

EDITORIAL

Bored of Governors

After last week's Board of Governors meeting, for a long time I couldn't shake the feeling that a lot of people had just wasted a lot of time.

The one thing that stuck out in my mind was that the Board members, in spite of their claims that they "heard" the students and they "felt for" the students, had voted almost unanimously to accept the ten percent tuition increase. To add insult to extortion they refused the students' request for an additional \$200,000 to go back to the student assistance program. This would have amounted to reducing their ten percent hike to nine per cent — not a bad deal no matter who you are bargaining with. The BoG members knew they had the power to do whatever they wanted though, and bargaining never even crossed most of their minds.

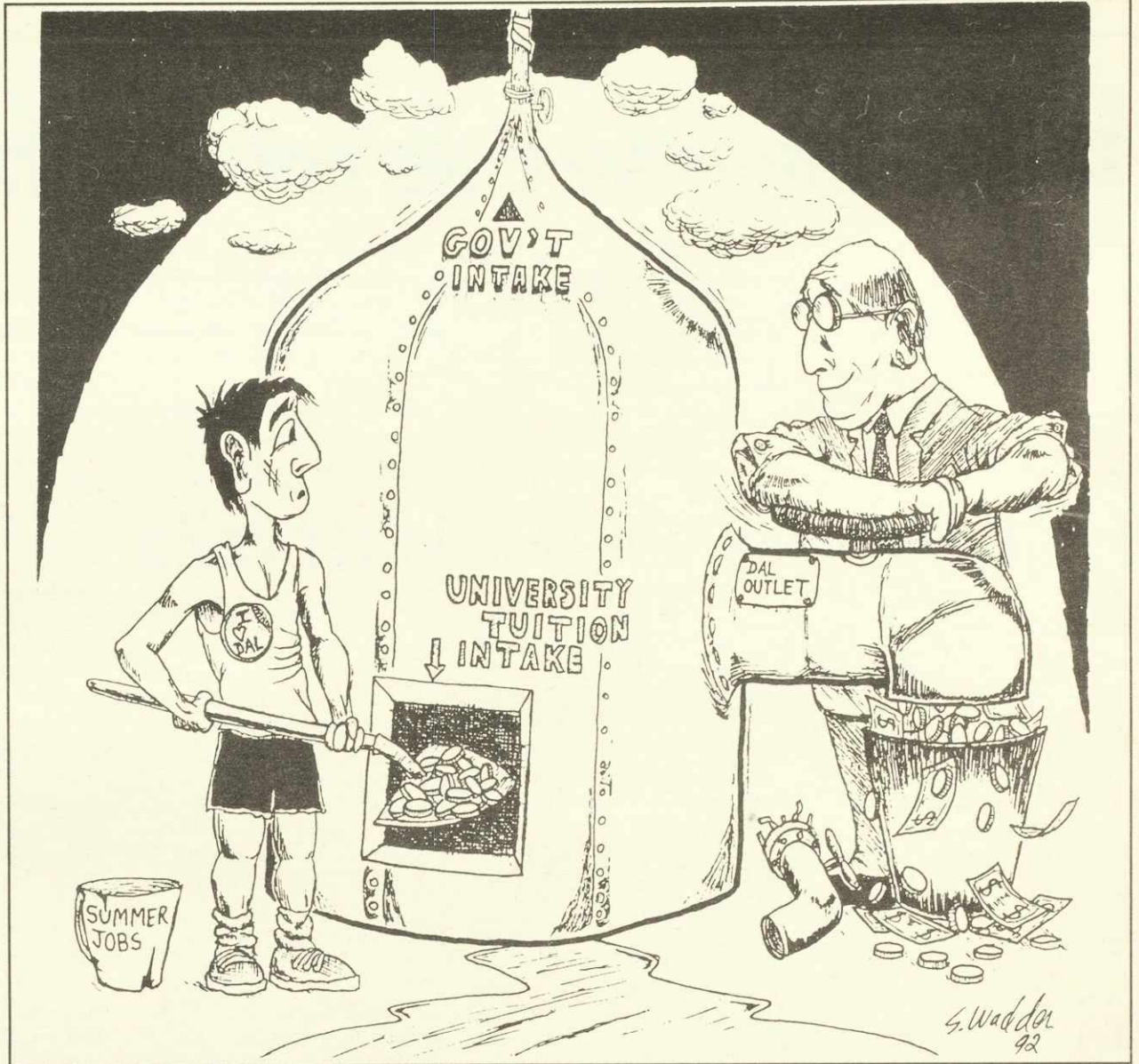
What they did commit themselves to was raising the \$200,000 for student assistance "from somewhere." While this may sound like the same thing, there is an important distinction. If the BoG members are so sure that they can raise this sum, why didn't they lop it off of the tuition increase and commit themselves to raising it on behalf of the university, not the students? If it all works out in the end, wouldn't it have helped to make just one ceremonial concession to the students instead of towing the administration line from start to finish? No matter how much the BoG members like to think their understanding and appreciation of student life was increased last week, that one tiny point shows that they really weren't listening. They really weren't thinking about us.

If I could've gotten to a microphone during the meeting I would've guaranteed the BoG members a national student uprising against education cuts had they frozen the fees. The students were so hyped they would've started working on the campaign that night. Now it's hard to find a student that doesn't feel as if he or she were abused.

