

## Tuition fees to increase only seven per cent



Tim Hill has lots to be happy about. Dalhousie's Board of Governors voted unanimously to approve a 7% increase in tuition fees, something that Hill and company lobbied tirelessly all year to attain. Keep smiling, Tim.

## Board getting sensitive to students' needs

by Geoff Martin

Dalhousie students can expect to pay only 7% higher tuition fees in the coming academic year, after months of hard work and persuasive bargaining, says Tim Hill, Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) president. Last year students faced a 14% hike in fees.

Citing the unanimous Board of Governors (BOG) decision on Tuesday as a "victory for common sense," Hill and others believe the board is becoming more sensitive to the financial constraints on the students and the problems of accessibility.

Hill says that this year's "tuition campaign" went well because of the number of students involved.

"Many students were involved this year, whether it was in updating the student union report to the board or in filling out questionnaires, which was done by 250 students in Howe and Shirreff Halls," he said.

Last year, former student BOG Rep and now V.P. (external) Atul Sharma wrote a report entitled, "Costs versus Resources: Life on a Sinking Ship," which documented economic hardships faced by Dalhousie students due to high unemployment, inadequate student aid and increasing costs, including tuition.

The first edition of the report, which is partially credited for moderating the 1983-84 tuition increase to 14% from original proposals of 25%, was updated this year by Sharma, former DSU president Peter Rans, Hill and Caroline Zayid, Community Affairs Coordinator.

"It's important to keep in mind that this year was really a culmination of the work of past councils in ensuring that students have a voice and are listened to

by the university Board of Governors," Hill says.

Both the **Residence and Student Relations** committee and the **Finance and Budget** committee of the board recommended the 7%, virtually guaranteeing passage.

The Board of Governors, which conducts its deliberations in secret, is the supreme decision-making body of the university, composed of representatives from the provincial government, the university alumni, and four student representatives, including John Graham, Director of University Services.

"Our argument in the last couple of years has been that as costs are increasing, students from middle and lower income backgrounds are finding it more difficult to attend university," Hill says.

Most students involved in the process, including elected board rep Karl Nightingale, feel that President MacKay and members of the board are becoming more sensitive to student problems.

"The university is now reaching decisions on tuition not only on the basis of how much money the university needs but rather tuition is being viewed as a policy which affects the composition and welfare of the student population," Nightingale says.

Nightingale thinks this shows that their approach in dealing with the board has been successful.

"We haven't been going in hollering—we have been saying that the students are equal partners in the university and that we are prepared to share the financial burden so long as it is based on an understanding of the students' situation," says Nightingale.

Mr. Hill says that MacKay agreed to the 7% increase in a one-to-one meeting this past Thursday. This occurred despite the fact that university vice-presidents, Alasdair Sinclair (Academic) and Robbie Shaw (Administration and Finance) assumed a 10% increase in tuition in the university "budget book" data of November 28 and 30, 1983.

Hill says that MacKay also warned that the tuition issue will be reopened if the government does not increase the university grant by at least 4% for the com-

## Students flock to the law library: noise restricted hours problems at the Killam

by Mary Ellen Jones and Susan Fullerton

Student access to the Weldon Law Library came into dispute last week when a number of non-law students were removed from the library by security.

There are signs in the law library that say the library can only be used by law students or students using law journals for research.

Tim Hill, Dalhousie Student Union president, says that all students should be able to use the facilities. "They pay their tuition too," says Hill.

Law librarian Christian Wiktor sees the matter differently. He says that the library was established primarily to meet the needs of the law community. According to Wiktor, the collections are open to anyone, but when the library is used as a "study hall" its purpose is being defeated.

Hill says that the problem arose not out of a specific need for students to use the law library but out of dissatisfaction with the

other university libraries. Students have complained that the Killam library is not open long enough and without the commissionaires there is no means of preventing noise.

"It's difficult to isolate the problem. It's more of a combination of problems," says Hill.

In an effort to find a solution, Hill says he is "harassing" Admin-

istration Vice-president Alasdair Sinclair. Hill is suggesting that the hours of the Killam be extended for at least the examination period.

In addition to Hill's lobbying, the Ombudsman's office is scrambling for a solution in light of complaints they received regarding the libraries and the question of access.

## Fired Aquinian editors continue to publish

FREDERICTON (CUP)—The Saint Thomas University student union is doing all it can to silence its student newspaper, but the *Aquinian* continues to publish.

At a meeting March 13, the council voted to fire the editorial board of the student newspaper, and announced it was accepting new applications for the job. A week earlier they had ordered it to cease publication. On March 15 they requested the student union building director change the locks on the office doors.

Despite council's efforts, the

paper appeared March 14 under its phonetic namesake, the *Akwinyan*.

"The *Aquinian*, no matter which way you spell it, will definitely be around," said fired editor Peter Boisseau. "We feel we still have a mandate from the students and the university community as a whole to continue publishing in some form."

In a short press release issued March 14 the Saint Thomas student union cited an \$1,800 deficit and dishonesty in reporting as reasons for the action. The union

refuses to clarify further.

Boisseau maintains the *Aquinian* is in fact in the black. Although the paper is temporarily in debt, it will receive \$3,000 in advertising revenue in the near future.

"Regrettably I've been forced to come to the conclusion that council's motives are purely political, and amount to a witch hunt," said Boisseau. The *Aquinian* continues to publish on private donations, support from various organizations and ad revenue.

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