

Conservative policies jeopardize future

by Chantal Saxe

The 3% tax on student loans the Federal government is reinstating is a prime example of misguided policy on the part of the Conservative government. Over and over again we are bombarded with the message that Canada must become more competitive in the world market if we are to remain a first world nation with all its attendant privileges. It is this threat of a decline in lifestyle that the government uses to make us swallow unsavoury solutions such as the questionable free trade deal with the United States and Mexico.

Such "remedies" for our flagging status in the world economic market are more likely to enrich the coffers of multi-national corporations while depleting the country of its natural resources and its citizens of steady employment. It is attractive to the government because it keeps big industry on its side and that provides big bucks come election time when money is as important for electoral success as a sound record of policy-making.

In the light of such financially lucrative solutions to the country's economic problems, the government

is blinding itself to the most obvious and effective answer available: the youth of Canada. There are thousands of bright young people ready and willing but unable to help Canada because they can't afford to go to school. Young people are Canada's most precious resource, eager to be

"defeating the best hope for Canada's future"

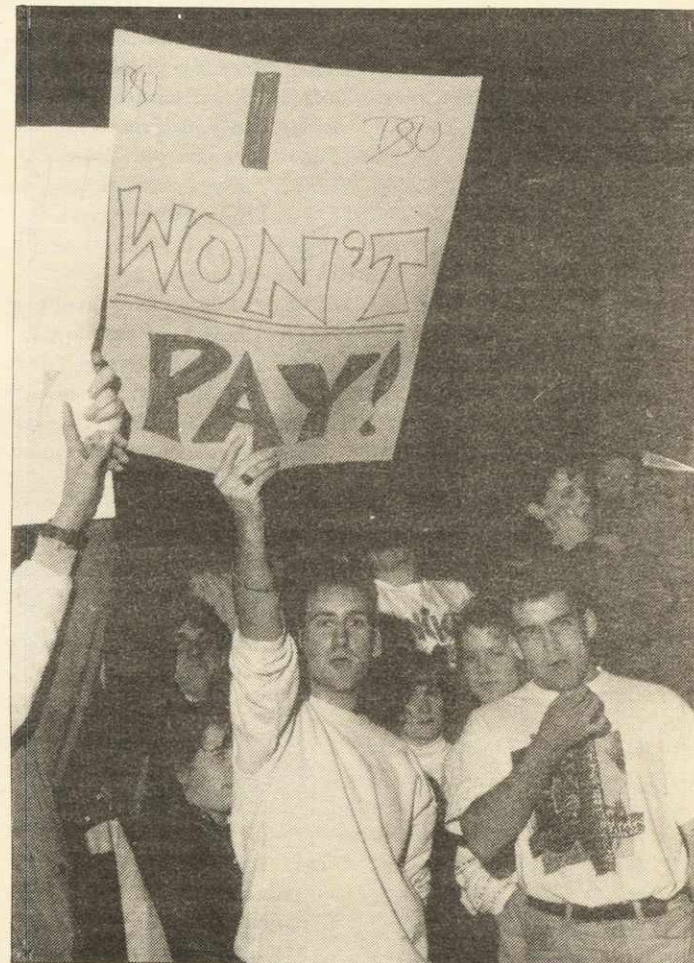
utilized and developed, and even renewable! The government, by imposing taxes on student loans and cutbacks to universities, (which result in higher tuition fees) is defeating the best hope for Canada's future.

When young people realize their country is not interested in them they lose interest in their country. Instead of using their abilities to enrich Canada, they will take them elsewhere, or even worse, give them up. As we can see from the American experience, youth uneducated and unappreciated can seriously threaten the stability of a nation. Not only do they burden the current social system, they carry a resentment of their country into adulthood

which produces violence instead of leadership.

Canada has long been able to sustain itself by reaping the fruits of its natural resources. But most of us are aware that if we continue along the path that we have undertaken, our resources will not sustain us far into the future. By basing our economy on the exploitation of our resources we are setting ourselves up for a severe economic crisis when these resources are drained. Other nations are becoming economically prosperous without the benefit of a large land base and natural assets. This is because they value the people of their country and put energy into tapping the potential of their youth. Canada, by impeding its youth from acquiring a university education, is taking a step backward on the road to national security and world competitiveness.

The government is uninterested in students because, like most worthwhile solutions, education is a long term investment. The benefits cannot be cashed in time for the next election. Until the government realizes that youth are the key to Canada's future, we will continue to see destructive policies such as the tax on student loans.



Our position is obvious.

DAL PHOTO

letters

Time is on my side

To the editor:

Hello... Hello? Did I hear you say you were going to the bar? ... Would I like to? ... Why yes, I'd love... give you a ride downtown? Uh, yeah, I suppose... I didn't want to come, did I? No, no, of course not. I must have mortgages to pay or something.

Okay, so I'm ten years older. I know that's half your life, and it seems like a lot, but it's only a third of mine. And underneath it all, we're really a lot alike.

I know, you think that somewhere around 30 you "grow up", "become an adult", and "think in a mature way".

