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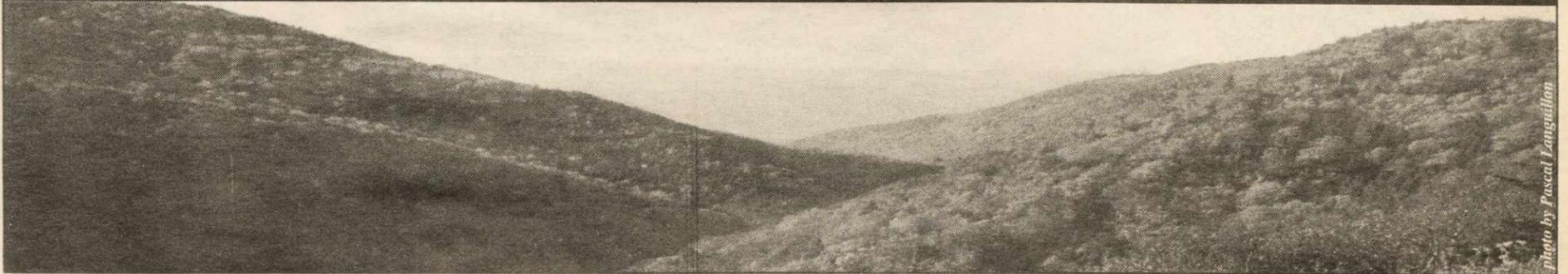


photo by Pascal Langouillon

Kelly Ballas shudders her way through Thanksgiving in the Cape Breton Highlands, counts the moose skulls and gets over it. See story on page 13.

Students concerned about \$82-million deficit Concerns over potential lost funding dismissed by provincial education minister

BY ANDREW SIMPSON

The Nova Scotia government is projecting an \$82-million deficit, but student leaders say funding increases to education shouldn't be sacrificed to balance the books.

In a first-quarter budget report released in early October, the minority Liberal government revealed they would not achieve their objective of a \$1.2-million surplus, instead expecting to fall \$82-million in the red.

"It's up to the politicians to look at what they promised to education and stick to their game plan," said Tim McIntyre, president of the St. Francis Xavier Student Union, in Antigonish.

Before the deficit was announced, funding to the province's 11 universities was set to increase \$23.8-million over the next three years, replacing money previously cut.

But McIntyre says he's concerned the government might cave on funding commitments to stay alive in the province's volatile legislature.

"We hope the government keeps its wits about it in this time of enormous political pressure," he said.

While failing to deliver on a balanced budget might be a political liability for the Liberals, cutting social spending would be fatal, says Jessica Squires, Nova Scotia representative for the Canadian Federation of Students.

"They are just pounding nail upon nail into their electoral coffin if they cut from health and if they don't keep their promise on education," she said.

"It's a matter of priorities... finding money for American businesses and not for Nova Scotia social programs is a bit problematic."

Ted Chiasson, president of the Dalhousie Student Union, says he understands the government is under financial pressure, but that there are also significant costs to cutting education.

"They are already treading on thin ice as far as what promises they're going to be able to carry through with," he said.

"But cutting your knowledge and your skills training would be extremely short-sighted and self-destructive in the long run."

Both Chiasson and Squires say they are confident the funding initiatives will be maintained.

But Eileen O'Connell, an opposition MLA and the NDP education critic, says she expects

the Liberals to back-pedal on their commitments to fund education.

