

Arts and Science funding cut by \$800,000

by Ken Burke

An anticipated \$800,000 drop in 1984-85 Arts and Science funding at Dalhousie is wreaking havoc with overcrowded, under-funded programs.

In a memo sent to the Deans of all faculties on Nov. 28, University Vice-President (Academic)

Alastair Sinclair and Vice-President (Administration & Finance) Robbie Shaw gave notice of across-the-board cuts of approximately four per cent after inflation in the faculties' Budgetary Envelopes. The cuts will hit the Arts and Science Faculty particularly hard as

enrolment has increased in the last year and many programs are already strained to the limit in resources.

"It points out the injustice of across-the-board cuts," says Geoff Martin, student representative on the Arts & Science Financial Planning Committee.

"It means another decline in an already declining quality of education."

The projected Arts and Science budget for 1984-85 is \$20.2 million, slightly higher than 1983-84's \$19.8 million. However, when inflation is calculated into the figures, the \$800,000 cut appears.

As a result, the Dean's office is considering several options, including:

—Not replacing retiring or resigning faculty (saving approx. \$630,000)

—Completely eliminating part-time faculty (saving approx. \$370,000)

—Completely eliminating student assistants' jobs (saving approx. \$570,000)

According to Martin, the most likely scenario combines a stiff reduction in part-time staff, student workers and faculty replacements.

"We will have to cut back on part-time people rather radically," says Dean Donald D. Betts, adding that the resulting loss of faculty may necessitate limited enrollment in the hardest-hit areas, such as the Departments of

Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science.

Four departments—English, French, Mathematics and Music—make up \$207,000 of the total part-time staff budget. Other departments within Arts and Sciences employ no part-time staff.

"Our options are limited," says Jill Allen, Student Union Vice-President (Academic). "Needless to say, the student union is dead set against the Faculty of Arts and Science being put in this position. Face it, you've got to save 4% that way (reducing staff)," says Allen.

Student Union Arts rep Christine Cruickshank says the university should first make cuts in administration before cutting academic areas. "The cuts cannot come in faculty," she said.

Lori McCurdy, Student Council Science Rep, said the departments of Chemistry and the Computer Science program in Mathematics should be left outside any budget cuts. "The Chemistry building needs a complete revamp," she said.



Student leaders reject proposal

Privatization of universities would force students to find funding for post secondary education, said Dalhousie student union President Tim Hill in response to a brief submitted to the Royal commission on post secondary education by Voluntary Planning.

The brief proposed that universities should be privately operated and not rely on government money thus leaving students to negotiate directly with the government for funding.

"Asking students to shoulder full responsibility for securing adequate funding for post-secondary education may well be shifting the responsibility to the one group least able to cope with it," said Hill.

SUNS chair James Leblanc said the financial scheme proposed by Voluntary Planning would endanger accessibility.

"If a program like this was implemented the burden on students and their parents would be staggering. The future would see a return to only the wealthy being able to educate their sons and daughters," said Leblanc.

Hill also rejects the voluntary planning contention that university enrollment in Nova Scotia is disproportionately high. A participation rate of 16% of the population in post secondary education is not excessive, said Hill.



CHILDHOSE/DAL PHOTO

*** Gazette inner turmoil settles down ***

by Lisa Timpf

Always eager to fulfil their mandate of seeking out and reporting news, the Gazette staff got tired of waiting for the news to come to them and created some of their own.

The action started on November 28, when a list of grievances compiled by a group of staff members which called for the resignation of Catherine Ricketts, Gazette editor, was presented.

"I was aware that there were problems within the Gazette, but when I called the [November 28] meeting to have a bull session, I hadn't expected to meet with a request for my resignation," said Ricketts.

The matter was subsequently brought to a staff meeting December 1, where it became evident that there were conflicting opinions and attitudes amongst Gazette members which needed resolution. A written

apology for certain defamatory items in the grievance list was requested. In addition, a proposed motion to impeach the news editors, Ken Burke and Samantha Brennan, was dropped in a spirit of conciliation.

The staff struck an ad-hoc committee, consisting of Samantha Brennan, as one member of the grievance party, Catherine Ricketts, as recipient of the grievances list, and Lisa Timpf, an impartial staff member. This committee attempted to arrive at

a compromise between the two conflicting parties, and compiled a list of recommendations aimed at achieving smoother future operations.

Ricketts will complete her term as editor of the Gazette, and is currently compiling an Operations Manual, which she says will serve as a valuable resource.

"If you look over the Gazette staff history, you see this type of interpersonal conflicts are cyclical" said Ricketts. She hopes the forthcoming operations manual

will establish a structure which will eliminate that kind of friction in the future.

The episode has been nearly worked through, with most of the tension diffused. The Gazette staff will combine more efficient production and innovative ideas to put out a solid series of Gazettes in the coming term.

"With these conflicts behind us we can concentrate on putting out a paper again," said Brennan.