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In real dollars the government spends 16 percent less per student now than when John Buchanan first formed his government in 1978. The province's grants to universities per student are now 14 percent less than the national average.

Nova Scotia's faculty want to see a plan which will restore the quality of post-secondary education by ensuring adequate facilities for Nova Scotians who need post-secondary education and sufficient faculty for students to have proper individual attention.

● **How can the funding needs of Post-Secondary Education be met?** While the demand for post-secondary education has increased, the Buchanan government has been reducing its support for universities. In their first year in office, they directed 6.1 percent of total government expenditures to operating grants to universities. Last year, funding the operations of universities had fallen to a 5.4 percent share of the Provincial Budget. This decline has taken place in a period during which enrollments increased by 25 per cent. It appears that the government's priorities are out of step with those of the people of the province.

We must also look at the source of the \$149.7 million allocated by the province in 1984/85 to university operating grants. A portion of this money—\$6.63 million—was recovered from other provinces compensating Nova Scotia for the cost of their students attending Nova Scotia universities. A

further contribution is directed to post-secondary education by the federal government. In the current fiscal year, this included a "grant" of some \$87.2 million and "tax points" valued at \$58.9 million. These contributions total \$146.1 million.

In the coming year, the federal grant is expected to increase to \$94 million while the tax points are projected to generate \$62.7 million, for a total of \$156.7 million—an increase of 7.3 percent. In addition, the recoveries from other provinces are projected to increase 12.7 per cent to \$7.5 million.

It appears that implementing the MPHEC "recommendation" of a 3.7 per cent increase would reduce the provincial contribution. The MPHEC recommendation was inconsistent with even their own analysis of the needs of the post-secondary education system. The continuation of the EPF formula for federal contribution should have rendered the MPHEC position meaningless even as a point of discussion, unless the province is actually considering reducing its support for Post-Secondary Education.

It would appear that John Buchanan's government has made the actual financing of the operation of universities a predominantly federal responsibility. The recent statements of the Minister of Education certainly do not indicate that the province intends to accept its responsibilities. Rather than the provincial government improving its performance, Mr. Donahoe has urged the private sector to "assume the burden wherever

possible." It certainly seems possible that business has been allowed to contribute less than its share. The share of Corporate Income Tax in provincial revenue has fallen from 3.8 to 3.0 percent since the first budget after John Buchanan formed a government. During the same period, personal income tax as a proportion of total revenues has increased from 18.5 to 21.3 percent and Health Sales Tax grown from 15.0 to 18.4 percent. A systematic determined effort to ensure increased private sector support for post-secondary education could be made through appropriate tax reforms.

Nova Scotia's faculty want policies on financing, access to universities and tuition fees that will ensure that the post-secondary education needs of the people of the province are met.

● **What can be done to ensure that Post-Secondary Education needs of the people of Nova Scotia are met?** The government must be made aware the continued underfunding of universities is not supported by the people of the province. John Buchanan and his colleagues must be made aware that reducing the province's contribution to PSE by implementing the MPHEC plan will not be acceptable to students and prospective students, or their parents and families. MLA's and cabinet members alike must be urged to develop and expand PSE to meet the needs of the people of Nova Scotia.

*Dr. Om Kamra is president of the Nova Scotia Confederation of University Faculty Associations.*

## Abortion dilemma leaves tantalizing menu of bias

By ANDREW AGER

THE PAST WEEK'S MEDIA coverage of the abortion dilemma has proven to be a tantalizing menu of bias and how the media can actually become the message.

The *Gazette*, for example last week had an editorial cartoon of a woman who will no longer need to resort to back-street abortion. The facts of the matter, according to this point of view, are that the establishment of free-standing clinics will reduce illegal abortions. In reality, since the widening of the abortion laws in 1968, both species of abortion, within and without the law, has increased.

A picture is worth a thousand words. Perhaps *The Gazette* might consider running a photo of the dead victim of abortion, in pieces, or salt-burned. After all, any credible attempt at good journalism will try to cover all sides.

According to a commentary of last week, before the advent of Christianity, child-birth was an individual matter, of choice and freedom on the part of the mother. One need only to look to the Spartans and ancient Romans, not to mention the benevolent Herod, for examples of ancient child care. And as proof of modern Christian

oppression of the dignity of motherhood and freedom of child care, we have such institutions as the Grace Maternity Hospital, where, it may be certain, even "unwanted babies" are degraded by actually being delivered in top-class medical environment. This invasion of the rights of the unwanted can only be rectified by the immediate establishment of clinics where they can be disposed of mercifully and without even the threat of being born alive.

