

# Letters cont'd

ing Manager. The resignation arose over a question of missing funds. The President of Student Council, John Logan, has said that while it cannot be proven Ryan is responsible for the missing funds, he feels a good case could be made linking him to a substantial amount. He goes on to say, however, that since Ryan has agreed to repay \$7,900.00, charges will not be laid and that Ryan did a "pretty damn good job" over the years. He adds that to press charges "wouldn't accomplish anything".

Well, I'm not happy, in fact, I'm furious! This sort of thing has been going on for several years at Dalhousie. In fact, there have been several other such incidents this year, yet Student Council continues to decline to press charges. I think that to press charges would accomplish a lot. The attitudes expressed by Student Council through its lack of action condones corruption. It suggests that it is perfectly acceptable to attempt to embezzle funds from the Student Union. If you get away with it, congratulations! you are a winner! - If you don't get away with it, not to worry, we won't press charges, so go ahead and try.

Well, President John Logan - protector of student interests, just what sort of game are you playing? I don't mind paying my \$69.00 student union fee, providing it's put to good use. But I worked hard to earn that money, so I'm sure did many others of the some 8,000-strong student body. We're talking about some \$500,000.00 of our hard-earned money. That leaves potential for a hell of a lot of embezzlement.

If the Student Council is truly representative of student interests and wishes to maintain some sort of credibility with the student body, I say it must act now, press charges against these two people and make an example of them. Clean up your act Student Council!

**Yours truly,**  
**Ted Sams,**  
**a concerned student**

The Financial Planning Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Science, of which I am a voting member, discussed the matter of laboratory fees at considerable length last Thursday. The advice of the student member of the committee, Mr. Neil Erskine, and other students from whom committee members had heard, was that an overall increase in tuition fees would be much more acceptable than special laboratory fees. The following motion was then carried unanimously by the Financial Planning Committee:

It was moved (Erskine/Osberg) that, "in light of expressed student concern as brought forward by the Student Council and other student societies, the Financial Planning Committee recommends that funds which would have been raised through laboratory fees be obtained by a uniform increase in tuition fees for all Arts and Science students, exclusive of Diploma in Engineering students. The additional revenues so generated be directed to departments in proportion to the funds which would have been obtained through laboratory fees."

The required increase in tuition fees, assuming the 1981-82 enrolment figures, is \$33 per student in Arts and Science. This amounts to a 3.2% increase in tuition fees above the 12% inflationary increase already assumed. As the budget needs of the Faculty of Arts and Science are met equally well by this mechanism, I have recommended such an increase to the President and the Vice-President (Finance and Administration). I hope this measure will be seen by all parties as a happy compromise.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Donald D. Betts**  
**Dean**

or films for additional background information.

Back in the fifties when the gallery was in the Arts and Administration Building - in my student days - I saw my first real Picasso courtesy of the Dalhousie Art Gallery. I am indebted to them for the rewarding experience then and for continued pleasure ever since.

I feel that to close the gallery would be a blunder, serving only to reinforce the sad Canadian attitude that all arts are a frill. The duty of the university should be to provide the breath of life to intellectual curiosity, not the kiss of death.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Helen W. Foster**  
**Publications Officer**  
**Dalhousie Ocean Studies Programme**

## Art College supports Dal Gallery

**Dear President McKay:**  
**RE: Proposed Closing of Dalhousie Art Gallery**

With increasing regularity, artists find it necessary to focus on ways to remind others that what they are involved in is of inestimable importance to the entire society. It is regrettable that, in matters of funding and when economic conditions are dismal, decisions about support are made by non-specialists who often indicate neither the interest nor the responsibility to seek informed opinions. When a decision is pending which is of the magnitude of the one which will affect the closure of the Dalhousie Art Gallery, it will be artists who must once again goad administrators into facing the consequences of such an inappropriate action.

It is sad, and almost unbelievable, to read the quotes of the

Vice-President and Dean of Arts and Sciences. The first refers to the closing of the gallery as trimming away the fat before we reach the bone; the second goes considerably further. He mistakenly describes the gallery as a duplication, then as a non-academic luxury like an aquarium, and finally, thinks that closing it this July would be none too soon. Shaw and Betts are quick to assure us that varsity sports will be left intact, Betts reminding us of the esprit de corps they keep up on campus.

There are many questions to be asked. How is the evaluation of a liberal arts education made by a Dean and Vice-President who call a gallery non-academic, when this seems to mean that in **their** university there is not even a basic art history survey offered? Every important institution of higher education has at least such a minimum level of art education, and none of these would mislabel the history or practice of visual arts as non-academic. The misconception voiced concerning the gallery as a duplication of the Provincial Museum has already been clearly rebutted by Linda Milrod and others; if there is serious concern about duplication, we might ask why a new ice rink was necessary when there are so many in the city.

