

Commentary

On bondage and other forms of constraint

by Chris Hartt

In my time as a student at Dal (4 years) I have been constantly troubled by the excesses and wastage of our university. Now "financial constraint" has been declared and I wonder why.

Ten million's a lot of money to be behind even for a big corporation like Dal. "Gee, we must be paying the staff too much or charging too little for tuition, right?"... Wrong, our staff is poorly paid and tuition is ridiculously high compared to other Canadian universities. "Then it must be the government's fault - they're not giving us

send our teams all over North America to practice or exhibit the sportsmanship of Dalhousie? Or even to provide our teams with the latest in equipment and lots of spares in case that helmet wears out. The San Diego Clippers of the NBA issued their players each two practice jerseys and a jock at the beginning of their season, and that's the pros.

Other little things like putting colour on the Campus Recreation newspaper, a hundred dollars isn't much in 10 million but ten thousand wastages of a hundred dollars is a million...The little things add up. Get smart Dal: If you don't have to spend it, Don't.

Some say Financial Restraint is a ploy to get the faculty to settle their contract. If it is, it backfired. The faculty association is more determined than ever and administration-faculty association (DFA) relations have never been worse.

In 1979-80 when the short-list for the replacement of Hicks as president was decided, the Faculty reps. on the committee leaked it because they felt it was set up to make MacKay look good. If it was it worked, he got the job and the



enough money!" That's only partially correct. This is the first year that the government hasn't given the universities plenty of warning of exactly how much money they're getting. Plenty of time to prepare a budget based on the amount of money the University will have.

It's that budget that is killing us, driving us to the brink. Was it necessary to deficit budget for these last years, the years of MacKay? We weren't in this mess before he became president but we sure are now. A substantial portion of the deficit (somewhere between \$700,000 and one million) could have been avoided if he stayed in his own house rather than redeveloping the presidential Palace.

A simple basic rink could have saved us a bundle, to name another monumental excess. But still we wouldn't be quite in the black without those expenditures. There are lots of smaller wastages which contribute.

Our athletic program, for instance. Is it really necessary to

DFA have been fighting him ever since. They've recently called for his replacement and maybe they're right. Dal needs someone, who's going to put Academics first, ahead of both aesthetics and athletics. Students go to a university because it's got a good academic reputation, not because it's got a weird looking rink or a good hockey team. Stop wasting money and time. Exercise a little restraint!

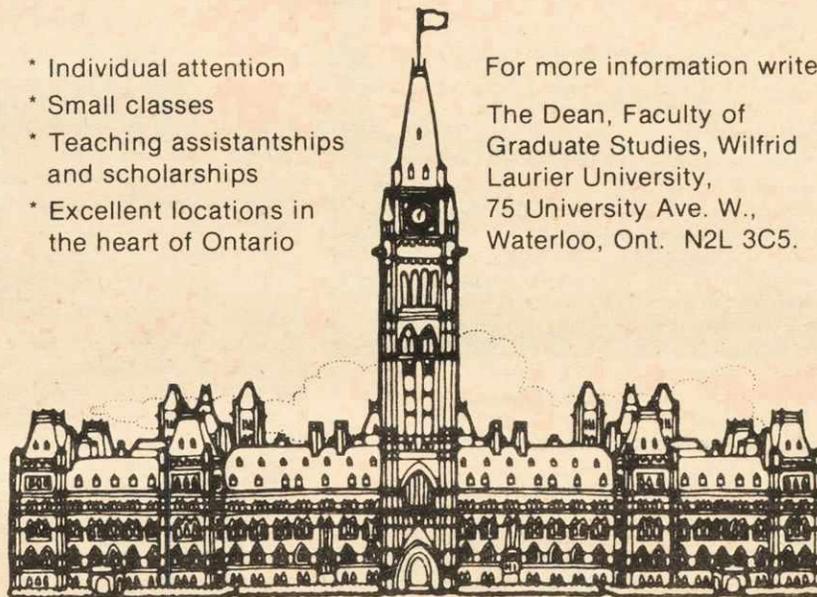
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