

on a raise in fees...

Dalhousie students already pay some of the highest tuition fees in Canada — and may next year be forced to accept another increase.

Past fee hikes have been announced either just before final exams or during the summer vacation. This year the administration has again said that a raise would not be considered until submission of all Departmental budgets.

The purpose of Council action then is merely to voice the students' objection to a possibility — and while the Gazette has complete faith in the Administration of Dr. Hicks, we attempt to provide no solution but only to present a framework for students to form their own opinions.

We realize that it costs the University from \$1000 dollars a year for each Arts student to nearly \$3700 for dentistry and a total of nearly thirty two thousand dollars to educate one student to a doctorate level.

We realize that the newly created University Grants Committee has doubled the Provincial governments support of the 14 Nova Scotian Universities and colleges — with additional support in capital expansion.

We realize that Dalhousie enrollment in ten years will probably exceed 7000 students — and that the University has its back to a wall in a conflict between academic freedom and financial responsibility; with millions of dollars needed merely to keep up with increasing standards among an increasing population. The University is unwilling to create a framework of potential governmental influence surrounding the administration's relative autonomy. A small part of this drive for semi-insured academic freedom and thus for funds has in the past been absorbed by students fees.

While the administration has undeniably valid reasons for raising its fees — perhaps it is our duty as students to fight for ideals while our University copes with practicality. Undeniable however, is that every dollar increase in fees, and indeed the entire concept of fees themselves call into question the efficiency of our educational system.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has proved that the 21.8% of Canadian families earning more than \$5,000 a year account for more than 68% of all arts and science students, for 67% of all medical students and for 74% of all law students. Less than one fifth of the populations then, accounts for more than three times its relative number on the Canadian Campus.

The upper 1.2% of Canadian taxpayers, earning more than \$15,000 a year account for more than seven times their relative number of University students while only 14.5% of students come from the 36.5% of Canadian families earning less than \$3,000 a year.

These D.B.S. figures prove that students from the highest income bracket have twenty times more opportunity to attend university than those from the lower bracket.

Studies of Ontario Grade 13 students made between 1958 and 1962 by The Atkinson foundation and testing almost 9,000 grade 13 students further indicate the influence of income on college attendance, of 735 students who intended to attend University, but did not, more than half would have gone if a scholarship or bursary had been available.

Generally, the studies indicated that for every university student, there is a potential student of equal ability not in university, and that about half of those who did not attend were prevented by financial difficulties.

The above figures, show an undeniable conflict in our education system. Not between the student and the Administration, nor between the university and the government — but most important — between idealism and practicality — the students, the administration, and the government all piously stand for equal opportunity — yet no framework exists for that opportunity.

Raising the fees would be one more step away from this ideal of equality.



The Dalhousie GAZETTE

CANADA'S OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

Volume 95 97

Friday, October 9, 1964

No. 415

Council Opposes Tuition Increase

by GAZETTE NEWS EDITOR PETER SHAPIRO

The Student Council declared Sunday its opposition to any hike in tuition fees for next year.

The 'hold-the-line' resolution, piloted by member-at-large Jos Williams and Council President Peter Herrndorf, was backed by a unanimous vote.



Peter Herrndorf

The Council is circulating a petition, expecting over 2000 signatures, to support its stand.

Herrndorf said he learned through discussions with the Administration, and general "scuttlebut", that the University is "thinking of" raising fees by 75 to 100 dollars next year, and by that amount each year for the next five years.

In other words, a Council member said, tuition in 1969 could be over \$1000.

The Council petition expresses the signer's conviction that his "tuition fees, one of the highest in Canada, are high enough, and that any additional fees would be unfair and prejudicial to the stu-

dents at Dalhousie."

Herrndorf said that a fee increase would make "university education more exclusive, and would, in effect, give priority to the student who was financially qualified, rather than to the student who was gifted intellectually".

He charged that a fee increase would tax the one area of the economy "least able to pay for higher education." "University education should become more of a public responsibility," he said.

Eric Hillis, the second member-at-large on Council, commented that the "Maritimes are not famed for high wages or extra employment in the summer." He claimed that if "Dalhousie raises its fees again, it will be impossible for many Maritime students to come here."

Herrndorf suggested that the Administration "reassess its financial position, and seek alternate methods of financing." The Student Council has established a committee to explore the problems of "university financing", and to make recommendations to the Student Council.

Herrndorf continued that the Council Committee hopes to meet with the University to discuss the increase "and also with the provincial government authorities to establish their position on increased aid to education."

