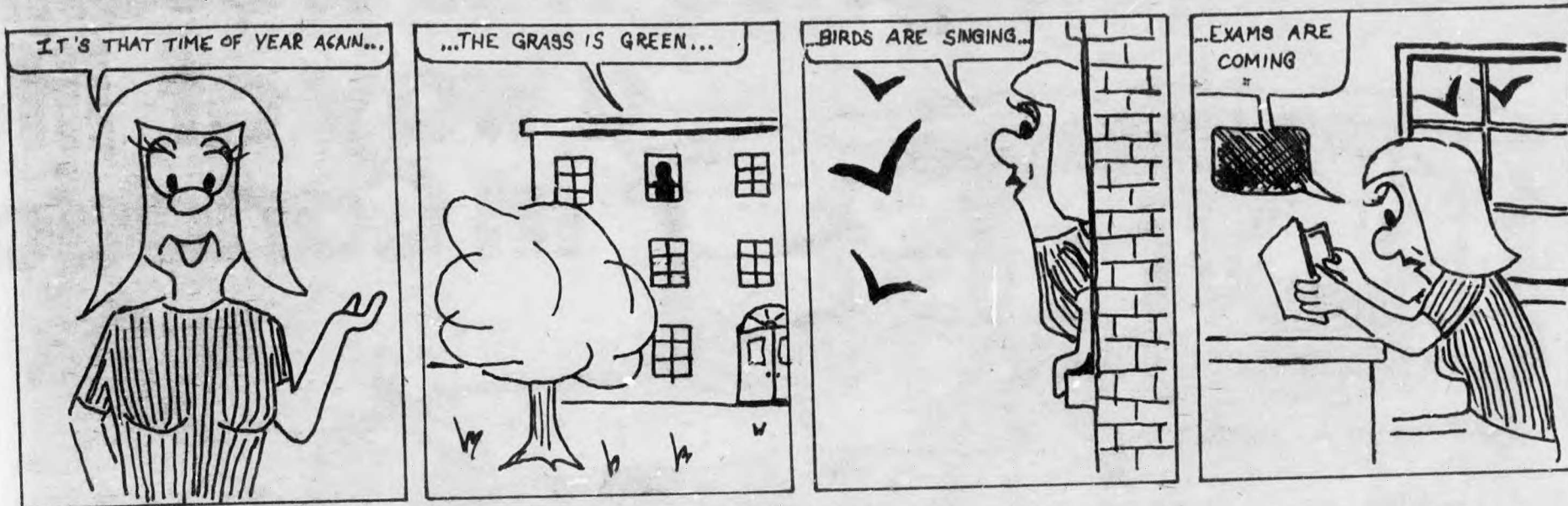


POTPOURRI ... SPRING HAS SPRUNG ...



Open Letter to UNB Faculty and Administration

graduate fees to be increased by \$100

by alex dim

The combined effect of the two recent decisions of the University Board of Governors has shocked and disappointed the graduate student body. The decisions were, firstly to increase the faculty salaries by approximately 12% (in itself a very laudable action given a better financial situation of the University) and secondly, to do this at the expense of the post-graduates by a 25% increase in their fees. The reasons advanced for such measures are that this would bring UNB in line with the

majority of Canadian Universities. At first glance these measures would appear reasonable. At present the professional salaries at UNB rank at the bottom quarter of the Canadian range. This represents a differential of approximately \$5000 between UNB and the top rated universities which are located predominantly in cities and provinces with higher living costs. The actual differential in terms of purchasing power is therefore somewhat lower. Another reason put forward

for higher salaries is to attract "good men" to the faculty - to be competitive. This can be misleading. If the University was expanding which it cannot do with its present financial crisis, then it could take its pick of the glut of Ph.D.'s on the market.

The English Department, thanks to its well-earned high reputation, has received over 300 unsolicited applications for faculty positions. Surely not all were bad, even though the majority were from the USA! A recent Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering found that the salaries offered by a number of east west USA Universities. Surely this indicates that this university is well in the competition.

It is true that the present tuition and residence fees at UNB are lower than most other universities. Let us compare them with Dalhousie, the other big Maritime University. Compulsory fees at Dal amount to \$558 which is \$123 above the present UNB total of tuition and SRC fees. Residence at Dalhousie cost \$855 for double room (\$930 for single) compared to \$800 (\$850) at UNB. However, this includes board and lodging over the Christmas vacation period which would cost the

UNB president about \$80 extra.

On the other hand, a top M.A. student in the UNB Arts faculty can expect to receive a maximum of \$2800 for the calendar year. Dalhousie offers a maximum of \$3200. The Arts Ph. D. student at UNB could supplement his maximum of \$3200 with teaching duties as long as it was not more than three hours per week. (Now some departments are reducing the number of teaching assistantships offered). Dalhousie will take a similar student to \$4000 before he needs to supplement this by teaching. The position of the post-graduate in pure and applied sciences is somewhat better, at an average level of \$3500 without teaching assistantships. This is mainly due to external financing by such bodies as the NRC.

The hardest hit student will be the one who is married and has a family which prevents the wife from obtaining regular employment. While the single student living in residence can probably manage to exist for incidentals, the married student supporting a wife and child cannot get by on less than \$4000.

It has been argued, rather

cynically we feel, that the University has no obligation to fully support the student, let alone his dependents. Quite true, but how many graduate student handbooks explicitly point this out? How many state that one has to have an independent source of income to go for a higher degree? And if this was pointed out, how many good students would be for continuing their education, at least in Canada?

We do not begrudge the faculty their increase even though it comes at a time when the whole nation is trying to curb inflation. We, too, hope to be on college faculties some day. But most of us cannot afford to pay for this, especially in view of the projected taxation of fellowships.

Why not at least let it ride for a year? Why not give those who are in their final throes a chance to finish without the risk of privation over their heads? Why not give those how are not yet fully committed a chance to opt out, and those who are, a chance to organize their finances?

Forewarn the incoming student of the degree to which the University is prepared to support them.

In short, give us a fair go!



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Pictured above is the recently formed SDS commune. If the revolution is to continue to grow, ideological discussion must be fostered by physical proximity of the leaders of this revolution.

photo by hong