

Budget insensitive

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good for post-secondary institutions.

"I can understand the concerns of the students, because they would have liked the government to increase the transfer payments to the provinces for post-secondary education," he said.

"Yet from our perspective we see this budget very positively because it strengthens university research."

The budget included \$1.8-billion to improve Canada's research facilities. Most of this money, however, is for non-academic institutions.

But not everybody thinks the

new research funds are a reason to smile.

NDP MP Libby Davies says this budget did nothing to make it easier for students to afford a university education.

"There was mention of increases in research and new networks," she said. "But I think they completely bypassed and failed to address the basic issue of accessibility to post-secondary education."

"And that really is the crisis young people have been facing. That on the one hand they're told, 'Go get a college degree. Go get a university education. Go get a job.' And yet their faced with crippling debt."

Martin also introduced several tax cuts: the elimination of the 3-percent surtax, increasing the personal tax exemption for all taxpayers to \$675, and the addition of \$300-million to the Canada Child Tax Benefit.

How the \$19-billion in new money is being spent:

* \$11.5-billion over five years to the Canada Health and Social Transfer

The remaining programs are funded over three years:

* \$1.35-billion for a series of health programs from new research and innovation (\$550-million) to aboriginal medical care (\$190-million).

* \$2.27 billion for miscellaneous projects ranging from crime prevention (\$395-million) to an increase in military salaries (\$535-million)

* Assistance to the Canadian Fisheries Adjustment and Restructuring Program, and Agricultural Income Disaster Assistance Program (\$2.1 billion)

* \$1.8-billion for improvements to Canadian research facilities

Deflated dollar means libraries suffer

Deep cuts ahead will hinder selection for students

BY JEFF DESJARDINS

The deflation of the Canadian dollar, coupled with high inflation rates, means university libraries will be faced with deeper cuts than usual next year.

"If the dollar were not deflated, we'd have \$250,000 more in our pocket," University Librarian Bill Maes said.

This year, that \$250,000 was replaced through a budget surplus, but that was a one-time payout. Starting in May, libraries are going to start making cuts.

Vicki Whitmell, executive director of the Canadian Library Association, says the problem isn't unique to Dalhousie.

"It's a problem for every library in the nation," she said.

But she also says that university libraries have been particularly hard hit.

"It hasn't been as big a problem for public libraries as it has

for research libraries, because research libraries purchase more expensive publications, such as journals."

The inflation rate for journals is at an all-time high, averaging between 12-and-15 percent per title.

But the administration says it doesn't want to give even more money to the libraries — especially because they don't expect the Canadian dollar to get stronger anytime soon.

They say giving more money to the libraries might take it away from other departments that desperately need it.

But Sam Scully, vice-president academic and research, is quick to point out Dal's commitment to the libraries' welfare.

"[They] are absolutely essential to the academic and intellectual health of universities," he said.

Scully says funding

requirements for all parts of the university are assessed on a year-to-year basis, and since Dal says it can't increase funding to the library, an alternative solution has to be found.

The Killam's Bill Maes says it helps that Dalhousie is one of four universities in Halifax.

"Libraries will share more."

Currently the four metro universities already work together to reduce overlap in what they're ordering.

And they say this helps maximize the number of titles available for students in all of Halifax's universities.

But Scully says if you added the purchasing power of all four Halifax universities together, it still wouldn't add up to the purchasing power the Killam would have had in the 70s.

"Collaboration has got to be a part of it, but it's not the whole solution."

20 years ago this week

Over a billion buns a year

Disco clubs spread across America like fast-food chains, ready to rival McDonald's and KFC. *New York Times Magazine* reported that disco has grown from a few scattered dance halls into a \$4-billion a year business — as big as network television.

One franchise, "2001 Club" was predicted to expand to 150 clubs in the 1980s.

The magazine compared the clubs to computers, each programmed "right down to the macramé wall hangings".

"[They] move a neophyte dancer so smoothly through an evening that he never realizes he is being processed as methodically as a hamburger on a McDonald's grill."

Cuts to research and toilet paper

Cutbacks at the University of British Columbia led to creative budgeting techniques.

First to go was money allocated to drug and alcohol abuse research — with the amount of money available being cut by a third.

To save more money, the university's housing department proposed cutting student assistants, laundry and maid services — and toilet paper.

Waterloo budgets on pinball

The University of Waterloo added a new line to their operating budget: pinball revenue.

When faced with the option of cutting salaries by \$5,000, the campus centre opted to include \$5,000 worth of pinball revenue in the new budget. Previously, money made in the games room had gone to scholarships.

Scholarships were not the only student services hit

by financial troubles. The university Arts Centre, counselling services, and health services all had their budgets slashed.

"I might be wrong, but..."

Students "won't mind" paying more for tuition, books and residence, said Nova Scotia Premier John Buchanan.

"I might be wrong, but I don't think so," Buchanan told student leaders. "The quality of education in Nova Scotia is high enough that students will pay higher fees."

Despite recommendations to increase funding to post-secondary education by 9.5 percent, the Buchanan government budgeted only 5.5 percent, and introduced the idea of differential fees for international students.

In response, Student Unions of Nova Scotia planned a "funeral procession for higher education" in front of Province House.

THE GAZETTE NEEDS NEW EDITORS

The Gazette will be voting on a new editorial board for the 1999—2000 publishing year.

Intention to run for the positions of **Editor-in-chief**
Copy Editor
News Editor

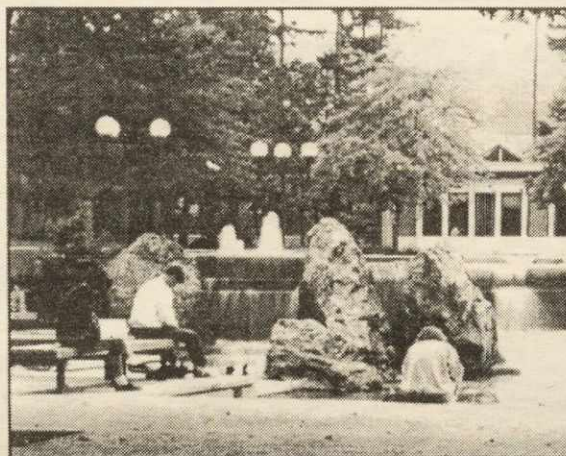
must be submitted to Natalie MacLellan, Editor-in-chief of the Gazette by March 12, 1999.

Section Editor elections will take place on March 22, 1999.

Positions are open to all Dalhousie students.

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