opinions

A holistic approach to financing university

CONT'D FROM PAGE 7

those making these crucial decisions ployed, it's likely that the average are unfamiliar with the reality of being a student at Dalhousie, it is up to us to inform them. I don't believe that all of the Board members are inherently evil, and I do appreciate months, and in some cases twelve their sense of urgency in resolving months, on a total of \$6600. Tuition Dalhousie's financial difficulties. The fees and books alone will gouge alproblem is that most of the voices being heard around the Board of Governor's table are searching for live on. Considering the cost of rent solutions without listening to those in Metro, this leaves the typical stuwho are just as concerned, if not dent with about as much money to more so, about Dal's financial situa- live on in a month as some of the

As students it is us who suffer directly from budget cuts: our classes are crammed to capacity or are not offered at all, library hours are cut obviously don't have. and journal subscriptions are dwindling, professors are overworked and to receive maximum student aid, T.A's are underpaid, and the list goes which actually makes them hardly on and on. We don't have to look at average. Many Dal students are denumbers on a page to figure out this place needs more bucks, and it's high time we brought this knowledge and beg Mom and/or Dad for some extra

process. Maybe we should explain what it's actually like to be struggling for an education. The example of a Nova Scotia student who is not supported by their parents, but is eligible for full student aid provides an excellent example. This means that the maximum Canada Student Loan of \$3360, the maximum Nova Scotia Bursary of \$2300, and the stated week without having to sacrifice some

on. If they were lucky enough to get a job last summer, although 23% of Nova Scotia students were unemwage of between \$5 and \$6 an hour was barely enough to cover rent and board between May and September.

So this student must live for eight most half of that, leaving this student with a little over \$400 a month to Board members make in one day. Oh, and don't forget that the Feds are levying a 3% tax on Canada Student Loans, i.e. charging us for money we

But this student was lucky enough nied full loan and bursary, and have to either seek out part-time work or experience to the Board's attention. cash. The latter is hardly an option So let's inject some reality into for the increasing number of nonthe university's decision-making traditional students at Dalhousie, and who needs the humiliation of begging money from the people who have already supported you for so long anyway?

Now part-time work may seem like a solution to many, but where exactly are these jobs? And how many people taking a full course load can handle working 10, 20, or 35 hours a maximum Dalhousie Bursary of of their academic commitments? \$1000 are what this student is living Also, under the current student loan

system, part-time work during the don't think I'm the only one who lying assumptions to demanding a academic year really acts against students when they are applying for student aid. So is it just me, or does our student aid system need a reality check? Considering that Nova Scotia student aid hasn't increased its maximum allowance since 1985, I

feels the time for change in this system is upon us. Maybe the Board of Governors could join with students in demanding these changes.

While it isn't hard to see the practical reasons for eliminating tuition fee hikes, there are also some undertuition freeze. In a research paper written this summer by Kristine Anderson, the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) outlined some of these reasons:

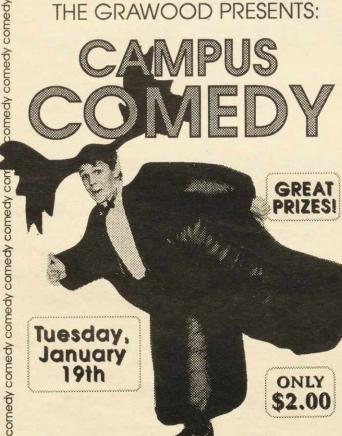
- As long as tuition fees are on the rise, accessibility to higher education is becoming limited only to those who can afford it, not to those who deserve and want it.
- Increased tuition fees directly benefit neither the government nor the universities, because they merely serve to shift the burden of cost away from the public purse and onto the individual. After all, society is the principal benefactor of an individual pursuing post-secondary education; an educated population is more adaptable and skilled to cope with rapid technological and workforce changes.
- Rather than victimizing students through raising the cost of education, universities and government should be focusing on our taxation system. Changes in taxation structures that would include more corporate contributions to the financing of education would allow the federal government to abolish tuition fees altogether. And corporations are also one of the largest beneficiaries of an educated workforce.
- Tuition fees are ultimately user fees which we pay as a contribution towards the cost made by the benefactor in a publicly funded system. User fees can be a disincentive to use of a system (which is why extra-billing for medical services has been eliminated), and is one of the reasons why at the turn of the century the public education system became fully funded. Why should this funding end at Grade Twelve, especially in an age when a university degree is almost mandatory for most career opportunities?

The above reasons imply a more holistic approach to financing our university system. We do not have to live in an "ivory tower" of academia, but should examine how Dalhousie interacts with our local, national, and global community. The intrinsic link between students, business, the government, and the public cannot be denied, for all of us benefit from accessible and quality higher education. Why is it, then, that students are being unproportionately charged for a system that benefits everyone?

The Board of Governors does not have to vote for a 10% tuition fee increase on January 19. In fact, if it truly does want Dalhousie to become a national leader in education, the Board will support a tuition freeze and seek other options to its financial dilemma: lobbying for increased per student funding, increased grants and not loans, and increased corporate contributions would be a good start. In order to ensure that the Board members become this accountable to the student body, however, it is up to us to be accountable to them. We must start speaking out in large numbers and letting the decision makers at Dalhousie know what it is like to be a student here. If we don't, no one else will.

Candida Rifkind

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block amateur and professional knife attacks, release from strangling techniques and numerous holds, and get out of the situation and counterattack when necessary.

A sense of team has developed among this group of women. The sitting circle at the beginning of class which in the first weeks was quiet,

and awkward is now familiar and filled with friendly conversation, and students coach and cheer each other on during practise. The kiyis best reveal the affect that the course has had. At first students were very embarrassed if they kiyi-ed at the wrong time. Now practice is filled with kiyis and the group's kiyis fill the room with the resolution and confidence of the women to defend their circle of justice.

This introductory course in Wendo will be offered in the spring term. Classes will be held on Tuesday nights at 7p.m. on campus, starting January 19th. Women can register in the Student Union Office, 2nd floor of the S.U.B. The cost is \$25.00 with your student I.D. #. For those who have already taken the introductory course, intermediate Wen-do may be offered in early June.

Dalhousie Athletes of the Week

* JENN CLARK * **WBB** 2nd@ **UPEI** Inv.

Dec. 28 - Jan. 4 DIET

* SHAWN PLANCKE *

MBB 2nd @ Rod Shoveller Memorial

Tournament All-Star: 39 points in 3 games

Tournament All-Star: 39 rebounds in 3 games

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