

MSI for foreign students, BUT...

by Jeff Round

Overseas students are once again eligible for coverage under the Medical Services and Insurance Act (MSI) of Nova Scotia. However, there will be a twelve month qualifying period, according to Maynard MacAskill, minister of the department of Public Health.

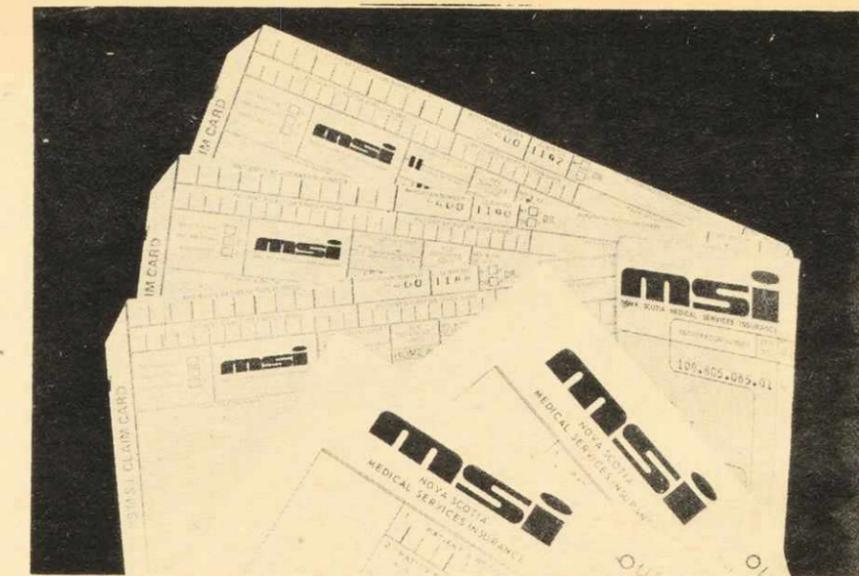
A year old ruling by the MSI Eligibility Committee that excluded overseas students from coverage under the act was overturned in a cabinet meeting last Thursday on the recommendation of the Health Services and Insurance Commission.

The recommendation by the Commission is in four parts: 1) Coverage will be effective the first day of the thirteenth month after arrival, provided the student has not been absent from Nova Scotia for more than thirty-one days during that period; 2) Such coverage is valid only for health services

received in Nova Scotia; 3) Dependents of students are to be granted coverage on the same basis once the student has gained entitlement; 4) Coverage is to terminate immediately upon the student's departure from Nova Scotia.

The minister met with representatives of the Atlantic Federation of Students (AFS), the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS), International Student Association (ISA), and Dal Student Union to discuss the commission's recommendation.

The representatives of the groups were displeased by the thirteen month qualifying restriction. According to Tony Kelly, AFS representative at the meeting, the problem lies with the immigration act. "A student visa is for the length of the school term, which is eight months. This will prevent overseas students from staying the full



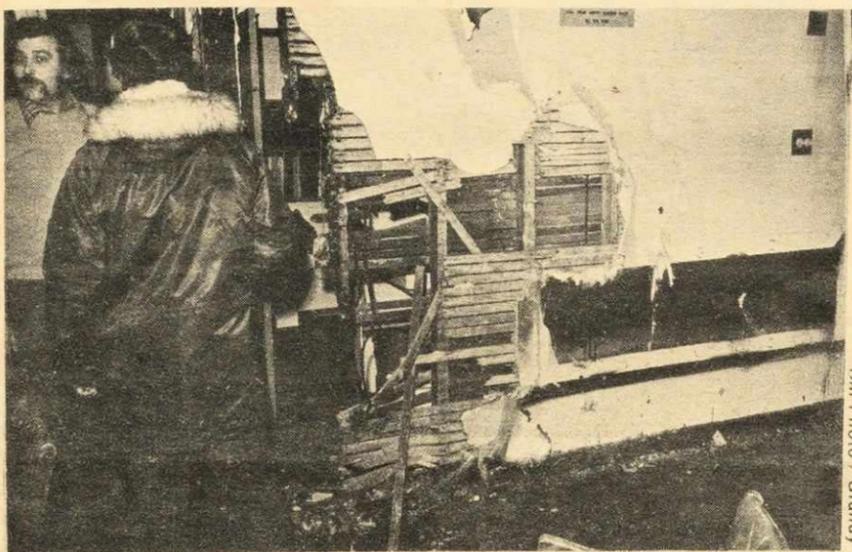
Dal Photo / Morris

twelve months," Kelly said. The immigration act also states that a foreign student cannot work in the country without a work permit, thus forcing many students to return home for financial support.

