

Students being denied access

by Mary Jane Hamilton

Having trouble trying to fill those "B" term courses? You're not the only one. Some students are still trying to get into courses in the second term, either requirements they need in order to graduate or electives.

Classroom space, not enough classes, and not enough professors to teach these classes, are three of the major causes of this crisis.

One of the biggest concerns is the Psychology Department. Many students are frantic because they cannot get into the courses they need to graduate.

Carolyn Graham, who has been a secretary of the Psychology Department for six years, said some Psychology majors have ended up going to Saint Mary's for a year and transferring their marks back to Dal.

Graham said this year is "absolutely ridiculous", as more students are being accepted into the university than can be accommodated. "There are close to a thousand students on waiting lists," she said.

lines overbooking their flights and saying, 'Sorry, you'll have to catch the next one.'

"After the great sacrifice [either by the student earning the money or the parents' contribution for the student to attend university], and then not to get their money's worth, is wrong," Fentress said.

Waiting lists in the Psychology Department used to be an average of around 30 students per class. This year they are around 70 students per class.

Fentress said one reason these problems are showing up is a lot of professors have left the university in the past two years without being replaced. He also said the number of students has increased. This means more students are trying to get into a fewer number of classes.

The Biology Department has been able to accommodate its own students this year, but has had to increase the enrolment of three classes. One class increased enrolment by 30 per cent, and even then the professor had to turn away about 40 people.

Political Science course as they are full. He is presently pursuing another interest, History, but most of these courses are also full. "A lot of my friends are in the same boat."

thing. There are not enough courses in the "B" term that are interesting, not only in Psychology but in other departments as well.

"The university shouldn't take money from the students if they cannot give them what they want"

R. P. Gupta, Director of Statistics, said this has been a problem over the last several years, with Mathematics 1060 being a major problem. There are four sections to this class which are offered in both the "A" and "B"

Richard Arthurs, an Accounting major, is having trouble filling his one elective course in order to graduate this year. He said selection was very limited. Even though he is graduating this year and only needs one elective course, he cannot be signed into already overloaded classes. "More consideration should be given to students graduating," he said.

Lack of money is a big factor in overcrowded classes. Dalhousie University went heavily into debt about 15 years ago and government funding has been inadequate.

Another reason why it is difficult to get into "B" term courses is that if there is a "B" equivalent of an "A" term course, the students that have failed the course in the first term may try the course again in the spring.

Fentress suggested many solutions that may or may not be economically feasible due to cost. He said as some classes are already like mobs, a few more students would not make much of a difference.

Larger classrooms are needed for larger classes, as fire marshalls do not allow more than a certain number of students in classrooms. The problem with larger classes, of course, is the decrease in the amount of individual attention that the professor can give.

Larger classes would also mean the classes would be more depersonalized. "Professors can't monitor [large] classes as well to help those who are not catching on," he said.

