

Restrictions still harry international students

by Larry Hansen

The easing of employment restrictions on international students and their spouses is an important step towards making Canada a more attractive environment for international education. We are eagerly awaiting news from the Government of Canada on these matters.

(Canadian Federation of Students. Presentation to the Standing Committee on Labour, Employment and Immigration. 18 January 1988)

On February 24th, 1988, approximately five weeks after this statement was made, the Department of Employment and Immigration made the announcement that we knew was coming: the employment restrictions facing international students would be relaxed. Students from other countries would now be permitted to work on campus, in discipline-related positions for up to one year after graduation (if they can find such work within sixty days), and spousal employment either on or off campus.

At first blush, one might think that the promulgation of the regulatory changes is consistent with the fact that Canada places great importance on the recruitment and retention of student from other countries. After all, the enormous benefits this country

receives from international students is beyond dispute: their collective spending has a significant impact on the national economy, they provide us with invaluable trade and intellectual experience by their presence as well as their academic and research activities. As we know, however, the realities of policy does not always follow logic.

A significant number of international students report difficulty with Canadian officials, both before and after they leave their home country. Once here, most of them face large differential fees, and if they receive fellowships or assistantships, pay into CPP and UIC without being able to receive the benefits of these programmes. In addition, they have the added burden of moving to a new country with new customs and, in some cases, a new language to learn.

But, leaders in the international student community who were interviewed for the CBIE study have raised questions about the ambiguity of the new regulations: "What exactly does discipline related work mean? If both spouses are students, how does the spousal work rule apply? If a job is found after graduation, must the spouse stop working? If no job is found within sixty days, can the spouse continue working?"

Also, in the process of finding employment, an international student is faced with a number of bureaucratic roadblocks: immigration officials who have not been properly informed about the changes, employers who are unaware of them, time-consuming paper-work in the form of medical and notarized marriage certificates, and the sometimes exasperating shuffle between prospective employers

and the immigration department in order to get proper work authorization.

Leaders question the practical importance of the changes. They perceive on-campus work as hard for them to obtain and with respect to one year post-graduation employment, they pinpoint the difficulty of finding a job within the prescribed sixty days after graduation, the reluctance of employers to give some-

one a job for only one year, and the restriction of meeting the requirement that positions must be discipline-related.

Lastly, as long as significant restrictions remain and differential fees continue to be used by a majority of Canada's provinces, the recent changes have and will not significantly ameliorate the position of Canada's international student population.

Dal registration

Tough on foreign students

by Andreas Katsouris

It goes without saying that in any large community of disparate individuals, many programs that are initiated for the good of the group often have widely differing effects upon the widely differing people that comprise it. That is, while a community as a unit may be served by specific action or program, many of its members may not be.

We at Dalhousie are one such large community of individuals, and as such, have in existence a number of programs that really serve only a subset of our student population. Money spent on athletics, for instance, benefits

many of us a great deal, others not at all. yet, unlike athletics, there are some programs and procedures on this campus that are supposedly designed to serve all students with equality and fairness. One such program is the registration procedure.

With the arrival of a new Registrar last year, the "powers that be" embarked on a long overdue review of the manner in which students are registered for classes the following year. Many of us who have been here for a few years will remember all-night lineups and mad dashes for courses (especially in the Sciences) and agree that something had to be changed, and soon.

The administration responded by introducing a system where students register by mail. Students from Metro, or those who stayed in the area during the summer probably felt quite well-served by this system. You received your registration pack-

age in less than two days, filled it out immediately, and my have even delivered it personally.

Let's suppose that instead of Bedford, you live in Hong Kong or Nigeria. Your registration package probably took two weeks or more to arrive, and though you sent it off with equal diligence, the over four week round trip

Continued on page 17.

CONGRATULATIONS 1988-89 GRADS

Participate in our Special Grad Program

1. No Payments for 90 days.
2. No Down Payment.

For instant approval & drive home today call:

RICK SUTCLIFFE or STEVE SCARFF JR. 453-4115

TRY US!

City
mazda

2672 Robie St., Halifax



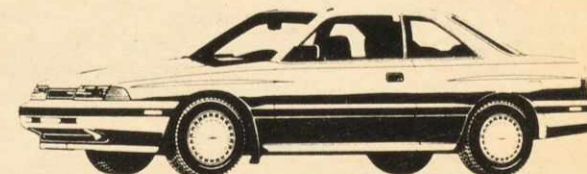
323 RF

- Standard 4 speed
- Sunroof
- AM-FM Cassette
- Sport Stripe Package
- \$8940. •



1990 MX-5 MIATA

- Exciting New Mazda convertible
- Optional Hardtop
- Coming in June — order now
- \$18,995. •



MX-6

- Sunroof
- Sport Stripe Package
- Floor Mats
- Block Heater
- \$14,995. •

• Freight, Tax, Licence Extra