

The student fee also rises

TORONTO (CUP)—The Ontario provincial government is threatening to renege on its promise to increase university funding by two per cent next year.

The move would deal a \$64 million blow to Ontario universities. The University of Toronto said it will be forced to lay off staff, reduce its curriculum and hike tuition fees if the increase falls through.

Peter George, president of the Council of Ontario Universities, and David Smith, the organization's chair, said the impact of the province renegeing would be compounded by the fact that the promise was too small to begin with.

The effects of eliminating the two per cent increase would be disastrous for U of T because the university has already budgeted and begun restructuring based on the promise.

There are rumours circulating out of Queen's Park that the government will try to compensate for the cut by allowing universities to implement drastic tuition fee hikes.

Rick Martin, a spokesperson for the Association of Part-Time Students said he has heard the tuition fees could go up by 30 per cent while Ken Craft, chair of Ontario Federation of Students said "a source close to cabinet" told the student lobby groups to expect an 11 per cent increase and the elimination of Ontario Student Assistance Program grants.

The salary also rises

WINNEPEG (CUP)—Female teaching staff still earn less than male teaching staff at Canadian colleges and universities, a Statistics Canada study has found.

The study compared the pay of full-time instructors at 19 different Canadian schools. On average, women earned \$9,000 less than men. At some schools, women earned as much as \$17,000 less than men.

Only Edmonton's Concordia College paid female instructors a higher salary. Women earned an average of \$50,669 as opposed to \$48,711, the salary men earned.

Average reported salaries at the University of Manitoba for women were \$15,236 less than men's, and median wages were \$19,293 lower.

The report cautioned many factors can influence the salary figures, including "the age and qualification profiles of the teaching staff and the number of years in the ranks."

The smoke also rises

WINDSOR (CUP)—Flower pots that were used to grow marijuana are being used in biology research projects at the University of Windsor.

The city's police services board voted at the beginning of November to donate equipment seized from marijuana growers to the university instead of selling it at an auction.

The board decided to donate the equipment to the university because it was worried the equipment would fall back into the hands of marijuana growers. Often at auctions, dealers buy the equipment and are in operation within a few weeks.

The university picked up high-tech lighting equipment, a large quantity of fertilizer, flower pots and pumps, and timers used for automatic watering.

The equipment is being used throughout the university's biology department, and two professors have plans for the equipment already.

Hugh MacIsaac will use it to study zebra mussels and Donavon Thomas will study aquatic plant growth with the help of a powerful mercury vapour lamp.

The university was given first choice of the available equipment. Local school boards and a college will also be offered similar equipment for their horticultural programs.

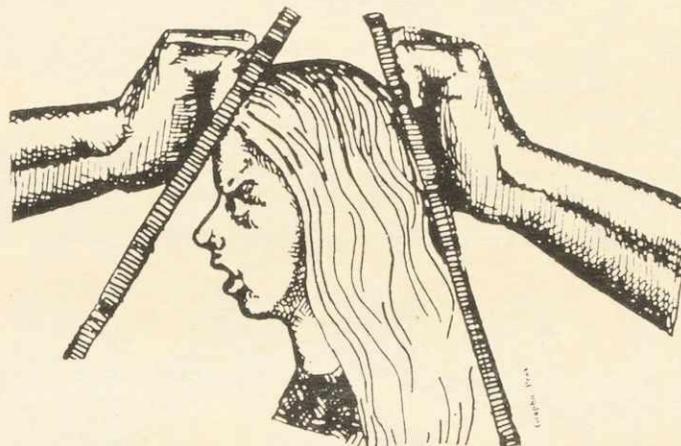
Help stop the atrocities

Judy Reid

This week Dalhousie students can sign a world wide petition as one action in support of the second international campaign of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.

The 16 Days of Activism takes place each year from November 25 to December 10 with women's groups in every region of the world organizing public events to raise people's awareness of, and to take action against, gender violence. The petition which emerged during the 16 Days Campaign in 1991 is available in the SUB lobby at the Dalhousie Women's Collective table as part of the Week of Reflection. By signing, students will be calling upon the United Nations to address women's human rights and gender violence as central concerns during the first World Conference on Human Rights in 25 years, which will be held in Vienna in June 1993.

