

News commentary:

Early tuition fee announcement, says Hill

by Tim Hill

Once again the annual marathon committee deliberations have commenced to determine what tuition levels to recommend to the University Board of Governors for the 1984-85 academic year. Again this year it will be for the student representatives involved a marathon of hope.

The hope is that this year the University will look beyond the single faceted consideration of the University's anticipated budgetary needs, and consider the hardships heaped on many students by the recent annual increases in tuition levels which have far exceeded the increases

in resources available to students. However, the scenario does not appear to be promising. Already rumblings from the Arts and Administration Building indicate that the administration intends to continue to ignore our concerns.

Fortunately we are not alone in our concern that accessibility not be further compromised by excessive tuition increases and general government underfunding to post-secondary education. In its recently released Financial Plan for 1984-85 the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission states that "accessibility is particularly important during this period of very high

unemployment". The Commission reinforces the widely held view that post-secondary education should be available to all those qualified. The Association of Atlantic Universities has stated in a recent brief to the Commission that further tuition increases at the levels of those experienced in the last several years will "amount to rebuilding the financial barriers that have consciously and intentionally been lowered over the last two decades." Powerful voices are raised in support of the students' position!

Currently a Royal Commission is investigating post-secondary education in Nova Scotia. Dal-

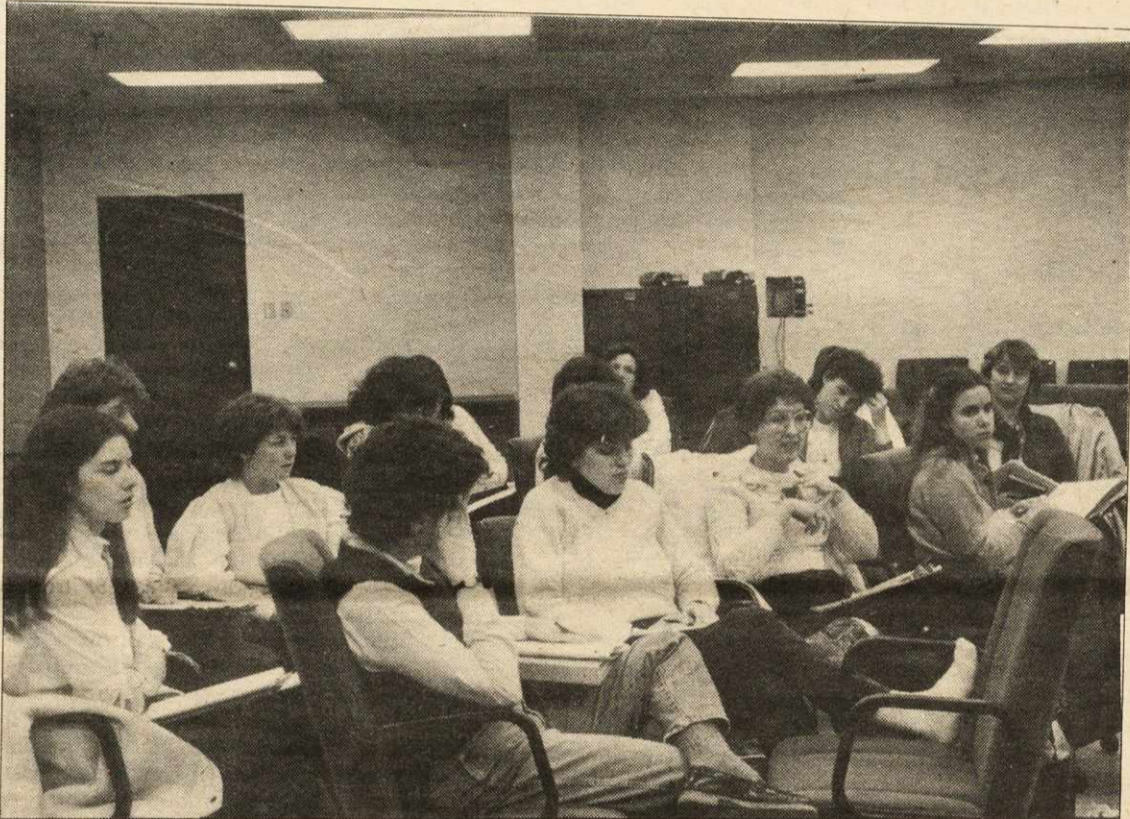
housie University has submitted a number of briefs to the Commission. The "official" brief, approved by both the University Senate and the Board of Governors, addresses the accessibility issue. The University recommends that "the government affirm the objective of ensuring

that all appropriately qualified students have access to a suitable post-secondary programme, regardless of their financial status or other non-academic considerations". It might be suggested that the University itself affirm the principle!

In the coming weeks the debate will rage, and the arguments will flow back and forth. The difference this year is that the decision will be made in March rather than in the summer when few students remain to make their voices heard. March 20th is the date to remember. At 4 p.m. on that day the Board will decide your fees for next year.

Make a note in your diary. Together we can make a difference.

Tim Hill is the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) President.



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The use of ritual in occupational therapy was the theme of a series of workshops given to students and practitioners by Dr. Reba Anderson.

An idea has come?

by Dorothy Dolhanty and Doreen McCarthy

The importance of ritual in the practise of occupational therapy was the topic of a series of workshops given by Dr. Reba Anderson to occupational therapy students and practitioners.

Anderson is the chair of Occupational Therapy at Florida International University of Miami.

There are rituals in everyday life, said Anderson, citing graduation, marriage and funerals as examples.

Rituals state society's values and social relationships and mark the movement of individuals from one position in society to another, said Anderson.

She explained that occupational therapists can and should make ritual part of their everyday practises.

Patients lose some basic freedoms and are expected to

adhere to hospital regulations but therapy requires a different sort of behavior, said Anderson. Characteristics like independence, motivation and self control are necessary, she said.

"We want them to think differently about themselves and their control," she explained.

Examples of rituals that could be used to facilitate this transition are ensuring that patients are dressed in street clothes when coming for therapy, involving significant others such as the

patients' families and friends in their therapy and introducing the patient to the use of purposeful activity to facilitate function, said Anderson.

Dorothy Dolhanty and Doreen McCarthy are students in Dalhousie's occupational therapy programme.

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