

Moral support not enough

While the rest of the post-secondary institutions in this province sit back feeling satisfied that they did their part by participating in the March protest on the Legislature, NSCAD students are the first to take **real** action against the government's educational cutbacks.

NSCAD, an institution of only 460 students received a fee hike last year that make their tuition the highest in the country. Another \$25 increase was thrown at them this year.

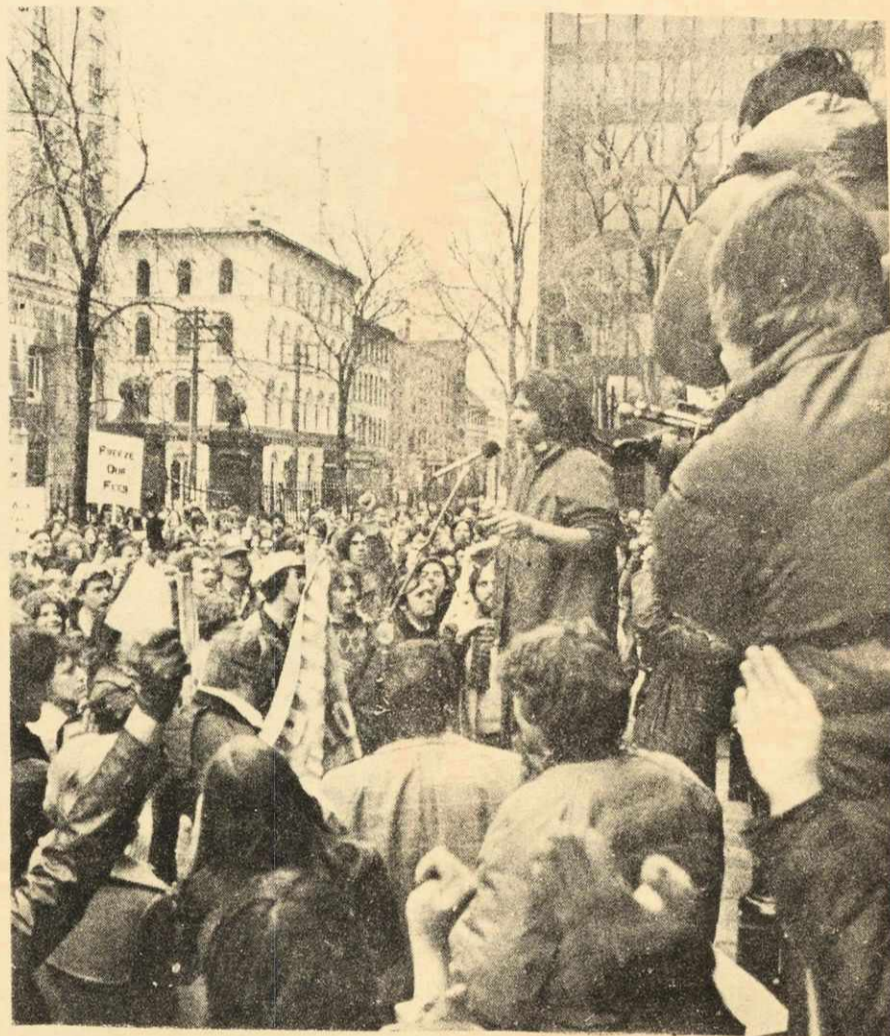
Unfortunately, the NSCAD administration decided against supporting the students in their efforts, and instead, pressured first-year students, creating confusion for new students. The NSCAD administration believes that tuition increases were necessary this year, and they now are supporting the government position.

Being a small college, one that has been known for its enthusiastic students, it was possible to get the support of a majority to carry out a fee strike. Unfortunately, such action is difficult at a university the size of Dalhousie. However, that is not to say we should be sitting back watching it all happen. More and more often we see accessibility to education being hampered. Unemployment and rising costs are contributing to making post-secondary education restrictive to the students who have money--and lots of it.

The President of the Dalhousie Student Union moved a motion for the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS) to morally support NSCAD in their efforts. Moral support is fine but the Students Union, too, should be channelling its energy into positive action against government cutbacks. Why let the efforts and enthusiasm of 1700 students who protested last March die away?

NSCAD shouldn't be fighting this one alone. It was everyone's problem in March and will be all year.

by Valerie Mansour



Comment

The family compact

Comment is an opinion column open to members of the university community who wish to present an informed opinion on a topic of their selection.

I.C. Moore

Rumour has reached me that the Dalhousie Student Union Building will soon be declared a provincial Historic Site. The plaque on the front will read "The Student Government of this building is a replica of the once famous Nova Scotia Family Compact." Nova Scotians will well remember that the province had the most powerful Family Compact in Canada.

Of course, the modern replica has a few small changes. Instead of being composed of merchants, church officers and relatives and friends of government officials, the Dalhousie Model consists of political hacks and friends of the President and Vice-President, Sampson and Mancini. Oh yes, there is one other very important common denominator — most of the members are residents of a small isle called Cape Breton.

What evidence exists for the above statements? Begin with the fact that Sampson and Mancini (S & M for short) are both former residents of Sydney. Add to that the following facts:

1. The appointment of Sandy MacNeil, resident of Sydney, long time friend of S & M, controversial Chief Electoral Officer during the election of S & M (very suggestive that!), as member at large on Council.
2. The attempted appointment of Paul Zed, defeated candidate for the Board of Governors, supporter of S & M as member at large.
3. The attempt to exclude Peter Greene, defeated Presidential candidate, who polled more than 45% of the vote, as member at large. Luckily, Council over-ruled the recommendation of Mancini's recruitment Committee and elected

Peter Greene over Zed.

4. The appointment of Gail Rudderham as Treasurer of the Student Union. Gail is a resident of Sydney, long time friend, and supporter of S & M in the election. Mancini voted against the recommendation of his own committee on this matter, and voted for Gail.

5. The appointment of Franklynn MacLean, also a resident of Sydney, as Community Affairs Secretary.

6. The appointment of Sandy Ball, long time friend, Sydney Resident, and supporter of S & M, as the chair of council.

7. The appointment of Sheilagh Beal, friend, defeated candidate, supporter, as Housing Secretary.

8. Also consider that the following Cape Bretoners sit on Council: David Goldstein (Health Professions), Rosalie Starzowski (Nursing), Carl Hall (Senate), Anita Lathigee (Senate), Shauna Sullivan (Shirreff Hall), Andras Vamos (Howe Hall), Keith Evans (Law) and Bruce Evans (Grad Studies). All, with the exception of the Evans pair, supported S & M.

9. Add other supporters of S & M on Council who are not from Cape Breton — i.e. Thomas Mann and Thomas Oland of the Senate.

Now try to deny a strong case for the existence of the Dalhousie Family Compact. I am sure Mancini enjoys the "family" connotation and they both must appreciate the compact aspect and the virtual sure support they will have from the majority of Council — with a very few, but sometimes correct, dissenting voices. However, there is one very important difference between the historical Family Compact and the new — the Historical one was well known for its efficiency.

