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the rains of heaven and hell shall unite to strip these chimers of their impervious fortitude. After the storm, women with new souls shall appear from the fog who will now appreciate a door held in their favour, as would anyone.

Mike Brown

The *Gazette* apologizes to Linda Richards, DAGS rep to student council, for the factual error on pg. 1 of last week's *Gazette*. It was reported that she had only attended one council meeting so far this term. In fact, she had attended two meetings at the time of last week's issue.

Differential agony

By MAJID ADDO

THE ACADEMIC YEAR IS drawing to an end. Once again international students have been left out in the cold wondering what level their differential fees are going to be next year. This is the unnecessary agony that the federal and provincial governments have inflicted on international students. It seems that Canada really doesn't care about international students. In fact, some officials have indicated that those who feel Canada does not treat them well are welcome to go somewhere. This view is undoubtedly careless and irresponsible.

A common reason given for the imposition of differential fees is that international students don't pay taxes and so shouldn't be allowed to take full advantage of subsidized education. Well, some taxes such as sales tax are paid by them. They can't be expected to pay income tax because they don't earn income in Canada. In fact, it was estimated that foreign students added over \$24 million in 83/84 to the economy of Nova Scotia alone. Some people talk and treat international students as if Canadian universities can ignore them without being dangerously parochial at the peril of Canadians.

Some cold-blooded and ruthless cost-benefit analysis has been done to justify differential fees. In some provinces, this means 20 times what Canadians pay. These analyses hardly recognize that the impact of international students cannot be fully measured. How do you really measure the impact of their cultural activities such as International Night? How do you really measure their contribution to community-oriented programmes that enable Canadians

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to meet, know and understand other people from around the world? Can we really measure the good-will of Canada that many of them take home? Can it not be said that all evaluations of the costs and benefits of international students are lopsided and inadequate?

With hassle from immigration officers and professors, discrimination on several fronts, and restrictive health insurance coverage, international students' short period of stay in Canada can be one of frustration, annoyance and even bitterness. Just think about the absurd immigration laws for a second. A foreign student with a valid visa for travel-

ling outside of Canada and the U.S. has to get a new visa to re-enter Canada. This imposes unnecessary costs on many students who don't have a Canadian Embassy or Consulate in their immediate area. What is so difficult about allowing international students with a valid visa and proof of studentship to return to Canada without renewing their visas?

Let us not forget that many Canadian policy-makers and professors had their education outside of Canada and it is their contributions that have shaped some of the universities here to the levels of the Harvards and the Oxfords. One good turn deserves another. In any case, Canada professes to be a true friend and ally of the Third World. Its exemplary international development efforts have won respect and admiration of the Third World at least. But if the favourable impressions are to last, Canada must act now to remove some of the irritations that bedevil inter-

national students.

It is evident that differential fees are going to be erratically hiked without any justification other than the fact that foreign students are a weak force and an unrecognized asset of Canada. Many of these students feel that they are not being given a fair deal, but most of them are unwilling to sacrifice their studies to agitate for reforms. Their silence does not therefore mean they are satisfied. In fact, some even don't want to be seen talking about issues they consider political. The voice raised from some of them has been largely ignored. But can Canada really neglect them?

Universities and ordinary Canadians should help to deal with the issues that affect international students. The following points need to be seriously considered:

1. Foreign students should come under the federal government umbrella to ensure equal treatment across Canada.
2. Differential fees should be

re-examined and abolished because they do more harm than good.

3. The federal government should end the harassment of international students by some immigration officers.

4. Multiple entry visas should be issued to all international students.

The federal and provincial governments and the universities can't help the situation with flimsy excuses. Canada can surely offer sensible leadership about international students to the world community: we neglect them at our own peril. It is ironic that officials from both levels of government and universities recognize they are not doing enough. What we need is the will to begin the process that will ultimately lead to the resolution of most of the problems that affect Canada's unrecognized ambassadors of good-will. Maybe the universities can initiate the process through the AUCC. Time is running out.

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