

# THE GAZETTE

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## Students seek honorary degree for Bob Dylan

BY ANDREW SIMPSON

Bob Dylan has probably never heard of Dalhousie University, but a group of Dalhousie and King's College students are trying to convince the school to award the legendary songwriter an honorary degree.

The students have submitted a

nomination to the Dalhousie Senate's Honorary Degrees Committee and are currently campaigning in support of the nomination.

"For the university to give Bob Dylan a degree is not so much an honour for Bob Dylan," said Corinne Hewson, a Dalhousie student involved in the campaign, "but it signifies that the

university recognizes him and his contributions to society and to students."

Hewson says whether Dylan would accept the degree is irrelevant.

"For me that is not important. I know very little about Bob Dylan as a person, the award might not mean that much to him...the important thing is that the

university recognizes his work, it's his work that has the impact," she said.

"He makes you feel something, think something, which is enough. We're not talking about the Nobel Prize here."

What is being talked about is one of eight honorary degrees the university grants annually at its convocation ceremonies. The eight recipients are usually chosen from over 40 nominations.

The decision is made by a 19-member Honorary Degrees Committee comprised of representatives from the university Senate, Board of Governors, Administration and one Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) representative.

The operations of the committee are confidential, and committee members cannot discuss, even to confirm or deny, who has been nominated.

Sharlene Drake, the Dalhousie Board of Governors' secretary, says a well-written nomination can make a difference.

"It often depends on how well the

application is filled out...the committee has nothing to go on but the information in front of them," she said.

Drake also said that the committee is usually conscious of choosing recipients who are appropriate for each faculty's convocation.

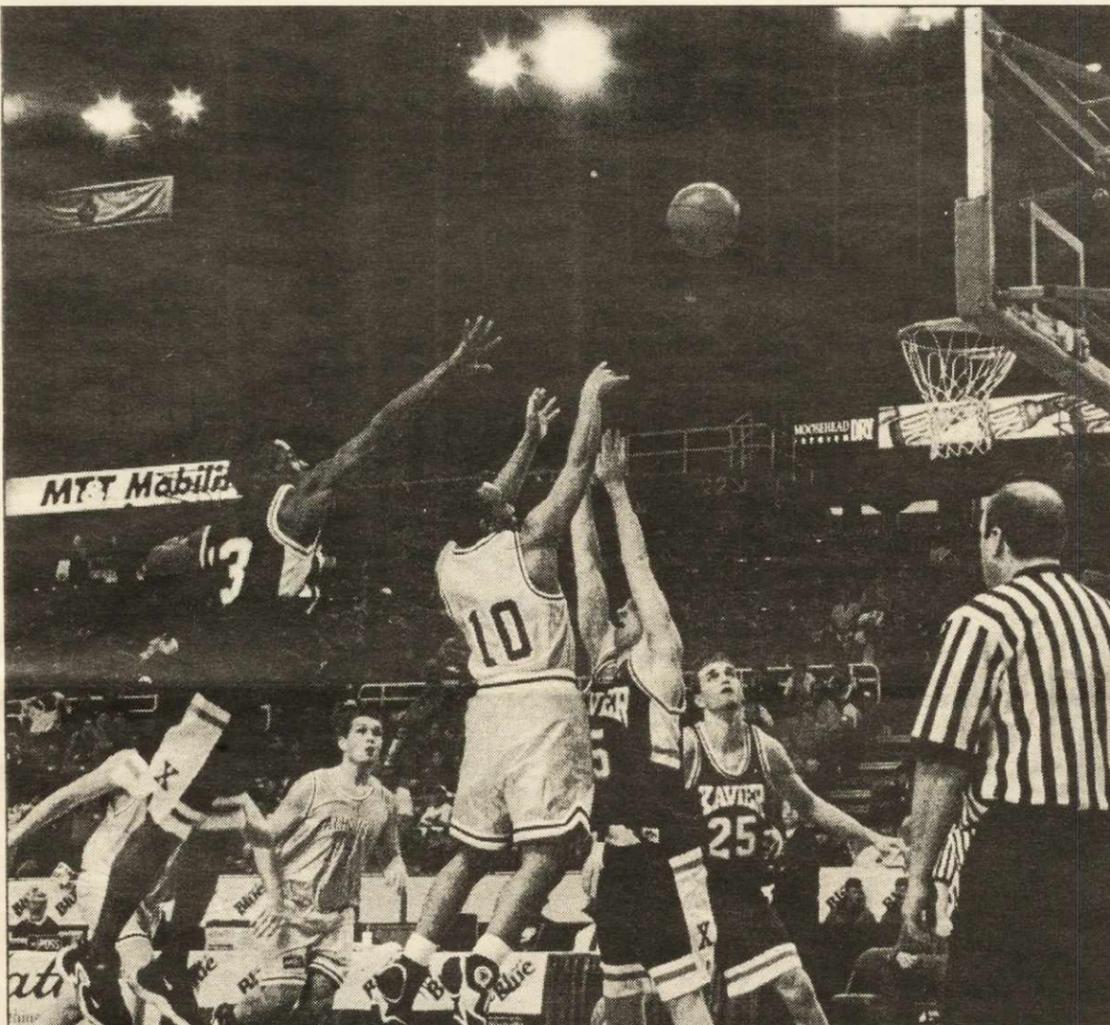
Jason McGroarty is another Dalhousie student involved in the campaign. He believes Dylan is an ideal candidate, and says Dylan has helped link today's generation with the past.

