

# opinions

## University fees: Fed up and BoGged down

Call me paranoid, but I think the Board of Governors is plotting against me. It all started during the 1990/91 school year but my memory of that year is a little hazy. I do vaguely remember something about a 25% tuition hike, but it being my first year at Dalhousie with quite a bit of money in my bank account as the result of a fantastic summer job, I can only assume that I didn't care because money was not a problem.

Damn, was I ever wrong.

Last summer I didn't have an incredibly well paying summer job. In fact I didn't have a job. Now there's no way I can blame the Board of Governors for being unemployed, however due to recent events I am beginning to suspect there's at least a connection between the two. I can't prove anything, the evidence is purely

**Where the hell does this end? How did this happen in the first place?**

circumstantial, but allow me to present it to you, and maybe you too will conclude that the Board of Governors do not want you in Dalhousie.

1. The Board of Governors wants to increase fees by another 10%. This is when I first became suspicious. Think about it. I return to school after spending an entire summer unemployed, my parents quickly going in debt so I can obtain a university degree, and I don't qualify for a student loan because my father makes too much money which is news to my family. If the Board of Governors wanted to demonstrate that I am welcome in this university, that they are aware of the financial difficulties most students are facing today and that they believe that university exists for students, then they wouldn't have made Dalhousie more inaccessible than it already is.

2. This year's tuition for the Arts and Science's program is \$2415.00. Does this come as a surprise to you? No, me neither. In August when my parents asked how much money I needed for school (and they stressed "needed") I cringed as I told them the price of tuition but I didn't think twice about the actual fee being \$2415.00 + DSU fees + athletic fees + society fees. If I had been observant, I would have noticed that the fees had increased quite a bit, which brings me to...

3. There is no listing in any Dalhousie Academic Calendar of the tuition rates for the 90/91 and the 91/92 school year. Today I decided to check out exactly how much more

I was paying this year than I was in 1991 (I took last year off) and I still don't know. I looked up the academic fees from 86/87 to 92/93 in the Dalhousie Calendars and the only calendar which doesn't cite any tuition fees is the 91/92 edition. And in every other calendar except the 92/93 volume, the academic fee schedule for the preceeding year is listed. So why aren't these fees listed? An oversight perhaps? Or is it part of a conspiracy to keep me from figuring out that (gasp!) the university enforced the 25% increase last year and the 10% increase this year.

4. If fees increase another 10%, that will be 64% since 89/90! Where the hell does this end? How did this happen in the first place? And how many students had no choice but to drop out of university? I'm shocked. I'm mad. And I want the Board of Governors to know about it except...

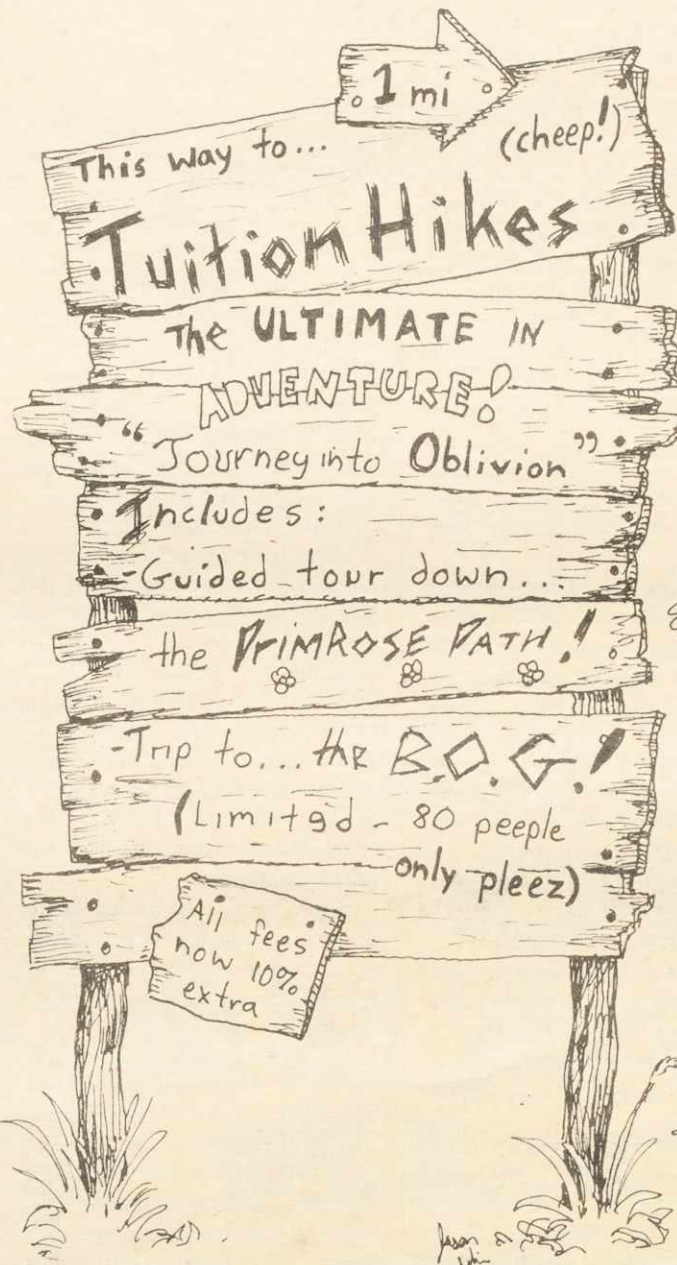
5. I am not allowed to attend the Board of Governors meeting. The meeting which takes place Thursday, January 21 at the McDonald Building is open only to the 80 students who picked up tickets at the President's office and now there aren't any left. The reason for this limited number of people is that the McDonald Building is small. Understandable. However, the DSU has booked the McInnes Room in the SUB so that many more students can voice their concerns with the tuition hikes, but as of this moment (Tuesday, 10:30 pm) the Board of Governors have refused to move their meeting. I keep hoping that they'll change their mind, but that would mean that they are interested in how this tuition increase affects me, which in turn goes against the conspiracy theory I have formed.

**Changing their mind goes against the conspiracy theory**

Do you really believe that you're wanted at Dalhousie? Do you believe education is a right and not a privilege? Do you think there's something wrong with a university that is pushing students out simply because they don't have a lot of money? I am aware that Dalhousie is short of funding, but does the Board of Governors think that asking students to pay even more for it is the answer? And 10% for what?

I don't know about you, but I've decided that Dalhousie doesn't want me. They want \$2656.50.

Judy Reid



Let them eat KD!



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