

Ethical reflections on restraint and renewal

Written by David G. C. McCann
6th Year Dal Student

While some might compare the university's fiscal policy of renewal and restraint to the War Measures Act, it is nonetheless clear that something must be done to resolve Dalhousie's grave budgetary problems. What is not so clear is whether the steps being taken to alleviate the situation are ethical and efficacious. Certainly, the need to "balance the budget" is unquestionable—the university cannot continue to function properly while maintaining such

an overwhelming budget deficit. As with any problem, though, the methods used to arrive at the solution are at least as important as the solution itself.

First, it is important to recognize that the current financial crisis cannot wholly be attributed to the present administration. It was precipitated, at least in part, by the previous administration's period of unprecedented expansions. The last ten years have seen Dalhousie grow substantially in physical as well as educational resources, e.g. the Dalplex. Such ambitious undertakings in

this day and age come at a very high price. Mortgaging our future has finally caught up with us. Then, of course, it must be remembered that high interest rates and the overall poor state of the economy have played a role in bringing us to this impasse. Last spring, the *coup de grâce* came when the provincial government cut Dalhousie's earmarked funding by some \$2 million.

Looking at the situation analytically, a number of obvious conclusions may be drawn. The attempt at balancing the budget by centralization of resources was only partially successful and was predicated on misplaced trust in the provincial government's keeping their end of the bargain. Despite trimming all the fat (and part of the meat and bone) from the university, there

is still a deficit. In addition, ancillary services have suffered more than their fair share of cutbacks so that departmental budgets could be maintained. The result is that the overall level of services on campus has decreased while tuition has increased. This is more clearly unethical and unfortunate. One does not charge students more in order to give them less. As unacceptable as major tuition hikes are to most students, insult is heaped on injury when services are cut at the same time.

What, then, can be done to solve this enigma? The fact is that no matter how much shuffling of funds occurs, the whole is still equal to the sum of its parts. The university's operating capital is insufficient to deal with all of its expenses. Students, so far, have borne the brunt of trying to rectify this situation. It is time that

Dr. MacKay start using his influence as a University President to lobby the provincial and federal governments for increased funding for post-secondary education. If he has been doing this, it certainly is not obvious. We have done the best we can with what we have. We provide a service to society and deserve our quarter.

It is important that the administration re-examine its directions in its attempt to recover financial solvency. Ethics dictates that the students be given the highest possible quality of education for their hard-earned money. That is not being done. The administration must always remember that the university exists to serve the students, not vice versa. Let us hope that the university will soon recognize the error of its ways and bring about more ethical solutions to its current dilemma.

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PUZZLE PUZZLE PUZZLE

Battle Cry

A Words, Eh?

by Peter Robert Jarvis

Solution 6 Letters

LAST WEEK'S: BOBBING FOR APPLES

-4-

Helper
Related
Woe!
Donation
Soon, Shakespeare!
Where down South?
Car bar

-5-

Billy Van, For One
It Leads To Marriage
Clock Type
Pewter or Brass
What noise does to an oyster
Heart's exit
Pale

-6-

Calculator
Moor
Hymn
Wandering
Steve Austin's Power

-8-

Termites' Foe
Repute
Pilgrim's Progress' Symbol
In Praise of God
A Sign
Murderer
Sports Inclined
It Surrounds Us
John Steed et al.

-9-

Arcades are a Form of It
The worship of stars

-10-

Shirley Temple's one now

-11-

We're Under Pressure

-12-

Associate or Friend

-14-

It goes with Arts
They may be on this page

-15-

Recognition

The Student's Union of Nova Scotia
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Tuesday, Nov. 22nd,
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