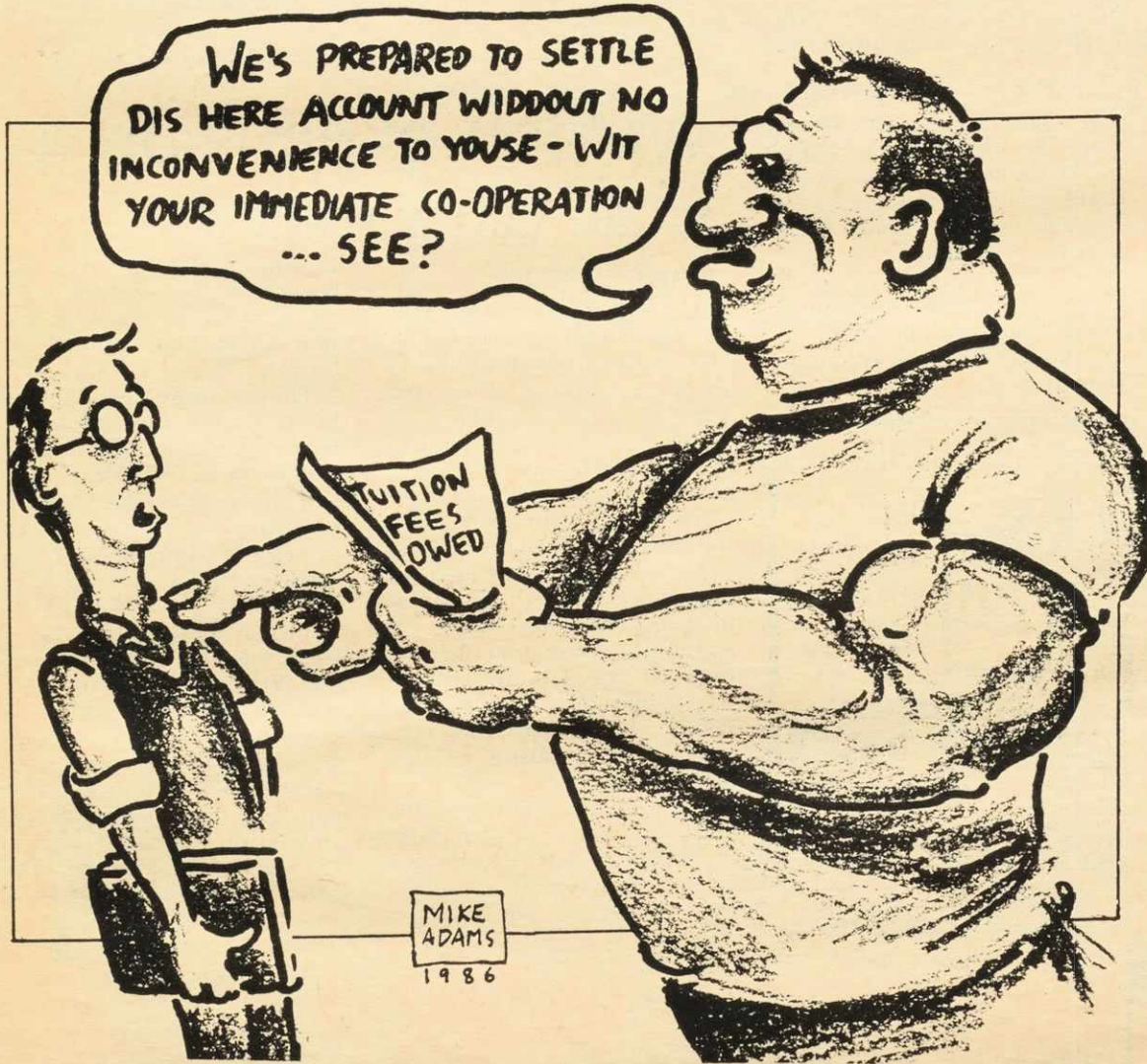
John Russell, director of management control systems and responsible for implementing recommendations from the Ritchie study, says he is not aware of any recommendations they have made concerning Dalhousie's use of a collection agency, although they have recommended transferring the student accounts office to the Registrar.

Your account has been placed with us for immediate collection with instructions from our client to take all the collection means at our disposal.

We are prepared to settle this account without inconvenience to you, if at all possible. It is in your interests, therefore, to co-operate. If this matter is to be settled amicably, we urge you to remit at once.

If there is any discrepancy in the above noted amount please contact our office.

Yours very truly,  
CONTINENTAL CREDIT CONSULTANTS LTD.



# DSU fights calendar change

By DEANNE FITZPATRICK

DALHOUSIE ADMINISTRATION has pushed back the withdrawal dates for full year courses in the faculty of arts and sciences from January 22 to October 6, without student consultation.

The move has provoked a strong protest from DSU president, Jamie MacMullin and other members of council. Macmullin agrees a standard withdrawal date is necessary to reduce confusion for students in different faculties but says the October date is undesirable because many students will not have had any evaluation of their work by that time.

Another problem with the

early date is, if as in the past the first installment on student loans does not come in until late October, some students will be forced to make a decision based on an uncertain financial situation. MacMullin says "the DSU believes this to be unfair."

Council has asked Alistair Sinclair, vice-president academic, and the deans involved to reconsider the early withdrawal date. Dr. Sinclair says he hopes the October 6 date "will not cause problems" and says the faculty of management studies has been using the date for 10 years without problems.

MacMullin says the comparison is not quite legitimate

because management has mostly half credit courses.

In reaction to the DSU's protest, the administration has agreed to a two week grace period until October 20 for withdrawal. They will also be re-examining the new date to see if there are any potential problems.

MacMullin says the extra two weeks are "better than nothing." He says the DSU will continue to push for a withdrawal date for the first week of November.

"The DSU believes students should be evaluated in some form before being asked to make a decision as to whether or not to stay in a course.

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