Being born alive, after an unsuccessful abortion, might lead to malpractice problems for the doctor. In fact, if there is even the possibility that the child that survived the abortion might someday be wanted or loved or even enjoy life then untold embarrassing testimony could end up destroying the earlier assumption of unwantedness. Think of how this could upset the respectability of much of our medical establishment!

The question is clearly a matter of choice. How much longer will society permit this lack of justice? For lack of abortion such unwanted children as Beethoven, or such useless individuals as Helen Keller, had to endure life, an outrage against the rights of the handicapped and unwanted. The issue is Choice!

## GRADWEEK '85

### A MESSAGE FROM THE 1985 GRADUATION COMMITTEE TO ALL DALHOUSIE GRADUATES

All members of the graduating class are cordially invited to participate in the 1985 Graduation Week Activities. This year's GRAD WEEK includes a variety of entertainment events all kept within a reasonable price range. Graduates are encouraged to purchase their tickets early since many events sell-out very quickly. Graduates can buy individual event tickets. However, those people who plan on participating in all events are encouraged to buy a GRAD WEEK PASSPORT. The passport includes one ball ticket, one boat cruise ticket, one 'Barbeque and Grawood' ticket, a Pub Crawl pass and one free ticket for over \$500 worth of airline travel to be drawn at the graduation ball. Passports and tickets will be on sale in the SUB lobby April 2-4, 9, 11, 16, 18 and during GRAD WEEK May 7-10 in the SUB at the Grad Info Booth.



**Tuesday May 7th: FINAL TOUR PUB CRAWL**—sponsored by Oland's brewery and Woody's in the Holiday Inn Robie St. Crawl starts: 4:30-5:30 pm.—Lawrence of Oreganos 5:30-7:00 pm.—My Secretaries (Dinner Specials) 7:00-8:00 pm. Sam's 8:00-9:00 pm. Alexanders 9pm-2am. Dal Night at Woody's in the Holiday Inn, Robie St. —Free transportation from Alexander's to Woody's, Halifax's newest **Dancing and Entertainment** centre. Featuring shooters and drinks specials all night long. All Grads **must** have a Grad Week Button which identifies you as a Dal Grad.

Only \$2 includes button, door prize vouchers for each stop, free transportation to & from Alexander's and Woody's and a chance to win a grand prize which will be drawn at Woody's at midnight.

**Wednesday May 8th:** 11am-12:30 pm: President's reception at President MacKay's residence. Families of grads are encouraged to attend. **1-1:30pm.: Unveiling of the 1985 class project.** Reception to follow. Location will be announced in May. **6:30-1am.: Western Barbeque and the Final Tribute to the Grawood.** Featuring: an evening full of good food, good music, and good times. At the Dal SUB.

With: B.B.Q. steak and salad, Tony Quinn in the Grawood, Hundreds of prizes to be given away. Only \$5 or a valid graduation passport.

**Thursday May 9th:** 2pm. Convocation (Management Studies, Health Professions & Graduate Studies) **4:30-7:30-** Graduate at the Graduate, 1565 Argyle St. Featuring: Dinner Specials and Happy Hour **8 pm-10 pm. Final Cruise Boat Tour:** Aboard the Haligonian II, historic properties wharf. Live music, great refreshments, only \$5.

**10:30-2 am. Misty Moon Night:** Details will be announced at a later date.

**Friday May 10th: Arts and Science Convocation 10 am—2 pm. 8:30 pm. "This Magic Moment" Graduation Ball.**

The magic begins at 8:30 pm at the Dalhousie University Student Union Building. The SUB will be converted into a spectacular grand ballroom where Dalhousie Graduates can cherish their last moments of their university careers. This extravaganza features music by the **John Alphonse Big Band.** Events include: **8:30-10:00** Class reception in the Green Room. **9:30-1:30 am** Dancing with the John Alphonse Big Band. **1 am-3 am** Champagne Breakfast Only \$12 per person: ticket prices includes a beautiful graduation wine glass as a memento to this magic moment. (Dress semi-formal)

### GRAD WEEK PASSPORTS ONLY \$25

Passports & Individual Tickets AVAILABLE April 9, 11, 16, 18 & during GRAD WEEK May 7-10 in the S.U.B.