

Foreign students drop

By TOBY SANGER

International students are quickly becoming a rarity at Dalhousie.

Between 1984 and 1986, Dalhousie suffered a decline of over 30 per cent in the number of international students enrolled at the university.

A drop of 110 students from last year brings the total to 505, the lowest number in over eight years.

Jim Fox, a director of the Canadian Bureau for International Education, expects the number of international students studying in Canada to drop to 27,000 this year from 33,000 two years ago — a drop of 18 per cent.

The largest number of international students at Dalhousie come from Hong Kong with 82 this year and from Malaysia with 46, although these numbers have decreased by 40 per cent over the last year.

Universities started imposing differential fees over the last decade because of a belief that it would be a strain on Canadian taxpayers to finance their education.

Nova Scotia first started charging

differential fees in 1979. At Dalhousie they now stand at \$1,800.

Differential fees vary across the country. At the University of Toronto, a full time arts and science student from outside Canada pays \$3,500 in extra fees. In engineering, the differential fees are \$6,400.

Foreign students who are financially sponsored by the Canadian government through scholarships do not have to pay differential fees.

Karanja Njoroge, the international student advisor at Dalhousie says this is a contradictory and unfair policy:

"We punish the students who have sacrificed so much to come to Nova Scotia by charging them differential fees. It is these privately sponsored students who we should be doing more to support."

A Senate report released last June recommended uniform differential fees be charged across the country to replace the present confusing array of policies. The report also noted that Canada has not sufficiently recognized the benefits international students provide in increasing cultural

contacts, improving trade opportunities and aiding Canada's foreign policy.

Nothing yet has been done to implement these recommendations.

"As Canada loses its reputation as a friendly host for international students, even those provinces without differential fees will be affected," says Njoroge.

He says the present restrictive policies are resulting in a great loss for Canada just as other countries are expanding their programs to draw more foreign students.

Japan currently has plans to recruit 100,000 international students annually before the end of the century — a doubling of present levels.

The Soviet Union offers students in a number of countries an estimated 50,000 scholarships to study there each year.

He warns if Canada's international students policies are not soon improved, Canada will lose out, not only on important cultural and educational opportunities but also politically and economically as political and trade opportunities expand with the third world.

Handbook en retardé

The Dalhousie student handbook has become available to students two months later after printing and communication problems disrupted its production. Work on the handbook was delayed after last year's student council did not inform Brian Hiltz that he was to be editor. Sandra Bell, Student Union vice president, said that Brian did not know about the position until she informed him at the beginning of May.

With the delay in advertising and editing, including a delay in getting an advertising agent, the handbook was brought together a month behind schedule for getting to the printers, says Bell.

Much of the cost of the handbook was to be offset by advertising, but according to Bell, this year's ads are down considerably from previous years. Sean Casey, Student Union treasurer, commented that compared with what could have been done, "it was an inadequate effort to say the least."

Students have commented on the poor quality of the handbook, but Union members have said that most of the problems should be cleared up for next year's handbook.

Questions raised about whether Hiltz should receive an honorarium for the book will be brought up at council as soon as the book has been distributed on campus.

Another month of delay to the publication came through delays in printing, but Bell said these delays will not effect the total cost of the handbook to the Student Union.

The Student Union will be looking at plans to change the way positions are handled in future, including creating the position of a DSU advertising officer who would be in charge of all advertising related to DSU functions. These would include the Student Handbook, Winter Carnival and other events.

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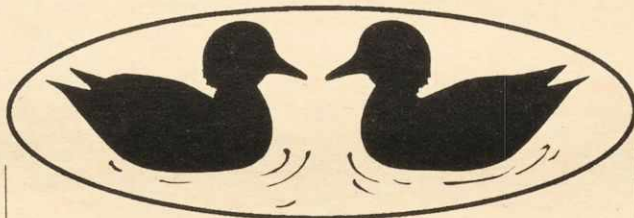
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