Don't believe it, it's a myth. The only difference between me at 22 and me at 32 is that I've made a few more mistakes. But guess what... I keep making new ones. And I've got more stuff. The car, the pet, the spouse. But that just means I spend more time worrying about stuff. It's more fun when you don't have it.

Besides that, I'm just like you.

I know it doesn't seem that way. For one thing, I dress differently. It's hard for me to get used to the idea of black boots, two-inch belts and jeans six sizes too big. There's even a chance that I might never quite "get it". You'd probably prefer that I didn't even try.

I guess we might talk a little differently, too. Let's face it. I've been living in the world of bureau-speak for so long it's hard to grasp that I'm supposed to say what I think. In fact, it's hard to know what I think - I'm so used to

thinking how I think I'm supposed to think.

But I still like to eat pizza and drink beer, just like you (okay, sometimes it's a chablis). I really get into good music. I wonder why the world doesn't understand, just like you. Just like I did ten years ago. Just like you will ten years from now.

So next time you are going downtown, say, "Hey, wanna come along?" You'd be surprised. I can have fun. That doesn't stop either.

Jennifer Stephen

Press - idential Polemic

To the Editors:

In the past couple of weeks, there has been a lot of discussion with respect to the frosh events in Howe Hall. Specifically, the incident of a first year student being "Joe Louis(ed)" by a frosh leader, and the subsequent fining and disbanding of Henderson frosh leaders during orientation events at Howe Hall has created considerable dialogue on campus. Questions and comments have been varied and have included "Why is this an issue anyhow?", "How can anyone have that done to them during Frosh Week?", "What does the university think it is doing anyhow?", "Good they deserved it!" and "How could the DSU condone what happened over there?". While last week's *Gazette* article "Hazing at Henderson: the

whole story" by Adam Newman attempted to address the incidents at Howe Hall, it has still left people wondering how and why the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) is involved. I hope that this letter finally clarifies the matter for all of those still wondering.

It is important for all students to realize that the DSU has not and never will condone any activity where students feel harassed or victimized. Our first and foremost responsibility as a Student Union is to students. If any student feels that they have been harassed or made to feel victimized by anyone, or any situation, they have a concern which will be viewed as legitimate by the DSU. It takes a great deal of courage to come forward and share your experiences with others. It not only demands respect from others, but deserves it.

Orientation Week at Dalhousie is organized and conducted by the DSU. It is ideally a time where new students have the opportunity to become familiar with the University, meet other students and learn about the facilities and services offered by the community. It should be a positive experience and "ice breaker" before the start of classes. Any incident or experience which detracts from that ideal, negates the purposes of Frosh Week, and more importantly sours a person's first experiences at Dalhousie. The incident in Henderson House is an activity that left at least one first year student feeling that way, which takes away from the success of Frosh Week, whether it is on-campus or off-campus.

There are, however, several points that have to be made with respect to this matter. First of all, the DSU had not adopted an official position with re-

spect to the Henderson issue. Our involvement had been limited to the meeting at which the frosh leaders were disciplined by the university. At that point, Todd MacIntosh, DSU Treasurer and myself were present as observers, specifically to find out what the issue was and what the university was planning to do. We were simply present at the request of members and not representing DSU Council.

Since that meeting, however, the DSU has expressed concern over how the matter has been dealt with by the university, specifically by those individuals directly responsible for the administration of the residences. Frosh leaders were disciplined for activities which as they suggest, were based in "tradition" for Howe Hall. The university has instead deemed that particular behavior as inappropriate and has disciplined the frosh leaders. Our concern has focused around the fact that this university does not have a non-academic discipline policy which would specifically outline that behavior which is inappropriate and the subsequent disciplinary action which would ensue. At present, the university has wide licence to deem what it feels as inappropriate and an apparently unidentifiable realm of discipline. It is for these reasons that the Henderson incident is not just about harassment and the university's actions are important concerns to the DSU.

I think it would help to dispell some of the rumours unknowingly picked up by the *Gazette's* article on Henderson. No, Dennis MacNeil, DSU Executive VP, and I did not issue apologies to Frosh leaders in Henderson after their discipline was handed down. (I'm still trying to figure out why we would

apologize - we didn't discipline them.) And no, Dennis is not trying to shut down the *Gazette*, though it was pretty funny that people thought he or the DSU were capable (or crazy enough) of doing it.

As well, this issue shouldn't develop into a "Howe Hall bashing session". There are obviously concerns with respect to On-Campus Frosh Week that need to be addressed, and will be addressed in the future. The Howe Hall Residents Council has made strides to accommodate concerns of past Frosh events by working cooperatively with residence administrators. In an effort to further cooperation with residence administrators, and to show support for offended frosh, Howe Hall President Jeff Rapell offered an alternative disciplinary action for Henderson frosh leaders which was refuted by residence administrators. It accepted all aspects of the university's disciplinary action, minus the fines and the banning of non-residence frosh leaders for the year.

I can only hope that this letter makes it clear, once and for all, what my position is, and the concerns raised by the DSU with regards to the "hazing" at Henderson. It is also important for students to be informed about the "whole" and not "half" the story.

Lale Kesebi

President

Dalhousie Student Union