

Applying for bucks through bursaries

by Jessica Berry

Thanksgiving has passed and, like many students, you are finally realising how much in debt you actually are. Things did not look so bad when you first arrived in Halifax. The bank balance was high, the first rent check was paid and the Mastercard had not yet reached its limit.

Now each day you arrive at your mailbox and discover a new, crisp envelope. No, it is not a letter from your friend at McGill, nor is it a letter from your grandfather. It is a bill from MT&T (can you believe they charge \$30 just to install a phone?), a bill from the bank (when did they start charging to use the bank machine?) or, if you are really lucky, it's the Registrar's Office re-

mind you about the approaching tuition deadline.

Believe it or not, there are some options.

Last week, the Registrar's Office started handing out bursary applications. The complicated-looking, but relatively simple, forms can be picked up from Room 123 of the Arts and Administration building. A Dalhousie bursary can be obtained by any Dalhousie student who is eligible under the Canada Student Loans Act and has applied for a Canada Student Loan. Kings' students have their own bursary program.

Bursaries are intended to help needy students out with the high costs of university. Some of the grants are larger than others, but for most students any amount helps.

Each bursary is distributed according to different criteria. An outline of what each grant looks for is available in the awards section of the Dalhousie Arts and Science calendar.

Barbara James, who gives out the over 4,000 applications, feels eligible students should pay particular attention to Section Two of the application. Section Two asks the applicants to stipulate any special features they possess that might make them a more eligible candidate. As written on the Bursary Application Instruction form "Dalhousie has a policy of giving additional consideration to the financial assistance

needs of Afro-Canadian/Black or First Nations persons, students with disabilities and single parents."

For students not eligible for Canadian Student Loans, there is still hope.

Recently, a new service was installed in Room 123 of the Arts and Administration building which will assist students seeking financial aid.

Remember the computers we all fought with during Registration Week? Well, now they have a more rewarding function. Instead of telling you what class you can and cannot take, the system gives you a listing of all the money you might be eligible for. By typing in your GPA,

your region of study and a few other impersonal items, the computer supplies you with a listing of the scholarships you are eligible for. It is now easy to uncover what were previously unknown and potentially untapped sources of income.

Whether it is the bursaries or the scholarships that interest you, a trip to Room 123 is well worth the time. Barbara James is very helpful, not to mention friendly, and the computers, I guarantee, are user-friendly. If you are still a little hesitant, I suggest you ask around. 68% of last year's bursary applicants were successful, and I suspect they would at least urge you to try.

Sci fiction fun

by Mary Deveau

A sense of belonging somewhere, a way to meet new friends, as well as an interesting way to spend a Saturday evening are some of the reasons for being a member of the Metro Science Fiction Society. It was ten years ago this fall that a group of Science Fiction enthusiasts came together to form this unique Dalhousie society.

In 1984, The Dr. Who Praedonian Academy was founded so that the group could have a regular place to socialize and meet new people. The society was open to all students who wanted to find out more about this British science fiction show. Over the years, the society grew to include all facets of science fiction.

Today, there are fans of Star Trek: The Next Generation, Deep Space Nine, and Babylon 5. As a result, the group decided to change its name to the Metro Science Fiction Society in order to express this diversity.

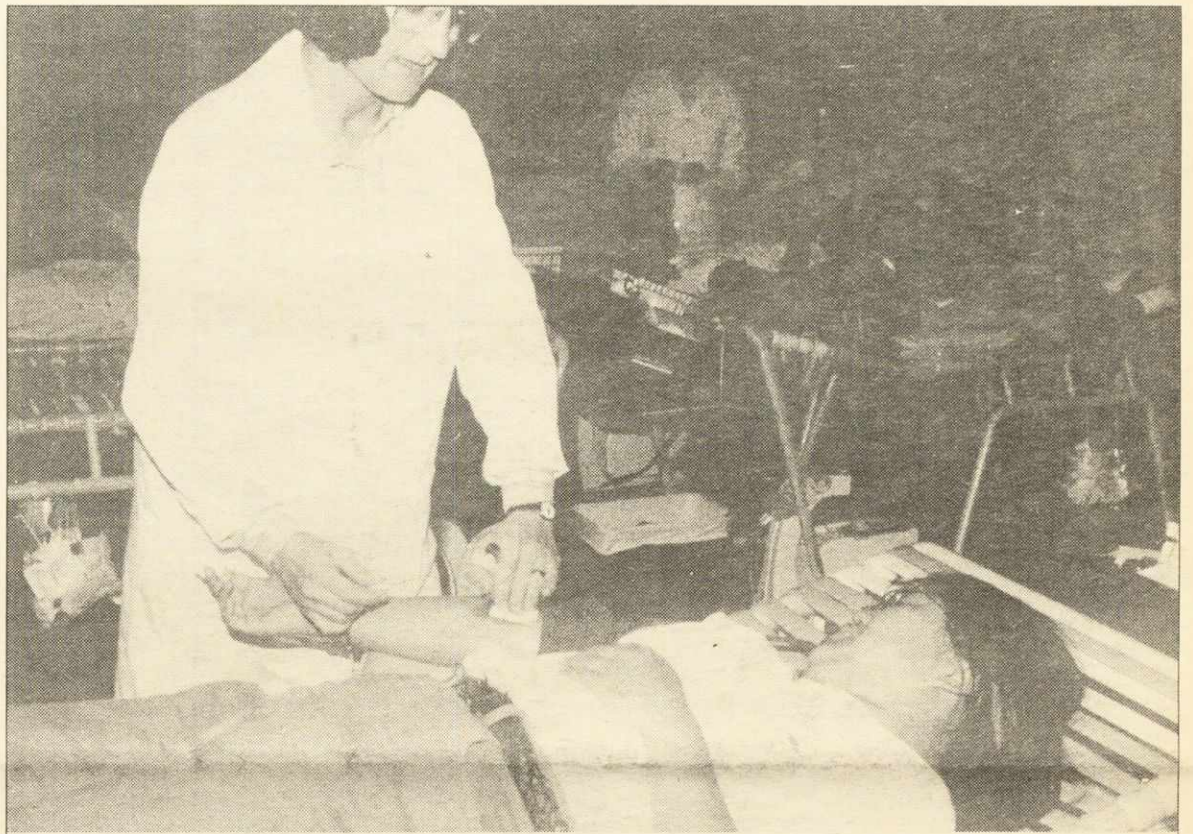
British science fiction still has an influence on the society. In addition to Dr. Who, Red Dwarf, Blake 7 and The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy have become quite popular.

Some of the current members have

been with the society for 5 to 10 years. Why do they still continue to participate? For most members, it is because of the friendships that have been made and that the society is made of imaginative and intelligent people.

Among the society's annual events, there have been July 1st picnics at Black Rock Beach, Point Pleasant Park, and regular participation in the Novacon Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention that is held each year at the Holiday Inn in Halifax. For most of its ten year history, the society has been involved with this convention.

No matter what has happened over the last ten years the society has always managed to stay true to its original premise: To provide a place for science fiction enthusiasts at Dalhousie to socialize and share their ideas. The Metro Science Fiction Society has no membership requirements or fees. If you are interested in meeting other people who will welcome you and your ideas on science fiction, then drop by on Saturdays 3 p.m. to 11 p.m., room 318 in the Dal Student Union Building.



Many Dal students gave blood at a Red Cross Blood Donor Clinic October 17 and 18 at the McInnes Room. PHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

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