

# Differential fee decisions sparks debate

By BRUCE FANJOY

THE NOVA SCOTIA GOVERNMENT is jumping to the defence of their plan to increase differential fees for foreign students, in the face of criticism from university administrators, faculty and students.

Tim Shaw, director of the centre for African studies at Dalhousie, is one of the more outspoken critics of the plan. Last week he had said the government's decision to increase the extra fees charged to foreign students attending N.S. universities was an act of "provincialism, if not racism." Shaw was responding to an announcement by the education department that differential fees be increased by \$325 next year, following a recommendation from the Council of Maritime Premiers.

His comments raised the ire of at least one government official. Dr. Peter Butler, senior advisor to education minister Terry

Donahoe says Shaw's comments are "inflammatory" and "completely irresponsible."

"A professor should think twice before he shoots his mouth off," Butler says. Butler says that while he recognizes Canada's responsibility to help the third world "a lot of the students from these countries come from the wealthiest families."

"It is unreasonable for the people of this province to have to pay for foreign students when it is possible these students come from families just as well off," he says.

Statistics support Butler's contentions. A report on foreign students by a joint committee of the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU), and the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) says foreign students from underdeveloped countries accounted for only 8.1 percent of foreign students enrolled in Maritime universities.

The report went on to say, however, that there is no economic justification for differential fees.

The report says that while the cost of educating foreign students is somewhere between \$2 million and \$14 million, foreign students contribute about \$24.8 million to the economy of the region every year.

Dr. Kenneth Leffek, Dalhousie's dean of graduate studies and chair of the AAU-MPHEC committee on foreign students, says the reason for the differential fee is political. He says because Quebec and Ontario raised differential fees too many foreign students will be wanting to go to Maritime universities.

"You control the market by adjusting the price," says Leffek. He says that even with the increased fees he expects more foreign students next year.

Dr. John Keyston, AAU executive director, says the association will not be taking an official position until their June meeting. "In view of the benefits that foreign students bring to our country I don't see why we should have differentials at all," Keyston says.

Nova Scotia is one of six Canadian provinces that charge foreign students differential fees. A foreign student attending McGill university in Montreal pays \$4,350 in tuition fees compared to \$570 for a Quebec resident.

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basement to look for him.

Kenneth Mark was the last student to have seen Reineke alive, sometime between 3:00 and 3:30 a.m. Mark testified that Reineke seemed quite drunk and was covered in shaving cream. Mark said Reineke was with two other students, Kelly Ham and Irvin Reekie.

Ham and Reekie's testimony was vague and often contradictory. At one point, the coroner asked Ham why he was being so careful with his statements.

Ham said he did not trust the judicial system. "It's a big pain," he said. He later told lawyer Robert McKercher he was being careful because the possibility of attempted murder charges being laid had been mentioned to him.

Monika Faber and Pamela Stimpson testified that Ham and Reekie were in their residence room between 3:30 and 4:00 a.m.

At approximately 4:00 a.m. on Sept. 28, seven students, among them Wall, Reekie, Barrett and Ham, went to the ground floor garbage area.

Donna Puto, another resident, discovered the badly injured Shawn Reineke in the garbage.

Besides determining Reineke was assisted into the garbage chute, the coroner's jury recommended that liquor regulations and the legal drinking age be enforced at licensed university functions.

As well, it said university highrises should be equipped with security clocks and a key system be installed to indicate when a security guard has visited a location.

The crown prosecutor will review testimony and decide if further investigation is needed or if charges will be laid. The police will review a transcript of the inquest before seeking more information or interviews.



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