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## N.S. students fight back

by Gazette Staff

About 3,000 students marched from Dalhousie to the legislature yesterday to protest the inadequate 5.5 per cent increase in government funding to post-secondary education. At Province House they listened and cheered as student representatives demand no differential fees, a freeze in tuition fees, an increase in operating grants, and a long-term plan for education.

Amidst chants of "They say cutback, we say fight back," Premier Buchanan said that government policy is "to administer in an equitable manner responsible government to all Nova Scotia. I want to emphasize to you that this is not a reduction but an increase."

"If tuition increases above hikes at other institutions the government is prepared to gear up the student aid program and initiate a summer employment program," he stated.

When asked what will happen in the meantime, he said the Minister of Education is instituting a rationalization program, concerning post-secondary education in Nova Scotia. Pressures from the universities have had nothing to do with the implementation of this program, he added.

When asked why only \$96 million out of a \$98 million federal government grant earmarked for post-secondary education has been allocated,

Buchanan refused to answer. Amidst cries of "Double salary, double salary," he said, "I'll have to check the figures." The premier was also asked if there was an economic justification for differential fees.

Chairperson Wally Stephen told the crowd Canadian Bureau of International Education statistics show that foreign students spent \$46.8 million in Canada in 1977 as compared to \$8 million in government grants. Buchanan replied, "We rationalize this on the same basis as other Canadian provinces. It's to be seen if we make economic gains."

NUS fieldworker Gene Long told the crowd that, "post-secondary education in Nova Scotia and throughout the country is in chaos. The federal and provincial governments are not assuming responsibility. They are putting restraints on social services and education, so when economic times are bad they cut back on the people most effected by them."

Accompanied by a coffin, one minute of silence was held to mark the death of higher education in the province.

Students from the College of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, St. Francis Xavier, Acadia, St. Mary's, King's, NSCAD and Dalhousie participated in the demonstration.

## Open hours 'cost money'

by Danièle Gauvin

A proposal to bring 'open hours' to Shirreff Hall has been approved in principle by the Residence Committee of the Board of Governors. The Committee met last week to consider the results of an extensive survey conducted

by two marketing students, under the supervision of the marketing department. Although the Committee stated no 'moral' objections to allowing men to visit residents at any time during the weekends—during 'open' hours—they expressed concern that the

building may need costly renovations to accommodate the visitors. The need for increased security, which has been a point of contention since the results of a first, more informal survey was released in October, was also discussed at the meeting.

The marketing survey revealed that 75% of residents are in favor of the 'open' hours proposal. Factors such as whether residents had single or double rooms, what hometown they came from or whether or not they had boyfriends proved to have no correlation to their approval or disapproval of the plan. The first survey showed 80% support for the plan, but it did not include all women in the Residence, unlike the new survey, which reached everyone.

Since the meeting, student Governor Jim Prentice proposed that a single floor be set aside for students beyond their first year who wished to live without open hours. Cathy McLean, Vice-President of Student Council, expressed hope that this new proposal would help the Committee to draft a formal recommendation to the Board of Governors. "The Committee has received many favorable letters from individual residents. It's only a few extra hours on weekends," McLean said.

Bathrooms have become an issue. Opponents say that

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## Hicks studies status of women

by Elissa Barnard

University president Henry Hicks has promised the Dalhousie Women Faculty Organization (DWFO) to decide by March 26 whether or not to accept the Status of Women committee report on full-time female faculty, released in January.

A delegation of six DWFO members from the math, social work, philosophy, nursing and library services departments met with Hicks Feb. 26 to discuss the report, which found that women full-time faculty are paid less than their male counterparts, are concentrated in the lower ranks, stay longer in each rank before promotion and are fewer in number than the male faculty.

Hicks also agreed to implement the second phase of the study on part time women faculty and librarians regardless of his decision on the first phase.

He told the DWFO he would

advise the administration's bargaining team to make female inequities a high priority in developing procedures for hiring, promotion, tenure and salary in the present contract negotiations.

The Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) passed a motion proposed by the DWFO at their February 14 meeting to also make the redressing of discrimination a top priority.

At present the DFA is trying to negotiate a clause on no discrimination which includes an explicit agreement not to discriminate on the grounds of sex, Dr. Susan Sherwin, member of the DWFO and the DFA negotiating team said.

The DWFO was "generally pleased" with its hour long meeting with the president and "we are looking forward to hearing his decision before March 28," DWFO president Toni Laidlaw said.

**See centrespread for protest pics.**