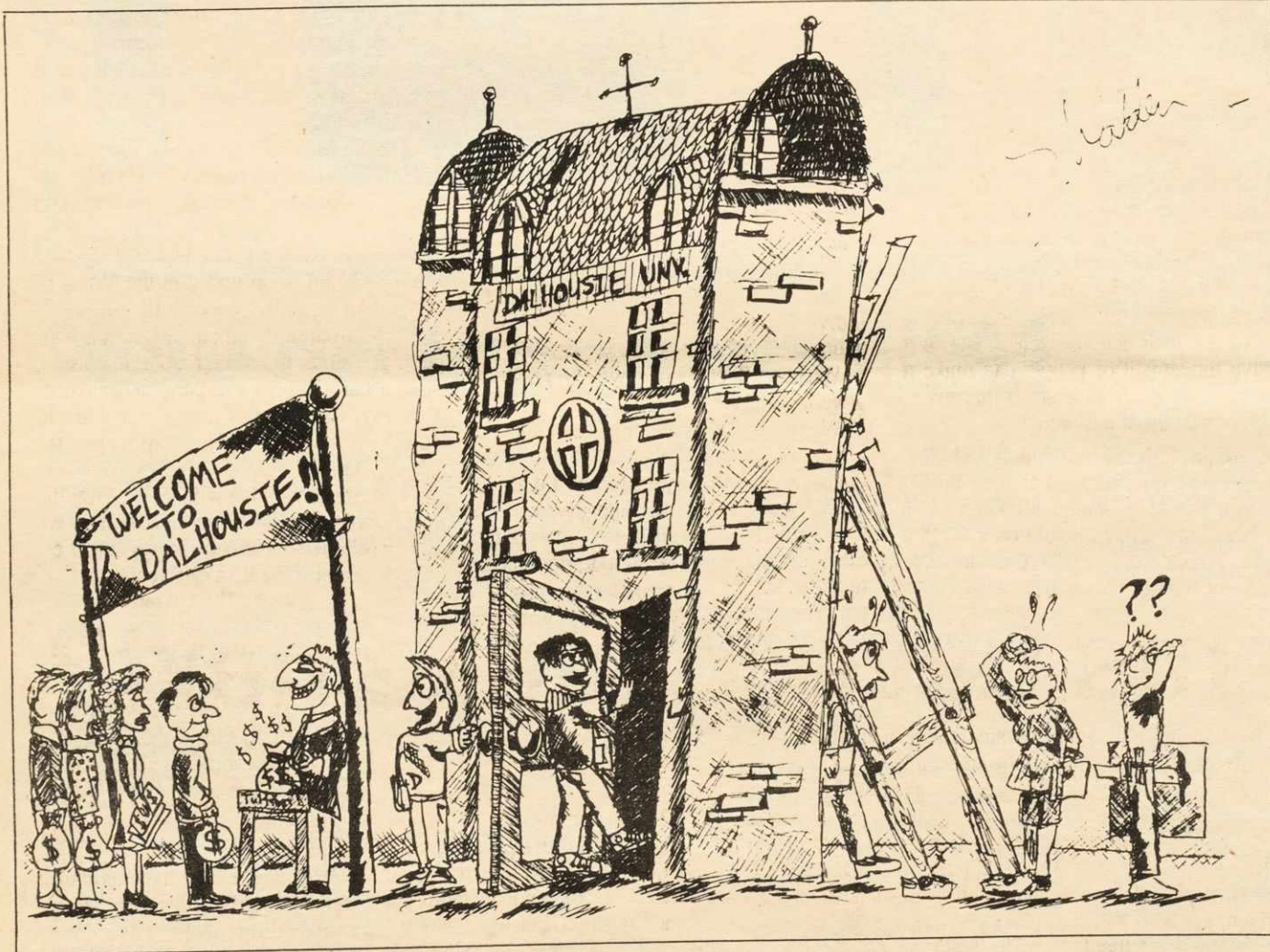
More courses could be added, but then money would be needed for more faculty members as the present faculty is already understaffed. If they were required to teach more classes, the quality of the teaching would go down with their enthusiasm. "Students would get less for their dollar...as they would end up with watered down courses."

Restricting entrants by imposing higher acceptance requirements at Dalhousie is another option. But then the university could only serve a small proportion of the population. The university would also lose the funds extra students bring in.

Gudrun E. L. Curri, the Dalhousie Registrar, said this year was no more of a problem than previous years. There have not been more complaints than usual at this time of year (in the "B" term), she said.

Fentress urges students to complain to their department chairpersons or to the Administration (the Registrar's office) if they are having problems so that these problems can be addressed and hopefully rectified.

The Registrar's office phone number is 494-2450.



"If I were a student I would be mad," said John Fentress, a psychology professor at Dalhousie. "The university is run for the students", but some students are unable to get the courses that they need, he said.

Adrian Litz, a Political Science student, said he is worried about graduating next year. He is unable to get the Statistics course he needs in the second term because it is full. "It's frustrating," he said. "I may end up

terms. However, the classes are so large finding large classrooms for these sections has become a problem.

The problem of the unavailability of classes is not as big for smaller departments such as Education, Microbiology, or Spanish, as they have been able to accommodate their own students so far by enlarging classes.

Students from other departments are finding it next to impossible to find open classes in these smaller departments to fill their electives, especially in the "B" term.

One Psychology major said, "Even though I do not have the prerequisites for science courses, I went through the entire calendar from cover to cover. I was looking for any-

"If I was a student, I would be mad."

Fentress said, "The university shouldn't take money from the students if they cannot give them what they want...It's like the air-

taking a summer course or having no elective next year in the Regular Session."

Litz said he cannot get into any other