

and establishing priorities and then finding funds to meet them.

Lara Morris, President of SUNS, said she was opposed to the report, expressing support for the DSU's position and reiterating many of Shannon's concerns. "I recognize tuition fees have to go up and students have to help — but this is too much," she said.

Jane Arnold, chair of CFS, also made a brief presentation, saying the government was "taking two concepts students like, accessibility and quality, and playing them off against each other". Citing a federal government program that provided free tuition and other financial aid for aboriginal students in Canada, Arnold contended that tuition fees and accessibility were linked. She said that between 1974/75 and 1986/87, the years the program was in effect, aboriginal student enrolment in post-secondary education increased from 2500 to 13,000.

Gavin Finch of the Dalhousie Law Society said Dalhousie Law School already has the highest fees in Canada (\$2044) and the increase would "jeopardize the Law School's reputation". He said, "this premium on professional education is a disaster . . . it will perpetuate the image of law school and medical schools as elitist institutions . . . I think you're asking too much."

The President of the African Students Association said she supported the DSU's position. She stressed the fact that international students already pay higher fees and that there were no employment opportunities for international students in Canada because of government restrictions. She addressed accessibility and stressed the importance of international students on campus, saying, "to increase the quality of education, we must increase the diversity of students".

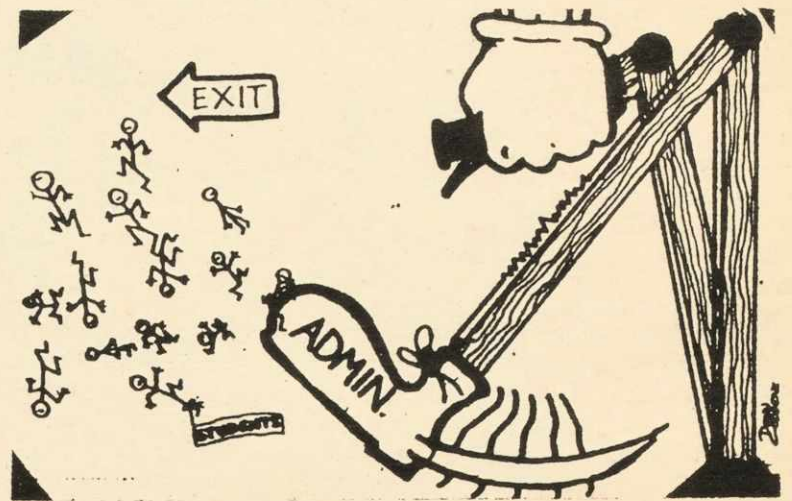
way that scholarships and bursaries assist access".

Shannon presented a 12-point recommendation to the FSC as an alternative to the report. Included in the recommendations were suggestions to increase fees according to the consumer price index; to initiate a debt-reduction campaign with a \$350,000 contribution from students (\$220,000 of which would come from excess revenue generated by Dalplex from student membership fees); to sell or long-term lease unused Dalhousie assets; to create incentives for faculty fund-raising; and to reduce administrative and physical plant expenditures. Shannon said, "Dalhousie spokespeople are admitting failure but not accountability."

Shannon concluded his presentation by saying that across the country, student unions are very concerned with student fees increasing and that "militant student protests are brewing everywhere".

Throughout his presentation, Shannon stressed the connection between accessibility and tuition fees. However, Clark took issue with this. Citing a 15 per cent increase in fees at Acadia, Clark said he had not seen any data to suggest the increase had affected accessibility. "The fact of the matter is, what affects accessibility is not well understood . . . there is no direct relationship between fees and accessibility."

Tom Cromwell, chair of the Senate Financial Planning Committee, was less confrontational in his presentation, stressing financial issues. "the financial strategy ought to provide a realistic projection of highs and lows of financial resources," he said. He also said there was a difference between creating financial resources to meet financial needs



FSC

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wanted to be "a mediocre university like all the rest of the universities in this province".

Howard Clark, President of Dalhousie University and a member of the committee, responded to Retallack's statement, saying, "a major criticism of universities over the past 30 or 40 years is that they have been too dependent on government. (The FSC is) trying to move to a position where all parts of the community help with the financial situation."

Dalhousie Student Union President Dave Shannon presented a hard-hitting response to the progress report. Shannon argued that the proposals of the FSC are contrary to the recently released Mission Statement of Dalhousie. Saying the Mission Statement commits Dalhousie to a policy of accessibility for students regardless of socio-economic level, sex, race, ethnicity, religion, and/or physicality, he suggested that the increases would not allow Dalhousie to meet that commitment.

Shannon stressed the importance of accessibility, saying, "the DSU believes there is a connection between accessibility and excellence."

The FSC has responded to accusations that higher fees will limit accessibility by pointing out that \$80 million of the revenue realized from tuition increases will be spent on student scholarships, bursaries and employment. However, Shannon said this is an "intrusive bureaucratic procedure . . . and no one has shown in an empirically valid



HALIFAX JAZZ QUARTET

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TUNS
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Debate

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Dalhousie's tuition fees to those of small American universities, calling education in Canada "a bargain".

McDonough called Butler's arguments "spurious and simplistic" and asked if he stood for the Dalhousie Faculty Association's official, but Butler evaded the question, saying he represented "the side of the government in this debate".

Butler also pointed out that Nova Scotia directs a larger share of its gross domestic product to post-secondary education than any other province in Canada, and said that for today's government, "other things take priority". Students were less than cordial to Butler, greeting some of his remarks with boos and jeers.

Finally, Trainor took the stand. He called the kowtowing of administration to government policies "extraordinary". Trainor's discourse was wrought with sarcasm and wit: "If we're willing

to make students bear more of the load of university funding, what's stopping us from removing government funding altogether, making university inaccessible to all but the very rich?"

Trainor said raising tuition fees will restrict access to universities, and taxpayers from lower- and middle-class socio-economic backgrounds, already underrepresented in post-secondary education, will no longer want their taxes to fund education, effectively drawing public support away from post-secondary schooling.

The debate, which lasted over an hour, included several questions from the floor, which had to be cut short due to lack of time. Tom Digby, VP internal of the DSU, called the turnout "great", and was happy with the 100-plus attendance.

While the debate drew a great deal of attention to a variety of problems Dal students must face, no winner was declared. For Dalhousie students, at least, the debate over tuition hikes still rages.

GRADUATION PORTRAITS

The contract for DAL PHAROS Yearbook Graduation Portraits has been awarded to Robert Calnen, Master Photographer of Halifax.

Robert Calnen has won numerous photographic awards including the distinguished "Canadian Photographer of the Year" award.

Mr. Calnen will be photographing on campus starting January 31st. There is a sign-up book at the Enquiry Desk - Main Floor, Dal SUB. For more information call 454-4745.



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