The commission's recommendation was based partly on a comparison with other provinces in Canada. Only two other provinces grant coverage to foreign students on entry. The rest have qualifying

periods of three to twelve months. "The commission has made an arbitrary comparison across the country looking for a way out of this business," Kelly said.

Milton Graves, president of DAGS, is now documenting evidence which will be presented with the immigration act restrictions to show that the new act is inadequate.



Dal Photo / Grandy

Things are looking rather damp at the graduate population's favourite drinking hole. Grad House, on the corner of LeMarchant and University, suffered extensive damage in last Friday's early morning fire.

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wires short

Grads burn out

by Daniele Gauvin

The Dalhousie Graduate House is closed due to extensive fire damage. MBA Brian Langlois first spotted the blaze on his way to hockey practise around 6, Good Friday morning. Seeing smoke pouring out of the building, he ran to the fire station. Fire fighters were on the scene within minutes and spent nearly three hours extinguishing the fire.

"There is no doubt that the fire originated in the electrical system," Grad House manager Robert Bagg told the *Gazette*.

"We have a new skylight where firemen had to cut a hole in the roof to let the smoke out," said Bill White, president of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS). He added the firemen's efforts caused no unnecessary damage and that they had taken special precautions to protect the furniture. The inventory (liquor) was unharmed.

The fire erupted between the ceiling of the second level and the floor of the third level, where it was contained.

The building is operated by DAG's 1300 members but it is rented from the university. "We are fairly well off and we can afford to

rebuild right now, but we will need everyone's help," White said. He expressed hopes that the fire would bring the graduate community together to work as a team in the re-painting and refurbishing of their house.

According to White, council is anxious to get the building back in operation as soon as possible and is helping in the search for temporary facilities.

"Since 50% of the graduate population use the house, finding an on-campus replacement for it is a must," said Bagg. A benefit concert, with music donated by the house's usual entertainers, may be held in a few weeks to help with the cost of renovations. Hopes are high that the Grad house will be back in operation within nine to ten weeks.

Students march against cutbacks

by Valerie Mansour

Nova Scotia students today are protesting government cutbacks in post-secondary education financing. At 11 this morning, students from Halifax's institutions left the Dalhousie Student Union Building to march to Province House.

The demonstration, called by the Nova Scotia caucus of the Atlantic Federation of Students, will demand university funding at the level recommended by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission, a component to offset tuition increases, an end to all cutbacks that affect the quality of education, and faculty and staff wages, benefits and working conditions equal to those in the rest of Canada.

At yesterday's forum in the SUB lobby, both the Dalhousie Staff and Faculty Associations pledged sup-

port for the march through active participation. Jane Mersereau, president of the DSA, said cutbacks by the provincial government are resulting in wage decreases for staff. Philip Welch of the DFA asked whether we want Dalhousie to be a community college or a university with full facilities.

Henry Hicks, Dalhousie University President, said that the Administration could not support the protest. He felt there was no time to go to the Senate with a proposal to cancel classes as was requested by students, faculty, and staff. Hicks also voiced concern with further provoking Premier Gerald Regan who was hit with a pie at Dalhousie the previous week. "I won't say I'm not in support of the protest but I don't want the administration to support it by

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Despite the Dalhousie Student Council's closure of the *Dalhousie Gazette*, the paper is publishing as usual. The name *Dalhousie Gazette* has been changed to *Gazette* not to disclaim the university or its students, but rather the Dalhousie Student Council.

Next week's issue is the last of the year, and we would appreciate submissions in by Monday noon.

The staff of the *Gazette* thanks those who are supporting us both financially and morally.

Dalhousie Student Union does not authorize any debts incurred by the Dalhousie Gazette after March 23— and will not be liable for their payment unless previous authorization is given through the Office of the Treasurer n240201



Dal Photo / Delorey

You'll be paying more for this room next year.. See story page 3