

Tory Tax sinks students

by Lara Morris

Last Wednesday Greg Kerr, Minister of Finance, announced a Provincial plan to expand the Nova Scotia sales tax to goods and services included under the Federal Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Post-secondary students in Nova Scotia are faced with financial increases this year as the cost

of tuition, books, room and board, and travel continue to rise. The addition of the GST and possibly a 'piggyback' provincial tax will have a cumulative impact on already strained student's budgets.

"We are especially concerned about those students heavily in debt to finance their education, and for whom one or more cost

increase will make a difference in their decision to continue with higher education," said Jeffrey Phelps, Chair of SUNS. The burden of debt is only one deterrent to continuing studies. Some students simply can't afford further cost increases, he said.

"Within the student population, those living off campus will proba-

bly suffer the most from the GST and the provinces proposed 'piggyback' tax," said Phelps. Student aid allowances are calculated on actual costs for students living in residence, those living off campus are given just \$85 a week for room and board. Last spring the Provincial Government increased the provincial bursary by

\$300. "That was probably in reaction to tuition fee increases across the province. It is probably unlikely that the student aid program will be adjusted to deal with rising costs resulting from the GST," said Phelps.

Phelps is angry that students are not recognized as a special group. "Under the federal administration of the GST some special groups are identified as being eligible for a rebate. For the most part the average student won't get special treatment."

Students oppose strike

by Robin Stevens

Faced with a possible strike, a group of new and returning Dalhousie students have organized a group called Students Opposed to a Strike (SOS) to represent student concerns.

"SOS is a non-aligned coalition of Dalhousie students concerned with the possibility of a strike or lock-out," says spokesperson Kevin Young.

Young says there is a need for increased student awareness and accessibility to strike information.

"The primary concern from a student's perspective is avoiding any kind of interruption of classes. As students are not in a position to protect their interest, they can prepare for what seems inevitable [a strike] if they have information on the negotiation proceedings."

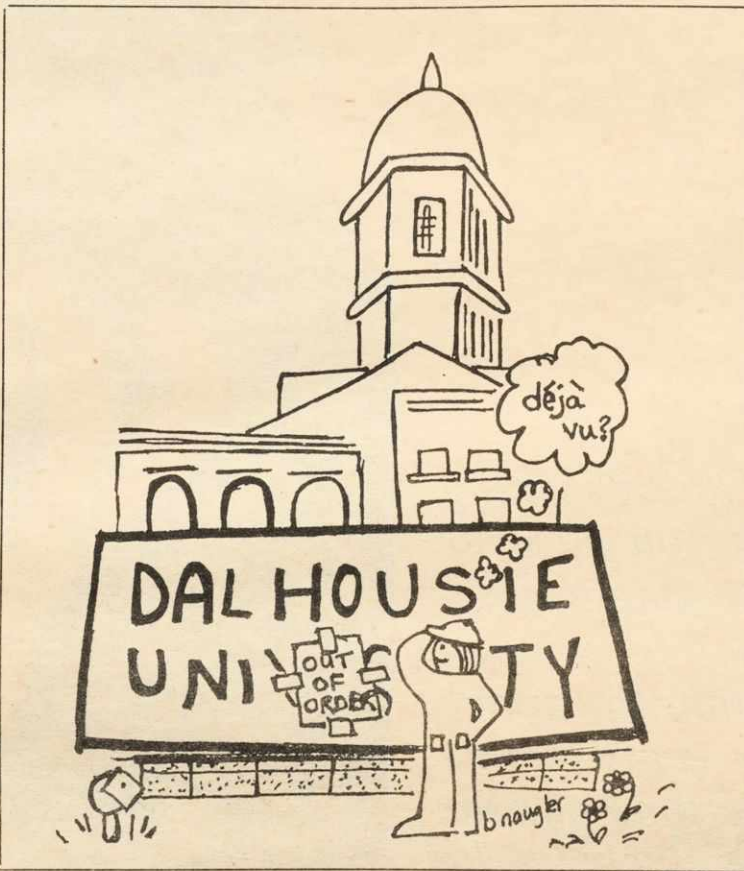
As contract negotiations be-

tween the Dalhousie Administration and Dalhousie Faculty Association remain unsettled, the possibility of a strike remains. "The situation is potentially grave," says Donald Mason, Dalhousie Student Union member of the Board of Governors.

In 1988, the Dalhousie strike prevented students from attending classes for 20 days. During that strike the DSU remained neutral. "This essentially left student concerns out of the issue," says Young.

If the faculty strikes, it is likely there will be a full shut-down of university services. A suspension of classes would also create severe difficulties for students planning to graduate this year.

The present labour situation has left students uncertain as they start a new academic year.



Strained student's budgets

The treatment of students under the provincial 'piggyback' tax is likely to be the same. "Students should be recognized as a group with limited resources and shouldn't be expected to pay more all the time. If the province goes ahead with this 'piggyback' scheme for its sales tax, students should be identified as a group eligible for a rebate," said Phelps.

SUNS hopes to voice its opposition to the Province's plans in meetings with MLA's this fall. "We are meeting with a number of people to discuss the results of our financial survey, and we'll bring up the GST issue then," said Phelps.

THE HOPPING PENGUINS

Thurs., Fri., Sat.
9:30 - Close

SATURDAY MATINEE WITH
Joe Murphy

YOUR FATHER'S MOUSTACHE

PUB & EATERY
5668 Spring Garden Rd.



ORIEN COMPUTERS STUDENT DISCOUNTS

HEWITT RAND DESKTOP***:

- 286 12-MHz, 1MB RAM expandable to 32 MB
- 1.2 MB or 1.44 MB panasonic floppy drive
- 40 MB WESTERN DIGITAL hard drive
- 14" monochrome display with card
- DOS 4.01 and manuals, AMI BIOS
- 1 year parts and labour warranty

Hewitt  Rand

- Price:.....\$1429.00
- VGA upgrade:.....529.00
- 2nd year warranty:.....99.00

*** Special to students

When you own a Hewitt Rand system from Orien Computers you have the option of purchasing the following software at the following prices:

- WORD PERFECT 5.1.....\$290.00
- MICROSOFT WORD.....220.00
- PC GLOBE V.3.....155.00

OTHER ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Please, give us a call for all your computing needs

453-0636

We guarantee service within 24 hours on any repair.