"As much as he's a songwriter and performer, he's also a writer," McGroarty said. "He was a representative for the sixties generation, but he also acts as a bridge between that generation and ours. His writing is still as relevant today as it was then."

McGroarty says that although it may be unconventional for an academic institution to honour a pop-culture icon, Dylan has a good chance of being chosen.

Dalhousie awarded Leonard Cohen an honorary degree in 1971.

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Dalhousie Tiger Jesse Brothers evades St. FX last Saturday at the Halifax Metro Centre. (Photo by Luke Dobek)

## Latin parchments not dead yet

BY LILLI JU

In response to the Dalhousie Senate's decision to drop Latin parchments and issue English ones to graduating students, one student has taken it upon himself to let Senate know that many Dal students still wish to receive their degrees printed in the traditional Latin.

"I write to express my disappointment and utter dismay on learning that the Senate has decided to end the 132-year tradition of issuing Latin parchments," Kent Searle wrote in a letter to Senate. Searle is a computing science student who is planning to graduate in May, 1998.

"If Dalhousie continues to erode its traditions, it demeans its reputation.

Tradition is one of the cornerstones of a good reputation," he said.

"Please consider that both Harvard and Oxford Universities continue to print their parchments in Latin — CompuCollege prints theirs in English."

Upon hearing about the Senate's decision, which will come into effect in 1998, Searle took action immediately.

"The first thing I did was go to the Registrar's Office," he said. But when no one there could address his concerns, he was sent to the Senate office.

"I found out the only way I was going to be able to get this done was to go public," he added.

Searle began an e-mail petition where students who wish to receive a Latin parchment e-mailed him directly

(ksearle@is2.dal.ca). To date, he has received over 360 responses in support of his petition, with more coming in daily.

Senate voted for this change in tradition at their October 27 meeting. The motion, which first had to be approved by the Senate Committee on Academic Administration, was brought to Senate by Gudrun Curri, Dalhousie's Registrar, and Philip Rosson, Dean of the Faculty of Management.

"Universities need to be more inclusive and accessible," Rosson said. "Latin parchments suggest elitism and not being part of today's world.

"Some organizations do not accept Latin parchments," Rosson added, "so

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## Low-income students thinking twice about university

BY MICHAEL CONNORS

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — Debt-loads for university students from low-income families in the Maritimes are so high that many are rethinking whether higher education is even an option.

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission recently released a study which surveyed the effect of rising tuition fees on students' perceptions of post-secondary education. Ray Ivany, one of the authors of the report, says the study was commissioned to provide hard data on what those effects are.

While the commission found the number of students in the three Maritime provinces with debt-loads over \$25,000 had increased from 71 in 1994, to 1,750 in 1997, Ivany says the more telling finding is which students are taking on the bulk of that debt.

"We know by correlation that the students that are taking on the highest individual loans, and therefore the highest debt-loads, come from those families with the lowest household incomes," he said.

"There is the hot-point that we see from a policy standpoint."

The commission is an intergovernmental body established by the Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick Departments of

Education.

In 1995, Maritime students from low-income families — those earning under \$30,000 a year — borrowed an average of \$6,379, the report says. Students from middle-income families borrowed an average of \$5,855, and students from high-income families borrowed \$3,760.

The report also found that 64 per cent of these lower income students cited student aid as their main source of income during their university years.

The report says 52 per cent of high-school students from low-income households are worried enough about debt to consider not attending university at all, and 57 per cent of their parents think the same.

Despite these financial concerns, the commission found that virtually all high-school students surveyed believed post-secondary education was vital to getting a good career, and many were still willing to borrow to get that education.

But Ivany says this raises further questions as to how far these low-income students will be able to go in their education.

"If you finish an undergraduate degree with a \$40,000 debt-load, what are the chances of you then pursuing a graduate or professional program?" he asked. "Do we really want to set up a

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### Pre-packaged ponderance

"I base my fashion taste on what doesn't itch."  
— Gilda Radner

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After 15 years, the battle for same-sex benefits in Manitoba has been won, page 4.

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Jim Cambell's Barren gets back in the news, page 9.