

Students left high and dry in financing plan



University President MacKay finds report's tuition recommendations "unrealistic" for students.

by Cathy McDonald

Reaction to a report issued on Wednesday, January 12, recommending a 12.1 per cent increase in funds for Maritime universities next year, ranges from cautious acceptance to angry dissatisfaction.

For institutions in Nova Scotia, a 12.1 per cent increase would be acceptable, according to Dalhousie president Andrew MacKay.

But the report's policy on tuition increases was rejected as "unrealistic" by Peter Kavanagh, Executive Coordinator of the Students Union of Nova Scotia.

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission released its annual recommendations on post secondary financing to the Council of Maritime Premiers. It expects a response from the governments within two months.

Kavanagh singled out as unrealistic the policy that tuition fees should increase by the same amount that university budgets do, matched by an increase in the student aid program.

Kavanagh said that although the MPHEC held the same policy last year, increased tuition in Nova Scotia was not buffered by a similar increase in student aid. Rather, the Nova Scotia aid program was reduced, Kavanagh said.

The MPHEC's report says that tuition fees "should not become a smaller proportion of institutional revenues", meaning a minimal 12.1 per cent increase in tuition if the

report's recommendations are accepted. The report also says that "Student aid allowances and budgets should be modified to provide for tuition fee increases."

Kavanagh said even if student aid went up 12 per cent this year, students would still be behind. "They fell behind in previous years...student aid didn't go up...and housing and food went up more than 12 per cent."

Kavanagh questioned the report's reasoning. "On what basis does (the MPHEC) say that? From experience? Student aid wasn't modified last year, in fact it was modified in exactly the opposite way."

"The report takes no notice of the effect on accessibility. Shouldn't that (accessibility for students from low income families) be a concern? Or doesn't the MPHEC care about what kind of people go to university?"

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Dalhousie gearing up for student elections

by Ken Burke

The race is on.

The Dal Student Union's elections for 1983-84 Student Council began quietly gearing up with the opening of nominations last Monday for the February 14-16 elections. Nominations close on Monday, January 31, at 5:30.

The positions open are President and Vice-President (Internal), Board of Governors Representative (2 positions), Senate Reps (6 posi-

tions), and various Faculty Representations. All registered Dal students having paid their fees are eligible to vote and/or run for a position. The Board of Governors is the supreme financial body of Dalhousie University, and decides tuition increases, financial planning, and faculty and staff wage settlements. The Senate has authority over Academic affairs at Dalhousie.

There are several changes in the election process this year. Last year,

elections were held from March 15-19, whereas this year the elections are a month earlier.

Peter Rans, the Student Union's current President, said the changes were made to lengthen the incoming council's orientation to their jobs. "It's not that we're moving them (the elections) up - they were later than they were supposed to be last year," said Rans. In particular he stressed the importance of appointing positions before the

summer break to smooth council's operations.

The date of February 14-16 was picked as it did not conflict with either Winter Carnival (January 25 to February 3) or the February break (February 21-26), according to Rans.

Elections Returns Officer Janine Saulnier said the three-day election was organized as it was felt five days was an unnecessarily long election period. "I don't see why

everyone shouldn't have a chance to vote in three days," she said. "I don't think shortening the process will harm the turnout."

Polling students in the classrooms, a method used in the last election, is also under consideration this year, said Saulnier, although "it has not been discussed yet."

Nomination forms are available in the Student Council offices, room 222 of the Student Union Building.

Morgentaler says 'right to abortion' is threatened

SASKATOON (CUP) — People who support the right to abortion must actively defend it, according to a leading abortion rights proponent, Dr. Henry Morgentaler.

"The right to abortion is being threatened in these times as never before," Morgentaler told more

than 500 people in Saskatoon as part of a cross-country tour. He said Canada's abortion law, which only permits the act with the consent of a Therapeutic Abortion Committee in an accredited hospital, means "there are whole regions in the country where abortions are

unavailable".

Only three hospitals in Saskatchewan permit abortions, and waiting lists are long.

Morgentaler recently announced he wants to establish abortion clinics across Canada like the one he has operated for many years in

Montreal. Morgentaler was tried and acquitted three times by Quebec juries for performing illegal abortions in his clinic.

His first clinics will be in Winnipeg and Toronto. Ontario attorney general Roy McMurtry plans to prosecute Morgentaler when he

opens his Toronto clinic, and Ontario pro-life groups are organizing support for McMurtry's position. But Morgentaler does not think he will be convicted by a jury.

"People say 'aren't you going to break the law?' and I say no, I will be following the judicial precedent set in Quebec."

Rape video's last stand at border

MONTREAL (CUP) — A cowboy flashes on the screen, maneuvering his way through a field of Indians shooting arrows. He reaches a native woman bound, naked, to a pole, and plunges his penis into her as her legs wriggle. The player scores a point.

The game is called Custer's Revenge. The manufacturers, American Multiple Industries

(AMI), have plans for two dozen more "adult" video games by 1984.

AMI president Stuart Keston has described Custer's Revenge as an amusing game in which a woman willingly submits to a sexual act, say groups opposing AMI's games.

Atari, America's leading video game manufacturer, is suing AMI for producing Custer's Revenge,

which can only be played on the Atari VCS 2600 system. Atari has received thousands of complaints about Custer's Revenge and is worried its image as a marketer of family-oriented video games will be tarnished.

American activists had already campaigned against Custer's Revenge when Canadian customs approved it for import October 18.

By the end of October, 20 groups had mobilized to pressure customs into banning importation of the game.

But the battle may not be over. AMI president Keston has already sued Suffolk County in New York State for banning the game and he may appeal the Canadian customs ruling.

Rosemary Knes, a founding member of the Ottawa chapter of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League, said Morgentaler has finished resting after his Quebec court battles and is ready to face legal tangles again.

The backlog in demand for abortions is so large that Morgentaler's clinic is swamped by requests, said Knes. "He has 10 women per week coming from Ontario alone, and other women coming from as far away as Alberta and the Maritimes."