

# Mitchell freezes regulations

Wolfville (CUP)—Minister of Education George Mitchell has announced that the regulations pertaining to bursaries being awarded on the basis of academic performance have been frozen for twelve months, pending review.

Mitchell was speaking at a public forum at Acadia University last week when he made the announcement.

Mitchell's predecessor, Maynard MacAskill, introduced a regulation last summer that confined government bursaries to those students that had passed three out of four, or four out of five, subjects in the year preceding their request for a bursary.

While announcing the stay of execution for those students failing to meet requirements, Mitchell admitted that he did agree with the philosophy of the proposed regulation. The government is anxious to ensure that people who wish to

attend university have the financial backing to do so, he said, yet it would be "more prudent to use funds to support those students who are devoting themselves to their education."

Some critics of the regulation have named the ministry's program a scholarship system, claiming that it infringes on the university's prerogative of grading and admitting students.

Student bursaries this term were awarded under the new system without warning that the new regulation would be used. The government was criticized on many fronts for this obvious neglect in communication and its unwillingness to give fair warning of a regulation change. It was this sort of criticism that caused Mitchell to postpone implementation of the regulation.

Presumably, all students appeal-



George Mitchell, Minister of Education, and Alan Downe.

ing the loans and bursaries of this September will have their cases

examined with this recent change in mind.

# Solution for tuition increases

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- Tuition fee hikes for University of British Columbia students can be avoided if the administration adjusts its budgetary methods, according to the education minister.

In a letter to UBC president Doug Kenny, Dr. Pat McGeer also indicated he does not approve of the \$2,400 salary given to Kenny and his four vice-presidents this year.

McGeer's letter, given to the student paper, *The Ubyyssey*, by McGeer's son, was a response to a letter from Kenny opposing fee hikes and urging an adequate budget increase for UBC next year.

"It is the expectation of the government and the department that each university will adjust its budgeting procedure to coincide with the government's fiscal year," the letter states.

McGeer said by moving the start of the faculty contract year back one month to April 1, when the

government gives the university its operating budget, it would have enough funds to pay salaries

without falling short in the April and July period.

He goes on to say "the purpose is

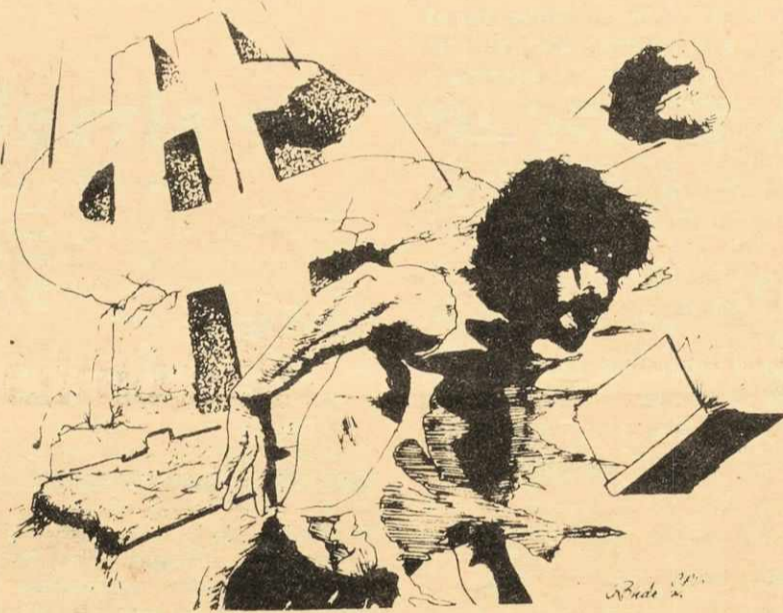
to avoid any contractual arrangements being made which assume an increase in the flow of operating grants."

Then in capital letters the letter states "By following this procedure there should be no difficulty in holding student fees at their present level."

A \$7.5 million dollar special grant the government gave universities last year, of which UBC got \$4.5 million, will not be renewed McGeer stated. The grant was provided so universities could pay faculty salaries not provided for in their operating budgets.

According to UBC bursar William White the university will face serious constraints without the grant.

McGeer said the grant was given on the condition that the universities "would always know the size of the government grant in advance of contractual settlements with their faculty and staff."



## Editor resigns

The resignation of *Gazette* editor Allan Zdunich was announced at the council meeting of December 5. Zdunich had tendered his resignation to the staff of the newspaper on November 25.

The formal resignation does not cite any reasons for the move but in conversations with several staff members Zdunich pointed to "personal reasons" for resigning.

Staff member and editor of the *Dalhousie International* Harvey MacKinnon said that he could not understand why Zdunich would want to leave the job. "After all where else can you get \$60 a week for 70 hours work without a university degree", he queried.

Zdunich has said that he will remain with the paper next term in a less demanding capacity and has agreed to handle the bulk of the work for the first issue after Christmas to give the staff time to settle in to the new year. At the time of his resignation, Zdunich will have served for fifty-one weeks as editor.

Applications for the job are being received in the *Gazette* office now and the position will remain open until January 7, at which time the staff will meet to choose the new editor.

# Historical building to go

The Halifax Waterfront Development Commission (HWDC) has ventured its first public act—the demolition of the Kitz building.

According to Heritage Trust, the Kitz has little historical significance, hence the Halifax Landmarks Commission did not list the building as an interest worthy of preservation. Heritage Trust knowing for some time that the demolition of the Kitz was most likely is devoting its attention to other historical structures especially on Prince and Hollis streets.

Halifax civic historian, Lou Collins, spoke with *the Gazette* about the fate of the Kitz in context with the future of the Halifax waterfront. Collins pointed out that while the HWDC is a public corporation, the course of the waterfront development has unfolded in a very secretive manner: meetings of the board of directors are obviously closed to the public. The last general meeting on downtown and waterfront development occurred a year ago, before HWDC was in existence.

The HWDC will demolish the Kitz without having submitted any final plans to city council. The corporation has not received any approval for a replacement building. The HWDC has also purchased, and plans to demolish, certain wharves on the waterfront.

Hugh Thomas, executive director, told *the Gazette* these wharves were not in use at present, but did not indicate any consideration of potential use these facilities would have, with renovations.

Thomas also assured *the Gazette* that preservation of historical interest would certainly be a priority in future developments.

Critics charge that the HWDC has commenced as would any other

developer—demolishing a building in order to temporarily reduce the tax load on a soon-to-be vacant lot of land, from a commercial to a residential rate. The possibility is now opened for construction of another high-rise on the waterfront, which would further obscure the view of the harbour. As well, it would be incompatible with such structures as the ferry terminal.

## Income tax discrimination

WINNIPEG (CUP) — The students' union at the University of Manitoba will support Ryerson Polytechnical Institute's student union in protesting the federal government's discrimination against students who are parents.

The income tax act does not allow students to claim child care expenses as a deduction. It does allow the working parent to do so.

A Revenue Canada spokesperson in Winnipeg said that the present deduction regulations allow mothers and fathers who are single, divorced, widowed or separated to go to work and deduct child care expenses.

The deduction for working parents will probably be extended in

the 1976 version of the income tax act, which has not yet come before parliament. Students on adult training allowances and research grants will probably be included in the act.

The spokesperson was doubtful that students on bursaries would be included in the act, because bursaries are considered income for tax purposes.

The matter was first raised at the October conference of the National Union of Students by the Ryerson delegation. Their motion that NUS and its member institutions write letters to Revenue Canada protesting the discriminatory nature of the income tax act as passed by the plenary session.