

Hurry up &amp; wait...

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## THE GAZETTE

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## Nova Scotia's Tuition Highest In Canada

### Classroom conditions remain abysmal

BY VANESSA OWEN

In Nova Scotia, students this year will be paying the highest tuition rates in Canada.

This comes as no surprise to Dalhousie Undergraduates, who in the upcoming weeks will fork over on average about \$4,100 to attend university. This is on top of the escalating costs for books, rent, food and entertainment incurred during the year.

Students are faced with the difficulty of paying for their tuition. While it's true part-time jobs are easy to find, they often don't provide enough financial support.

"I have had so many people tell me to just get a job," sighs Belinda MacAskill, a third year chemistry student. "But let's face it, I get paid \$5.50 an hour. It is hardly even worth the sixty or so bucks I take in each week. I would need 5 part-time jobs to support me. My only option is student loans."

The image of the "starving student" is no longer simply an image. Recent tuition hikes have turned the image into a reality for most.

While British Columbia's NDP government has placed a freeze on tuition fees for the past 5

years, Nova Scotia tuition continues to rise.

The increase in tuition, according to Dalhousie Economics professor, Dr. Michael Bradfield, is due in part, to the number of students who come to Nova Scotia to attend university from across Canada.

"Nova Scotia has more university students per capita in part because of the high number of out-of-province students. The Federal Transfer for Post-Secondary Education and now the CHST (Canadian Health and Social Transfer) is based on population, which means it is lower in Nova Scotia."

While Nova Scotia students spend more money, they aren't always coming out of school ahead of other Canadian students.

In fact, Bradfield feels the opposite is true.

"Classes [at Dalhousie] are much larger now [than thirty years ago] and often taught by graduate students with their own studies to worry about and by part-timers who have to teach at two or three universities to make poverty-level income. They are over-worked and under-paid and often not available when students need them."

Adham Zayed, a first year

science student, is finding the over-crowded classroom conditions appalling.

"I don't want to pay \$1000 to sit in an auditorium with 900 other people. We have to write our notes using our laps as desks. It's brutal."

Students, like Zayed, wonder what can be done to lower the cost of tuition while increasing the quality of instruction.

Dr. Bradfield says that the answer lies in University administration spending policies.

"The Dalhousie Board of Governors could change its budgeting policies. For instance its policy with respect to spending out of endowment so that a higher proportion of earnings are spent rather than re-invested "for a rainy day."

Dr. Bradfield feels that university policies are not the only problem.

"The Federal government should restore its funding for education with a new formula based on student numbers, not provincial population," said Bradfield. This should be paid for by an education surcharge on the top 20 percent of income earners."

Many agree with Bradfield.

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## Woman escapes sexual assault

BY DONNA LEE

Dal students and staff are being warned to be careful after a violent assault occurred near the campus.

At around 6 a.m. on Thursday, September 9, a woman was walking through Victoria Park when she was greeted by an unidentified man.

Ignoring the man's greeting, the woman continued walking towards University Avenue. She did not sense that the man was following her until she reached the back parking lot at the Nova

Scotia Rehabilitation Centre. That's when the unidentified man confronted her and tried to sexually assault her.

The woman managed to escape her attacker with knife wounds on her left hand and her left temple. Although the man did not succeed in sexually assaulting her, the police say his intentions were clearly sexual in nature.

