

# Dalhousie stops enrollment of foreign students

by Robert Stanley

If you're a foreign student, you might not be welcome at Dalhousie University anymore.

Due to a quota on foreign students unilaterally imposed by President MacKay, the University may not even consider your application.

In late August, MacKay instituted the quota. "I told the Registrar not to accept any more foreign students, except in special circumstances," said MacKay. He did not specify what these "special circumstances" might be. Until this recent development Dalhousie has had an open door policy for visa students. Many students registering since the quota was imposed were not told anything of the limit, and have been inconvenienced by not being accepted.

The unofficial quota has sparked a fiery debate over MacKay's decision and the meaning and direction of a quota system at Dalhousie. Student union president Peter Rans said, "He instituted the quota system on his own, without consulting the Board of Governors or Senate. This offends me, if true." Rans also stated that if a quota system must

be established, its criteria should be based on academic merit, not nationality.

The president says the decision was made due to a large increase in accepted applications of foreign students at Dalhousie. The increased enrollment was concentrated in three departments - B.S.C. (Computer Science), graduate studies, and commerce, each of which had increases of more than 100 per cent in accepted foreign students over 1981 enrollment figures. The quota, however, applies to admittance to any and all Dalhousie departments.

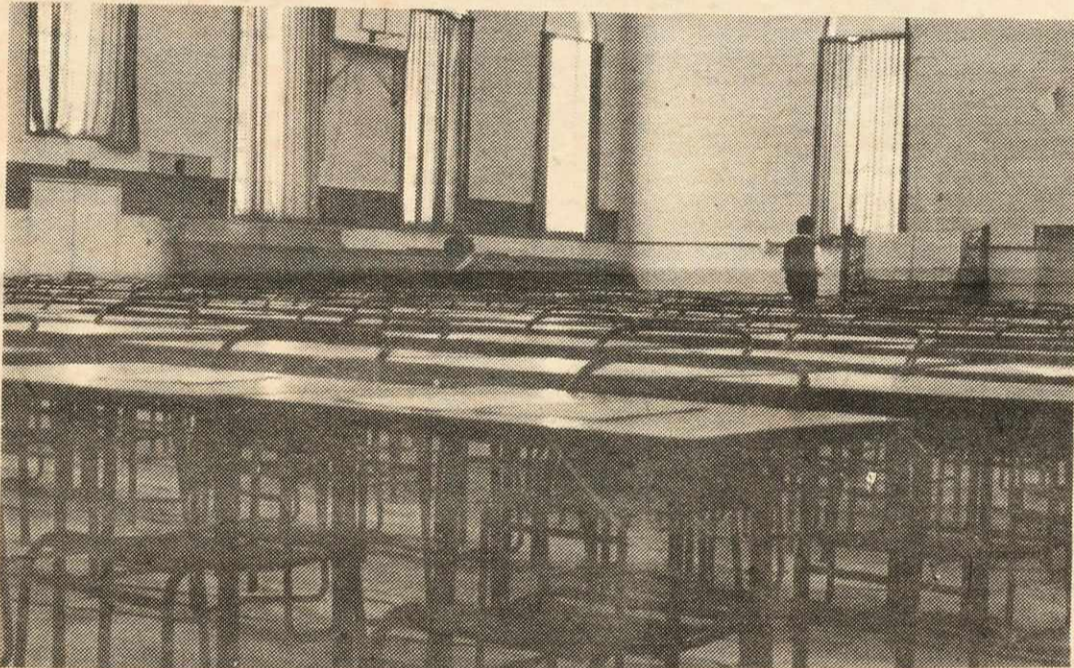
MacKay voiced his concern that departments with too many visa students in first year classes wouldn't be able to provide an adequate program. He also expressed concern over foreign students' ability to cope with English, stating that "Some students come here with an inadequate knowledge of English to cope with their university courses."

The political implications of increased foreign student enroll-

ment was cited by MacKay as another consideration. In British Columbia, the provincial government threatened financial cutbacks to universities because of a high foreign student population. Vancouver's Simon Fraser University was forced to introduce a seven per cent foreign student quota for their undergraduates under this threat. President MacKay fears the same strategy will be adopted by our provincial government. He stated, "It is time for Senate to address the issue of a quota system in certain programs."

Sharon Davis, the International Student Representative on council, would not comment until she had established the facts at a meeting with University vice president Robbie Shaw.

John Russell, student union internal vice-president, agrees with the quotas in general. However, he said the system should ensure that foreign students who cannot afford university are given an opportunity to come to Dalhousie. "President MacKay is only wrong in the way he went about adopting his decision," said Russell.



## Students cut out of picture

VANCOUVER (CUP) - "Drown in debt," says graffiti scrawled outside the University of B.C. student awards office.

Inside, a frenzied staff reply to questions and hand out still more applications for financial aid.

But the staff cannot tell students how much money they'll receive, or if they'll get any grants above their student loans. The staff can't tell students when they'll receive their loans, or when they'll find out what became of their applications.

In fact, about the only concrete information students can obtain about student aid is that they'll

probably get less than they asked for.

Meanwhile, many students who filled out their financial aid application by the July 2 deadline for receiving funds by the beginning of classes had yet to receive any money as school went into its first week.

"Our understanding is that students who get their loan applications in on time will get their documents by the end of the week," said UBC awards director Byron Hender September 13.

But when the documents arrive, students will receive only the loan

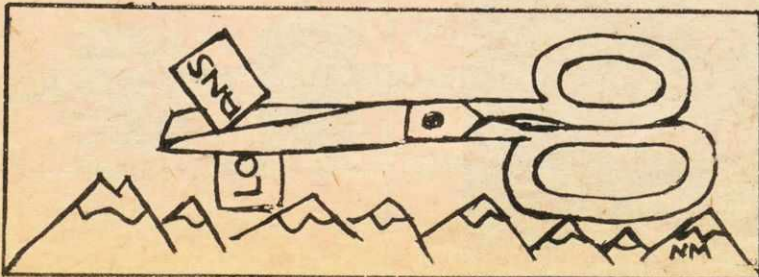
portion of their financial aid request.

The situation is the result of delays in decision-making by the provincial government cabinet. The cabinet has yet to allocate funds for student grants, and officials said a final decision may not be made for another month.

The cabinet is toying with the fate of student funds because aid applications in B.C. have increased dramatically over last year. The cabinet originally allocated \$12.6 million for grants, and despite the increased applications, Dean Goard, the B.C. university programs director, said, it is unlikely the allocation will increase.

This means everyone will get lower grants, he said.

"If student aid is to be increased that will come out of the operating grant to universities," Goard said. "We've (already) told the universities that they'll have to cut up to \$12 million from their operating budgets."



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SUB.

See you there!  
X  
Stanley T. Editor