The most disturbing aspect of the projected cut is found in Robbie Shaw's remarks to the effect that he has received a limited response to his suggested cuts, and will wait another week or so to see if more comments come in. He explains that a clear message has been sent and received to save varsity sports. Here we have the gallery unfavourably compared to varsity sports (esprit de corps wins over educational or cultural merit, and there is no comparison of figures for expenditure or attendance) and figuratively tied to the railroad tracks while the knife-wielding Vice-President decides whether the approaching train carries support mail or sports fans. It will not even be the content of such mail which is a deciding factor, but the volume.

Should artists, or the university or city community, fail to recognize the importance of a prompt and extreme response, the gallery will be sacrificed. One would hope for better than those entrusted to direct the future of the university. Is this to be the deciding factor in each decision about continued support from the university? If the gallery is deemed non-academic, what other areas can be mislabeled and then discarded?

For university officials to be so publicly insensitive to visual culture and so willing to be responsible for a complete reversal of the successful operation of the gallery, is unjustifiable. There are grave problems facing our universities, haunted by the specter of underfunding and deficits. But we cannot tolerate, from the institutions themselves, ill-formed policies which undermine the quality of education we have a right to expect.

**Yours truly,**

**Judith Mann**  
**President, Faculty Association**  
**Nova Scotia College of Art and Design**

## A personal place for art.

**Dear President MacKay:**  
By now you have received letters from everybody about the Art Gallery. You can't really close it can you? It is now not only an important part of the university itself but also a connecting link with the cultural community of Nova Scotia.

The letters and reports that you have received are economic, social, cultural, etc. I would like to make mine personal.

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## Lab fee-dback

**To the Editor:**

I would like to inform your readers of further developments in the issue of laboratory fees for science classes.

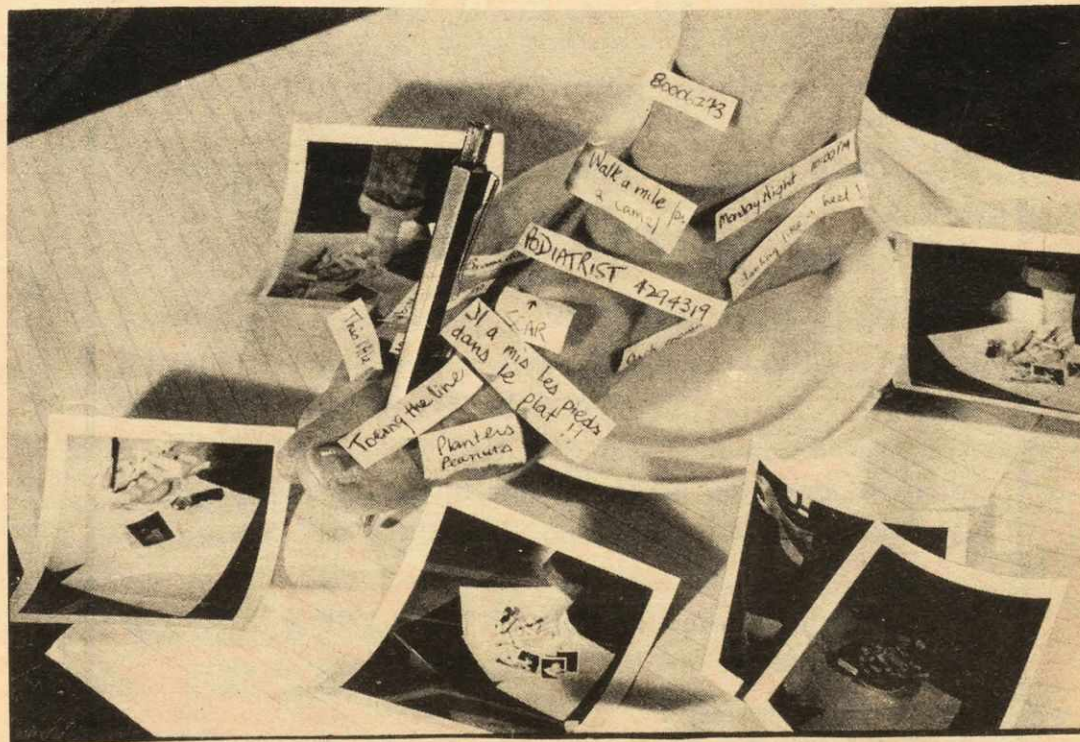
Motions condemning the imposition of special fees for laboratory science classes have recently been carried unanimously in each of Students' Council, the Arts Society and the Science Society. Contrary to what some students seem to believe, the views of students are taken very seriously by the administration at Dalhousie and in particular by the Dean of Arts and Science.

## A "blunder" to close gallery.

**Dear Dr. MacKay:**

I wish to protest most strongly the proposed closing of Dalhousie's Art Gallery. To eliminate this side of university life would make our university poorer. It would close accessibility both for those within the university and for the general public, to experience one of the finer facets of human endeavour, that is, man's creativity. Creation for the joy of the act. Creation that separates man from other species on this earth.

Ours is an active gallery and should be commended and aided. There are other galleries in Halifax, it is true, but most are businesses concerned with sales. They do not add to the enjoyment of the beholder by sponsoring talks by authorities



"FOOTNOTES"

by: BENICHOLS