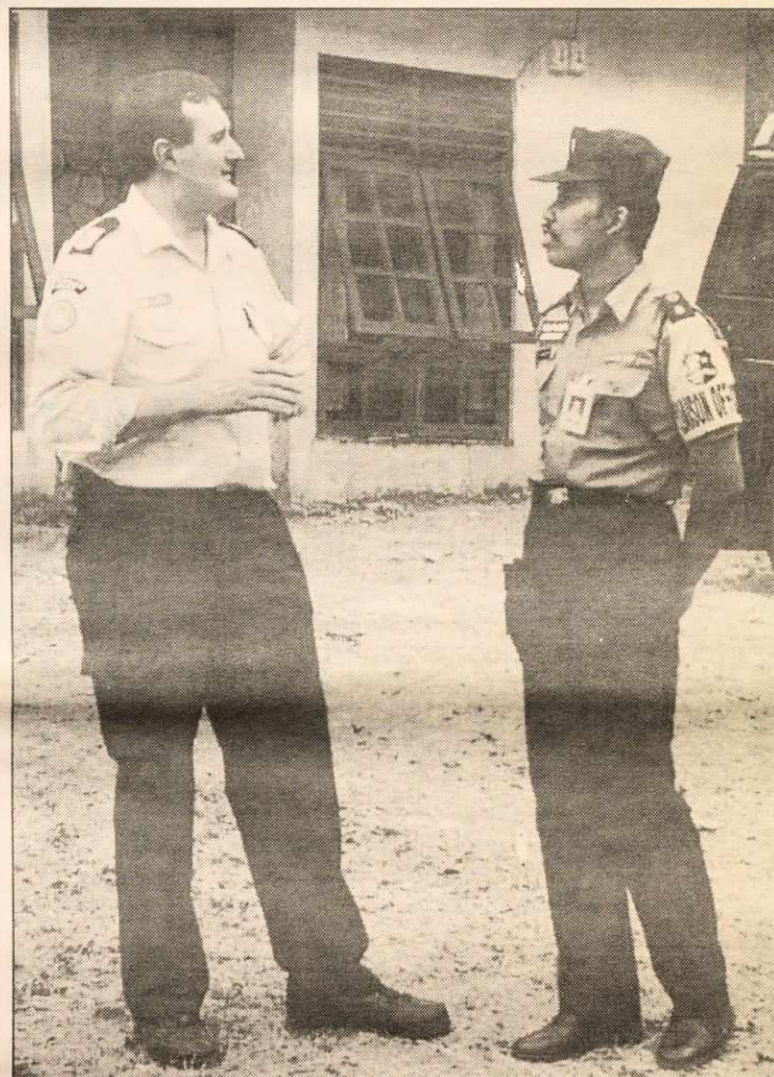
The man fled shortly after the woman escaped. No arrests have been made so far in connection to the crime.

The Halifax Regional Police

is reminding everyone to use caution when walking regardless of the time of day.

"A crime can happen anytime," says a spokesman for the police, "we don't want women to think that they don't need to be diligent during the daytime."

Dalhousie students and staff can take precautions when walking on and off campus. Walk with friends when possible, and stay away from isolated or unlit areas. Pay attention to your surroundings and be prepared to react if necessary.



Before the divorce: Indonesian Police liaise with UN a few days before massacres began.

## Demonstrators call for action

### Massacre in East Timor continues

BY RICHARD MCKERGOW AND KRISHNA LALBIHARIE

TORONTO (CUP) - Demonstrators crowded in front of the Indonesian consulate in Toronto last week to protest the slaughter occurring in East Timor.

Passing motorists honked in support of the nearly 100 activists, which included students, members of the Portuguese community and UN workers.

The demonstration quickly followed the United Nations' announcement to pull out of East Timor after days of escalating bloodshed sparked by the Island's recent vote for independence from Indonesia.

"There are currently clouds of black smoke hovering over East Timor as the Indonesian army follows a scorched earth policy," said event organizer

Maggie Holwig, a researcher for Canadian Action for Indonesia and East Timor.

"We want to get the governments of the world to impose stringent sanctions on Indonesia until the Indonesian government allows a multinational peacekeeping force into East Timor."

Unofficial reports place the death toll in the former Portuguese colony in the hundreds.

The violence in East Timor stems from a historic United Nations sponsored referendum, held on August 30, in the South Pacific Island.

According to referendum results, 78.5 percent of East Timorese voted in favour of independence from Indonesia.

Approximately 98 per cent of 450,000 registered voters are estimated to have participated in

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