

Something's rotten in the state

If you tolerated the line-ups and frenzy of pre-registration last week and got the classes you wanted, consider yourself lucky (and persistent).

Although the budget has not been carved in stone, so far the chiselings point to fewer classes offered and an inevitable lowering of academic standards. Each department had been cut 5.25% off the top and President Clark has suggested a partial hiring freeze on faculty. This 5.25% cut across the board means something different for each department but part-time faculty is high on most of the chopping lists. Smaller departments, which depend especially on part-time faculty, will suffer especially.

English is a good example of a prominent department visibly suffering for funding cuts. Already, the English courses in greatest demand, are either full or over-full for next year and English 100 which needs 32 sections next year, is being cut from this

each department plus recruit-year's 28 to a mere 21 sections. According to a spokesperson in the department, this will mean turning away approximately 400 first-year English students next fall. Sure, not all of them will take off to other universities, but isn't Dalhousie trying to encourage new students?

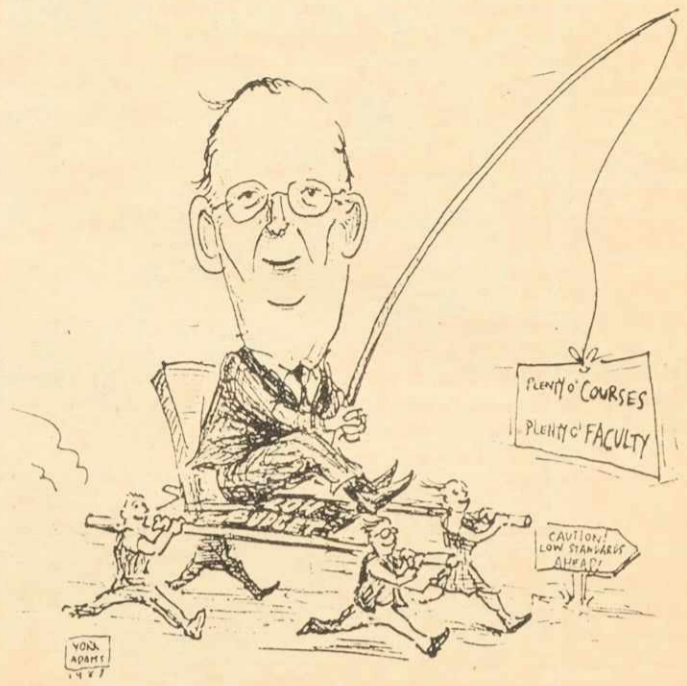
President Clark has mentioned the senate's suggestion of a "vigorous recruiting and enrollment strategy" as a savings measure but what are all those newly recruited students going to take when they arrive in September to find the leftovers? Clark also suggested that compared with other universities, Stats Canada shows Dalhousie has a "favorable student-faculty ratio". Not after these cuts force some departments to double the number of students in classes and cut essays and assignments in half! Obviously, these statistics that the president urges the DFA to examine mean very little in reality. You needn't be a math major to see that a hiring freeze divided by 5.25% cuts in

ment of new student equals less choice of courses and low standards in those still offered!

Hopefully, President Clark is carefully considering some of the senate's suggestions to alleviate Dalhousie's losses. Tuition certificates, which would earn interest until a child reaches university age (Dalhousie could use the money in the mean time), finding new customers for facilities (summer and weekend courses) and recruitment of new students are just some of the alternatives to a hiring freeze, which the senate agrees would definitely lower academic standards.

Funding to universities from the provincial government has doubled from last year to a 6.5% increase this year. This increase, as yet only a promise, isn't likely to make a difference in the 5.25% cuts per department, the reality of which is just hitting home for those of us trying to register for next year's courses. In the not so distant future, September is looming dimly.

— Ellen Reynolds



OOPS!

In the story Gimme Shelter in the March 19th issue of the Gazette, we incorrectly said the daycare at Dalhousie that was proposed was

for 14 children. The correct number was 79 children. Also, it was Gwen Davie who submitted the proposal to President Clark.

LETTERS

No help wanted

All week I anxiously await your dynamic and exciting articles about Nicaragua, gays and lesbians, South Africa and your favourite struggling minority — women. Almost every Gazette carries an article about women, and with this in mind here is my first message to you. Whenever you or one of your writers says "women think..." or "women want...", you claim to represent me, and frankly I'm embarrassed.

Each time the Gazette tries to further the cause of the female, I suck in my chest and pretend that I don't own any of those nasty x chromosomes. Enough said. Maybe you could seek out new and more specific labels to attach to those people whom you claim to represent.

Now, on to your latest and greatest — the March 13 editorial

I LOVE IT! Look, last time I checked, prospective council members were not required to drop their pants prior to gaining a seat. Nor are there any practices involved in student government that make any great demands on the members' reproductive organs. My conclusion is that the only group really concerned with the gender of student representatives is the staff of the Gazette, and I really think you should consider group therapy. You continually suggest that efficiency and success are somehow dependent on genitals, or is it hormones? In any case, I think it is only a symptom of a much more deeply rooted problem.

I guess you think I'm just another of many faceless complainers, afraid to venture into your office and do something. Well I don't know about meeting you in an enclosed space. Sometimes after reading your articles I get very nervous and feel only too glad that you are all spread out among 10,000 hopefully more stable individuals. I will, however,

take off my lone ranger mask and offer my services in the form of a weekly column. It's a radical idea. I'm not oppressed or gay, but I'm sure I can find something to write about. If I sound too naive, let me defend myself I realize there is oppression, poverty, disease, war, sadness and other nasty things going on, but let's face it, they're not as all encompassing as the Gazette would have us believe. I'll just be the Gazette's little ray of hope. Awaiting your reply, Valerie Matthews

Point of Information

On March 26, the Gazette incorrectly identified me as "one of the defeated candidate's lawyers". ("Case Dismissed")

The complainants, Robert Power/Jonathon Tarlton and Dean Dolan/Joe Morrison did not have a lawyer representing them at any time, only Caroline

Zayid/Ian McCarthy did.

I am a 3rd year law student and Director of the Student Advocacy Service, a Dalhousie program made up of volunteer students who are appearing before University Committees.

I too am glad that the election wasn't decided by "a bunch of lawyers"

Sincerely
Maureen Turner

Gazette plays fair

This refers of the articles *Pro and Cons* and *A Question of Rights* appearing in the Gazette March 19th.

In the effort to present opinions from both sides of the question of abortion other Gazette reflects, in my view, an important value of the majority of students at Dalhousie. This value is that students be adequately informed about both sides of controversial issues.

Two years ago on the occasion of Dr. Morganthaler's visit to Dalhousie the entertainment committees of the student union, by a careful choice of issue and procedure did not succeed as well in giving fair and equal treatment to each side in the abortion debate.

This shared experience of ours at Dalhousie should make all of us more cautious about the results of polling surveys on human values.

To know and respect the values of human beings more time, effort and personal investment is needed than is often given in polling and census surveys. For instance someone may think and feel they have the value of hospitality. Their neighbours may know differently.

Polling surveys that equate religion with culture and opinions with values serve to make trivial the value of the human person as such.

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Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

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