

Cutbacks at Dalhousie

They do it all for you

"Shocked!" "Disgusted!" "It reflects a lack of recognition of the true value of higher education to the province." "The quality of education and the academic reputation at Dalhousie will be on the decline. Morale will decrease".

All of the above reflect the general reaction to a 5.5% increase in operating grants for next year. All reflect what is in store for Dalhousie. All reflect the problems the departments will be facing next year.

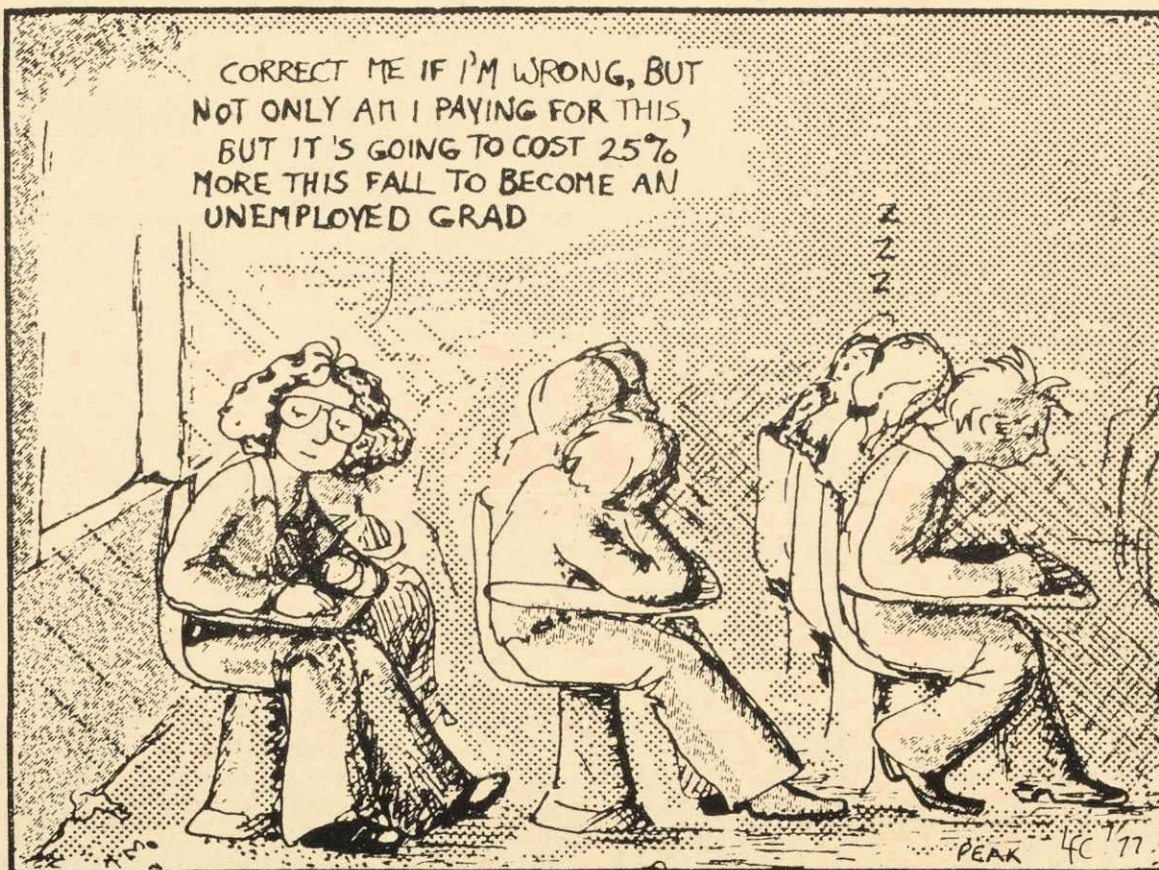
English department

"We are very seriously affected by budgetary restrictions", said Dr. Roland Smith, chairperson of the English Department. "We tighten our belt more and more each year and survive but the possibilities for development diminish".

By receiving a minimal increase, if any, (the budgets for Arts and Science have been frozen for 2 years now) many problems will occur. "Staff, student ratios are already too high and we have always been understaffed". The English Department needs two replacements for next year. Having already gone through an elaborate selection process, a very serious situation will arise if they can't be hired, Smith said. Professors will have to teach outside their main interest, and specialization is necessary to maintain a high quality graduate program.

In addition, travel grants, "the fringe benefits that make our appalling salaries barely tolerable", may be cut. Travel grants allocated by the deans enable professors to do research and lecture elsewhere.