We have one thing to thank the board for though. They say nothing unites a people like a common enemy. For the first time in recent history Dalhousie students are united. Unfortunately we don't have the luxury of being able to consider the BoG our enemies, since any reforms to the university will eventually have to go through them. Instead we'll have to target their attitudes.

If we can hold the administration accountable for their expenditures BoG members may just see that there is room for flexibility in the university budget.

Without realising it the BoG gave us the tool we most needed to win this one. The motion they passed that guaranteed student access to university budgets is our most valuable tool. We have enough student volunteers to look over their figures until we know this institution inside out. And I do believe that there are many students out there who are angry enough to do just that. The lines are drawn. The war of audits begins,
Jerry West



LETTERS

The Dalhousie Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 300 words in length and should be typed and double-spaced. The deadline for letters is Friday noon before publication. Letters may be submitted on Mac or IBM-compatible 3.5" disk.

Just another homophobic letter

To the editor:

It was to my dismay to find a lesbian "joke" on the inside back cover of the Jan. 23 Gazette. It in fact reveals the entire paper to be a "joke" with the promotion of such issues. I have nothing against a different sexual orientation, nor do I criticize creating an awareness of such orientations, yet I feel that the Gazette has for a long time over-stepped the boundary between awareness and promotion (and to be honest, the graphic intuitions must even be embarrassing to homosexuals, much less heterosexuals).

If you wish to support and advertise homosexuality, do it on your own time and with your paper and money. The Gazette belongs to the students of Dalhousie University (majority: heterosexual). You must learn to write for them, not for yourselves... in the end, we all pay, and I'd like to see MY money go to a paper for everyone, not for your pathetic bathroom stall jokes!

Darren Costain
P.S. Unless you are either

illiterate or dyslexic, please do not consider this to be just another homophobic letter!

Lighten up!

To the editor:

I am writing this short letter to respond to two letters focussing what was considered to be an inadequate outline for a hockey photo.

I personally think it sad that it is this kind of trivial issue that causes students to take action when important issues that surround us (such as the tuition increase) stir little emotion in many students.

Come on, folks, lighten up! Have a sense of humour. The outline "...And he drinks Johnny Walker Black" had nothing to do with hockey, true. But it contained a degree of subtle humour and obviously had no intention of offending or humiliating either the player or the author and scope of the article.

The Gazette may leave a lot to be desired, but it is supposed to be an alternative press, and we should not expect it to be serious 100 per cent of the time. Case in point: the president's new clothes competition was the

best feature this year. Keep working at it.

Marty Menard

Biking rebuttal

To the Editor:

It is astounding that Mr. Lord does not understand the link between the increase of bicycles on campus and the "increasing tendency for bicycles to be locked to virtually any static object" (*The Gazette*, Jan. 15). The cause of the problem is obvious to all but him; the lack of safe bicycle parking areas on campus. Where does he propose the 'offenders' lock their bicycles? This campus has a deplorable lack of bicycle parking. While it has increased its car parking areas, it has done nothing but to install a few (were there even 10?) uncovered bicycle racks over a year ago.

Last December, Dalhousie University took a leadership role in formulating the Halifax Declaration which states that universities should have a clear commitment to the "principle and practice of sustainable development within the university." Now it is time to put these words into action and bicycling is a perfect and easy place to start. Bicycling to Dal

should be encouraged by increasing the number of bicycle parking facilities. Remember that 12-16 bicycles can fit into one car park space (and it doesn't even have to be paved!)

In order to remove the bicycles, security will have to break the lock so that the real cost of a removal will be much more than the \$5 fine. A little imagination could go a long way in finding easy and inexpensive solutions to the bicycle parking problem. Special emphasis should be placed on the installation of sheltered areas because of the annual 1380 mm of precipitation Halifax gets and the fact that many users ride their bikes year-round. For example, it must certainly be possible to find space somewhere in the vastness of the LSC building for bikes. A few colourful bicycles could only liven the place up. As for outdoor parking, a horizontal bar fixed about 1 m off the ground on the side of a building does the trick. For inspiration, look at the way the railing in front of the SUB is used.

It would be logical to solve the problem before taking action against the so-called parking 'offender'

CEAG (Campus Environmental Action Group)

THE GAZETTE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1992 • VOL. 124, NO. 16

CONTRIBUTORS	CUP EDITORS	EDITORS
SATISH PUNNA	MARY JANE HAMILTON	SHANNON GOWANS
MIKE GRAHAM	MARY LITTLEJOHN	CHRIS LAMBIE
GAYLE HEINRICH		MARIE-FRANCE LEBLANC
ROBERT CURRIE	WOMEN'S	JERRY WEST
ARAN MCKITTRICK	LIAISON	
ROLAND LINES	MIRIAM KORN	BUSINESS/ADVERTISING
DAWN MITCHELL	ARTS EDITOR	MANAGER
SCOTT MCCROSSIN	JENN BECK	ALEX DOW
STEVE WADDEN	SPORTS EDITORS	494-6532
TIM GRANT	SUZY KOVINSKY	TYPESETTER
MARIA PAT	STEVE MILLS	ROBERT CARLSON
BRUCE GILCHRIST	CALENDAR EDITORS	
JULIE TRAVES	NATASHA RYAN	THIRD FLOOR
JANET LARKMAN	MIRIAM KORN	STUDENT UNION BUILDING
ALEX BOSTON		DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY
		6136 UNIVERSITY AVE
		HALIFAX, N.S.
		B3H 4J2
		(902) 494-2507