

the Dalhousie Gazette

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Editorial Office
Advertising Office

424-2507
 424-6532

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The **Dalhousie Gazette**, Canada's oldest college newspaper, is a weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union members and is a founding member of the Canadian University Press.

The views expressed in the **Dalhousie Gazette** are not necessarily those of the Dalhousie Student Union, the editor, or the collective staff. We reserve the right to edit material for space or legal reasons, or if it is considered offensive to our readers.

The deadline for articles and letters-to-the-editor is noon on Monday. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request. Letters should not exceed 500 words and must be typed double-spaced. Advertising copy must be submitted by the Friday preceding publication.

Our office is located on the third floor of the Student Union Building. Our mailing address is the **Dalhousie Gazette**, Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S., B3H 4J2, telephone (902) 424-2507.

Subscription rate is \$15 per year (26 issues) and our ISSN number is 0011-5816. The **Dalhousie Gazette** is a member of the Canadian University Press and our circulation is 10,000 weekly.

The Gazette's weekly staff meetings are now at 5:30 every Thursday.

Editorial

They left the students in the cold

Don't hold your breath, but that august body that determines how much money universities need for next year has spoken. The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission figures 12.2 per cent more funding will keep universities alive and healthy during 1983/84.

If you're a university in Nova Scotia, you might let out a little sigh of relief; a 12.2 per cent funding increase ain't all that bad. But if you're a student, the MPHEC's report will make you gasp with disbelief.

For students, the MPHEC has written an ominous report. According to standard policy, a 12.2 per cent increase in funding assumes at least a 12.2 per cent increase in tuition.

But the insult is it qualifies this policy of inflationary tuition with a little assumption that can only be viewed as quaint:

"Student aid...should be modified to provide for tuition fee increases." Like, where does the MPHEC get off giving us that line? Student aid wasn't increased last year, and it's hard to imagine it will be this year. The MPHEC makes it mandatory that universities increase tuition by calculating the level of funds based on this expectation. But the MPHEC can't make the government increase student aid as it is only an advisory body.

For those of you who aren't on student aid, or who have a short memory, you will be reminded that last year's tuition increase of 12 per cent (larger at schools other than Dal) was not accompanied by more government help for the student with scarce financial resources.

In fact, Nova Scotia reduced the amount of aid. It modified the program, changing some of the eligibility criteria, and increasing the expected contribution from parents, making it the worst in Canada.

It appears the MPHEC overlooked this fact. Why assume the government will increase student aid, if it is obviously interested in the exact opposite (to save about a million dollars, according to our Minister of Education)?

The MPHEC may care about keeping universities intact, but it doesn't care who goes there. The report is all mushy about how wonderful it is for students to be enriched and make us all a better society some day, but if it's only rich kids that get further enriched, them's the breaks, eh?

Putting aside the problem the MPHEC's report poses for students, the significance of the 12.2 per cent funding increase is questionable. This size 12.2 pair of mittens may look good in the store window, but the N.S. government will inevitably throw them in the hot wash, and who knows to what size they'll shrink? Probably enough to fit cabinet ministers with small, restraint-happy p. ws.

Last year the N.S. government shrank the MPHEC's 14.75 per cent recommendation to about 12 per cent in the spring budget, and then lopped off another percentage point or so in August.

Students know where their education is hurting. They don't have enough library books, study space, computers, and many don't have the latest lab equipment or it needs repair.

Whether or not Nova Scotia universities get the right size of mitts is anybody's guess.

But one thing's for sure, according to this report, in 83/84 more students will be left out in the cold.



WE NEED MONEY MONEYMONEYMONEY

- to keep publishing. Every year, what the Gazette looks like and what it can do is reliant on well-run finances. That's where the **Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society Board of Directors** comes in.

The Pub. Board is responsible for safeguarding the Gazette's financial well-being and ensuring the paper is run democratically and everything is good and nice. The Board also has three positions elected by and from the student population this coming Student Union general election. That's where you come in.

If you're interested in a newspaper's operations, want to see what the real Boardroom bull is, or have always dreamed of being elected to something, the Gazette Publishing Board could be in your future. Nomination forms for the Publishing Board can be picked up in the Gazette offices on the SUB third floor. G'wan - be a big-wig.

Nominations close January 31.

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