Despite statements such as "everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person" and "no one shall be subject to torture or to cruel, inhu-



man or degrading treatment or punishment" in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, violence against women and girls is still a universal phenomenon. For example, in Canada, 62 per cent of female homicides are the result of wife-battering; in India, girls aged 2 to 4 die at twice the rate of boys because of systematic malnutrition and neglect; and currently, 84 million women around the world have been subjected to genital mutilation. Although this is an undeniable form of human rights abuse, it is often ex-

cluded from the international human rights agenda.

As of September 1992, over 100,000 signatures in more than 80 countries had been gathered and will continue to be collected until June 1993.

Please take part in the Week of Reflection as well as the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. Drop by the SUB to sign a petition, to support women's voices and perspectives, and to ensure they are heard at the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights.

Dal pays the piper

by Ryan Stanley

If Dalhousie students held any lingering hopes that the pressure of rising education costs might be eased sometime soon, they should think again. And while they're at it, they might as well get used to declining quality of programs and services, too.

This was the boiled-down message of a presentation made by the university's financial gurus to the Students' Union on Tuesday, November 24. The approximately 25 students present at the poorly advertised meeting received a foretaste of the bitter medicine to come.

The problem, as always, is Dalhousie's \$27 million debt. The latest of a series of models being considered by the university's financial planners projects a reduction of this figure to \$13 million by the year 2011.

Most significant for students is the assumption, as a basis of the model, of 10% tuition fee increases every year for the next five years.

Ian Nason, Director of Financial Services, stressed that this model is neither a policy nor a completely reliable projection. He said that it simply asks, "If we assume a set of policies governing revenue and expenditure, what would the outcome be?"

Indeed, the model, prepared by the Financial Strategy Committee, contains a liberal dose of optimism. For one thing, it assumes that grants from the provincial government, which now account for about 77% of Dalhousie's operating budget, would not increase until the year 1994-5,

after which they would rise by three percent a year. But Nason admits even this small figure may not be realistic.

Bryan Mason, Dalhousie's Vice-President (Finance and Administration), outlined the university's long-term plan for reducing spending. The measures include non-replacement of faculty who retire (a policy which has been in place since 1988), as well as more vigorous fundraising, an ongoing energy conservation program and sale of properties owned by the university. The university has also,

"We'll pay for it later. Well, now is later."

in recent years, reduced its contribution to the employees' pension fund.

Mason traced Dalhousie's current problems to a period in the 1960's and 1970's when the university expanded rapidly, erecting new buildings and buying up property. "We didn't always have the money available to pay for these projects," he said. "They said, 'We'll buy it, we'll build it, we'll worry about paying for it later.' Well, now is later."

He emphasized that the approach to reducing the debt is not entirely one of crisis management. It also includes a commitment to pay equity, which will necessarily increase

expenditures, as well as more student services and closer adherence to environmental health and safety standards.

Still, as enrolment continues to rise, the trend will clearly be towards larger classes and outright elimination of some programs.

The meeting with DSU Council was the direct result of criticisms voiced last year when the Board of Governors attempted to push through a 10% fee hike. Said Lâle Kesebi, DSU President, "There was some concern that there wasn't ample notice given to students." Vociferous protests forced the Board to delay approval of the increase, although it was eventually passed.

As a result, the Administration pledged to inform students more fully of its budgetary plans. However, the November 24 meeting was only announced two days previously, a fact which undoubtedly contributed to the low turnout.

Hermie Abraham, one of three student representatives on the Board of Governors, said other factors were at work. "It depends how angry students are," she said. "They may have had the wind taken out of their sails because last year they didn't have much effect in the end."

Nonetheless, she contended, "We did get something out of it." Student lobbying secured the expansion of provisions for financial assistance, she noted, as well as the promise of consultations in the event of further fee rises. "It shows that we're making inroads, and that we can go farther," she said.