In conclusion, "We can go on but not with any kind of flair, our cutting edge will be



blunted; we will become less and less competitive and incapable of attracting graduates. We now have a very high profile but that will suffer", Smith said.

Philosophy department

Dr. R.M. Martin, Chairperson of the Philosophy Department, sees "A continual deterioration of services" for Dalhousie in the next few years. "Now we have to charge students for xerox copies. There is a stinginess all round", added Martin. He thinks that professors at Dalhousie, faced with the lowest salaries in Canada, will leave, "leaving no doubt at all about the quality of education going down in all kinds of ways". Martin placed part of

the blame on the university administration who "has badly mismanaged the money" here, he said.

Theatre and Music departments

Both the Music and Theatre Departments will be hit hard by the cutback in operating grants. Theatre professor Alan Andrews foresees "a reduction in the production program," an essential part of the department's program. "We recently introduced admission charges, which some of us feel uncomfortable about. It seems inappropriate that in an educational institution we have to charge." Andrews also explained that his department is still waiting for a replacement of a faculty member who left in 1977. "The quality of the work of the faculty and staff is bound to be affected if more demands are made of them. People will leave."

Music Department head Dr. Walter Kemp agrees with Andrews about the loss of performing capabilities for his students. "What worries me is they have taken no account of the programmes that already have existed that incur expenses above normal academic expenses." Music students must perform for the general public as part of their programme. "The knife cuts two ways, one for student expenses and the other for the community's loss". Kemp expressed concern over the imposition of differential fees saying, "The growing international reputation of Dalhousie is in serious jeopardy, especially when we are receiving more enquiries from Europe and the United States". He explained that students "tend not to bother about country", but differential fees is "rather unfortunate" for foreign students.

History department

History Department head Michael Cross said "we are all in for a rough ride" next year. "We have already been operating under the worse kind of constraints for over two years" added Cross. He thinks the decision "makes political sense because universities are not great vote gatherers". He described the government's decision as "shortsighted", resulting in disastrous effects of the economy of Halifax. "It means an increase in unemployment, welfare and people going down the road" added Cross.

Science department

Science related departments will be adversely effected by the government decision. Biology head Dr. Brian Hull personally wrote Premier Buchanan pointing out that "The biology department alone brought in \$760,000 in research grants and \$60,000 in fellowship money for graduate students from outside. We face the loss of top professors, and the loss of necessary equipment leading to a lower quality of biological science at Dalhousie." Hull said, while enrollment increases and monies decrease, a situation will emerge where the quality of biological education will diminish.

Chemistry department

Dr. William E. Jones, chemistry department head, says his department will suffer dramatically because of minimal increase plus the devalued dollar. "The cost of chemicals and supplies had risen by 15-20% every year, this year they are going up by 50%. We import many chemicals from the United States resulting in not only inflation

to fight* with but the 20% reduction in the dollar".

Math department

Math department head, Dr. Patrick Stewart, sees faculty problems arising because of the present situation. "The obvious danger with poor funding will be in offering professors a decent wage". The most qualified professors will depart, leaving the least qualified to replace them. Thus a general decline in the quality of the faculty will occur."

Computer Centre

Computer Centre head, Intub Ali, thinks the educational level of the centre decreasing as funding decreases. "I can see us becoming worse off", said Ali explaining that as demand for more terminals increases the funds won't be there. Because of this students will have to use after midnight hours. "I'll be able to maintain staffing but not services", said Ali.

Language departments

Hardest hit will be departments like German, Russian and Spanish who import most of their texts from foreign sources. Dr. Friedrich Gaede of the German Department says, "The new budget will mean that the German Department will have less money for books". Two factors affect these departments, (1) high prices for the texts overseas and (2) the currency situation. Dr. Gaede exemplified this by saying "the Canadian dollar has lost value in relation to the deutschemark, so that the German Department now is able to buy only 50% of the books it could five years ago".

Library

Hardest hit by the cutback and most important to students will be the library. According to University Librarian, Mrs. Dorothy Cooke, the cutback will "effect the ability to provide good service" to the students. She explained that the library has been working on a zero growth budget for periodicals which means that if a department requires a new subscription, "a periodical of a lesser priority will have to be dropped". The danger that emerges from this is a loss in continuity from year to year. Also the book budget may be adversely affected for next year. "The announcement could mean no increase in the book budget which means less books for next year." Also when and if funds become available, the library will have to purchase the books on the out of print market which could easily mean double the price. Cooke sees a further cutback to students in perhaps a reduction of staff could lead to "possibly a cut down in hours".