"They can put all the money they want on paper for education, but if the government goes down on the budget then it's [back to] square one," she said. "If we are \$82-million short, education is

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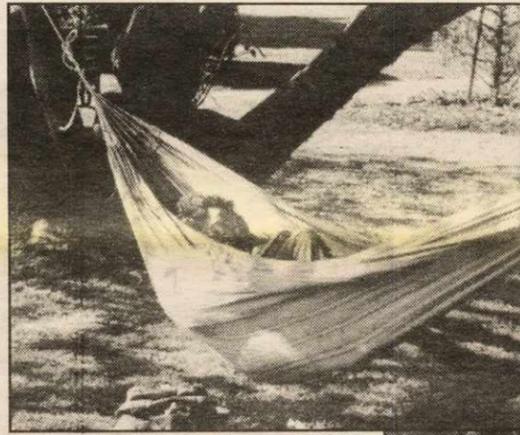


photo by Greg McFarlane

Parking permit a 'license to hunt' Dalhousie parking shortage drives students' nerves

BY MUSHTAK WASITI

It's eight o'clock in the morning. You have a headache, a muscle twitch and you're in an extremely bad mood. No, it's not exams, or a term paper deadline. It's time to look for a parking spot.

There are about 1000 more parking permits than parking spots at Dal, with 1730 basic parking spaces oversold by roughly 60 percent.

Bill Lord, director of facilities management, says it's because of the demand for spots.

"If I sold [all] 1730 spots on campus right now and said, 'that's it guys, no more' I would have a

riot on my hands," he said.

"Most people realize that a basic permit is a license to hunt."

But Dal student Marwa Saba says her hunt isn't always successful.

"I park a lot on meters even though I have a permit because I can't find any spaces," she said.

"I get a ticket each month... when I am lucky. I usually get 2 or 3 tickets a month."

Mohammed Azzawe, a third-year student, agrees. He has to leave Bedford at 7:45 to find a space in time for his 9:30 class.

"I eventually find a spot, [you] just have to know when to come," he said.

But while he had a parking pass last year, he says he's not going to renew it when it expires this October.

"It's really bad. They should supply us with more parking spaces," said Azzawe.

But Lord says creating more parking isn't easy.

"As much as I would like to build parkades I've got no money to do it with — other than the money I can make from parking," Lord said. "Now even with overselling twice as many parking spaces... [we] won't come close to building a new parkade."

"As you might imagine a regular parking permit will not pay for anything."

The construction of a new parkade behind Henson College will also not significantly lessen parking problems for regular permit holders.

Currently, there is room for 60 regular spots. The new parkade will have 60 reserved underground parking spots and 70 aboveground regular parking spots — a net increase of 10 parking spaces for regular permit holders.

But Marwa Saba is willing to take her chances, and search for that elusive parking spot.

"I will take my chances. Everyone does it."

Last days of summer — swingin' in a hammock in the Dal quad.

Right to offend? Writer doesn't support paper's apology

BY PHIL E. LEWIS

The student newspaper at Mount Saint Vincent University is planning to apologize for a controversial article — but the author says he doesn't share the sentiment.

The decision to run an apology for "Take Back the Bullshit" was prompted after readers and women's groups complained that the article was sexist.

The article was printed in the Sept. 29 issue of *the Picaro* in the opinions section.

But Stephen Brown says he stands by what he wrote.

He says the piece was meant to show his frustration towards the Take Back the Night March and how he refuses to take responsibility for the hurtful actions of other men.

"I always thought that I was a bad person because of [the man responsible for the Montreal Massacre]," he said.

Brown also says his opinion

piece was trying to express his outrage at the ignorance of women who tell him his pain is unimportant because of the abusive history of men against women.

"As negative as the tone may seem, it was exactly what I wanted to say," he said.

But Patricia Thomson, director of the Dalhousie Women's Centre, says it was the piece's tone that was sexist. Thomson was one of the most vocal opponents to the piece, and says the article represents a surprising male backlash towards women.

"I do not think this is a lone sentiment," she said.

Bruce Wark, professor of journalism ethics at the University of Kings College, said he didn't find anything sexist in the article.

Wark says the way the article is written, it is designed to offend and provoke thought. He says the offensive tone of the article is a dangerous way to write, but he feels Brown accomplished his task.

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photo by Katie Teed

Gridlock on LeMarchant Street.