

## Tell them where to put it

By TOBY SANGER

The student union has an extra \$120,000 to spend and is looking for suggestions from students where to put it.

The money, \$15 garnered from each student in exchange for guarantees restricting the rate of increase of tuition, must be spent in areas identified by the Campaign for Dalhousie. The areas include physical facilities, student assistance, research, academic excellence, libraries, computing, and equipment.

Last year, the money was divided up between the faculties of arts, science, law and health professions, with 80 per cent of the contributions going to libraries and equipment.

This year, DSU treasurer Sean Casey is proposing \$100,000 be put into a scholarship fund with primary emphasis on non-academic achievements.

"Right now the scholarship structure is inadequate," claims Casey, "and this will help to buttress it."

"If we don't provide a scholarship for non-academic excellence, the administration never will."

Under his preliminary proposal, the entrance awards would be for \$5000, with the fund lasting from 10 years to indefinitely, depending on how many awards are offered each year.

Other proposals include renovation of the office space for international students, a contribution



Dalhousie's annual Black and Gold Review has long been an evening of fun for both performers and entertainers. Last Monday night a happy band of entertainment seekers invaded the McInnes room for almost four hours of music and comedy. At the forefront of the comedy was the evening's host, Tony Quinn. His musical wit and sharp tongue kept the audience amused between and during sets.

The evening's long awaited finale was the Schooner Campus Comedy Contest in which four of Dalhousie's funniest student comedienes matched routines for FMO (funniest man on campus). Congratulations to the winner Mark Farrell and to Jay Jacobson for his memorable impression of Ronald Reagan. Photo by Paull Grandy/Dal Photo.

to capital costs for the new women's residence, and an educational video system library for the dentistry school.

Casey, a veteran student politician, admits that by excellence in non-academic achievements he means "leadership . . . involvement in extra-curricular activities

. . . in student government."

Students with better ideas on how to spend their (and other's) \$15 have only a few more days to submit proposals in writing to Casey in the student union offices. The official deadline is January 30, but Casey says it isn't "hard and fast".

## High marks for rhetoric

By ELEANOR BROWN

HALIFAX (CUP) — The 6.5 per cent increase in post-secondary funding recommended by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission falls below what universities say they need to maintain the status quo, but Nova Scotia education minister Tom McInnis doesn't believe even that hike will be granted.

Ken Ozmon, chair of the association of Atlantic Universities, says the commission is only paying lip service in urging governments to make up for 10 years of post-secondary underfunding.

McInnis says although a 6.5 per cent grant raise may be realistic, "obviously in today's world, it's a bit high." A decision will be announced in February.

The MPHEC report, released Jan. 20, suggested post-secondary institutions require four per cent more money than last year to maintain current level of activities, one per cent more in "catch-up" funds, 0.5 per cent more in equalization payments for poorer universities, and 0.7 per cent more for program expansion.

In contrast, the 19 member AAU requested a base funding

increase in its November brief to the MPHEC. The AAU estimated 4.8 per cent more alone "will be required simply to maintain the universities as badly off as they are at present."

The AAU brief said universities would still not have enough money for salaries, building maintenance, equipment and new book acquisitions.

The AAU study showed that although government spending has increased dramatically in the health sector over the past 10 years, post-secondary education has been purposely ignored.

Per-client comparisons with elementary and secondary schools as well as hospitals "clearly indicate that the underfunding of universities has been a matter of government choice; it was not inevitable," according to the AAU.

Dalhousie University vice-president of finance Brian Mason is pleased catch-up grants have finally been accounted for. "It's a beginning perhaps of a renewed commitment," he says.

But the AAU's Ozmon, also president of St. Mary's University in Halifax, claims although MPHEC has recognized the syste-

matic underfunding for the first time, its response was more political than meaningful.

Ozmon says since the commission's status quo figure of 4.8 per cent is almost one full percentage point below universities' real costs, the catch-up grant leaves post-secondary institutions with just what is needed. "I give them high marks for rhetoric, low marks for follow-up," says Ozmon.

According to the AAU, and additional \$85 million — a 35 per cent hike — would be required to bring per-student grants back to 1979-80 spending.

Other MPHEC recommendations include an increase in tuition fees equal to the rate of inflation. If accepted, this will bring Nova Scotia's fees to among the highest in Canada.

The commission will also review accessibility to Nova Scotia institutions.

Ozmon isn't optimistic the Maritime governments — Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island — will accept the MPHEC report. "The chances are best for New Brunswick, with Prince Edward Island second," he says.

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