Dr. Read, Vice-President of the University, told the Gazette Monday that a raise in fees had not been considered. And he continued that the fees would "not be considered until faculty budgets are submitted, examined by the President, and passed by the Board of Governors."

He said that the budgets are due December 7th. He could not predict when the discussion on fees would begin.

Professor Mercer, Assistant to the President, claimed that President Hicks has the problem of fees and finance constantly on his mind. He said that the University deficit has been growing each year.

Raising the fees would only be a "last ditch" measure, the professor said.

Herrndorf claimed he was aware that budgets weren't considered until later in the term. He said that if the Council had waited too long, "it would have been impossible to affect the University's decision."

"In effect," Herrndorf continued, "I hope the Council action will prompt the Administration to make definite attempts to seek alternative methods of financing, either in the area of private endowment, or government aid."

Tuition in Arts and Science last year rose from \$465 to \$525 this year. It had been stable since 1960.

Dr. Read said that the petition, and students' ideas, are welcomed by the Administration and will be given careful consideration.

Herrndorf has given a press release to Halifax newspapers and radio stations, expressing the students' determination that the line be held.

Attis Raps Females' For Lack Of Support

Audrey Attis, President of Delta Gamma Society, today rapped Dalhousie girls for lack of initia-

tive in representing the university and participating in campus projects.

Miss Attis told The Gazette Monday, that less than four per cent of the university's 928 undergraduate, female students attend Delta Gamma meetings.

Exemplifying the girls' apathy, Miss Attis said, was Dalhousie's recent default of the first debate in the Intercollegiate Women's league, to Acadia.

"Nobody was willing to represent the university."

Miss Attis has stressed the necessity of campus females exhibiting greater interest in the society. She pointed to the Dal Blood Drive for the Red Cross and Sadie Hawkins Week, both sponsored by Delta Gamma. The Society is also entering a one-act play in the Connolly Shield Drama Competition in January.

The Society will hold nominations at noon Dec. 1st for the Campus King Contest in the A&A Room 130.

Delta Gamma was organized at Dalhousie in 1928 with a limited membership, and aimed at promoting greater unity between girls from Sheriff Hall and Halifax.

Miss Attis this year heads a 10-member executive in a society which has a potential membership of almost 1,000.

Decide Against Support South African Boycott

The Student Council Sunday decided not to urge the Canadian Government to boycott South Africa.

CUS Representative Margie MacDougald asked that Council send a letter to Ottawa demanding an economic boycott of South Africa. She charged that its apartheid policy, "maintained by a military buildup", was intolerable.

Council President Peter Herrndorf suggested that the Council should not be rash in voting for an apparently good cause. He said that the members could not predict where a boycott might lead, that it was not right to demand starvation of innocents besides that of offenders. Herrndorf cited the African nations' pleas in the U.N. for a South African Boycott. He said that all those nations now have increased, rather than stopped, their trade with South Africa.

Herrndorf continued that the motion involved a value judgment. "Some could say that the U.S. was not progressing fast enough in civil rights," he said.

Miss MacDougald informed

Council that Canada's trade balance with South Africa was highly favorable, \$52 million export and \$11 million imports.

Law Representative Gary Hurst mentioned that he had discussed 'apartheid' with South African students in London last summer. He said the discussions firmed his conviction that one cannot

By BARRY DEVILLE
GAZETTE STAFF REPORTER

"solve discrimination problems by holding a hammer over people's heads, but only through general education of all involved."

Member-at-Large Jos Williams disagreed. He insisted the problem would be solved by violence, regardless of education, with or without a boycott. "The South African Negroe is taking the hammering in the head," he said, "not this council."

Williams said he would vote against the motion. He continued that the problem would be solved by the Africans themselves. "The South African's waiting patiently

for better things cannot be ex-

pected to persist much longer," he warned.

Williams said that it didn't make any difference which way the council voted. He pointed out that the boycott was not in Canada's best interest, that only Britain and the US could effectively boycott South Africa anyway.

"Therefore," he said, "I am casting my vote for 'intolerance and injustice' rather than for 'piety and justice'. He later said that his remark on Council intolerance was meant purely in a facetious sense.

Herrndorf claimed that not only was the motion wrong on grounds of principle, but it was also useless and impractical. He added that he personally deplored South Africa's type of government; and he disagreed with Hurst's remarks that the key lay in education.

He said he didn't himself know the answer. "The motion passed by CUS demanding boycott was done so in a spirit of sophomoric emotion rather than reason," Herrndorf said.

Five representatives abstained as the motion in Council went down to defeat.