

## Speak out

ON DECEMBER 20, 1985, the Royal Commission on Post-Secondary Education released its long-overdue report.

If some, or all, of the recommendations in the report are implemented, the future of Nova Scotia universities looks bleak.

Among the worst of the recommendations which directly affect students is the recommendation to drastically increase tuition fees.

The commission suggests students are the direct beneficiaries of a university education and therefore should assume a larger share of the cost of their instruction. It goes on to say that "attendance at university is not a social necessity. Despite the benefits that accrue to society, it remains a personal option limited to those who are suitably qualified by ability and attainments."

The commission suggests students should be paying for 30 per cent of their total educational cost instead of the current 15 per cent. This would mean an increase in tuition fees of \$200 per year for the next five years, totalling 71 per cent.

If this is implemented, children of the rich will ultimately be the only ones attending universities on Nova Scotia. They will be the ones receiving the education

which should be accessible to all students with the ability to enter university.

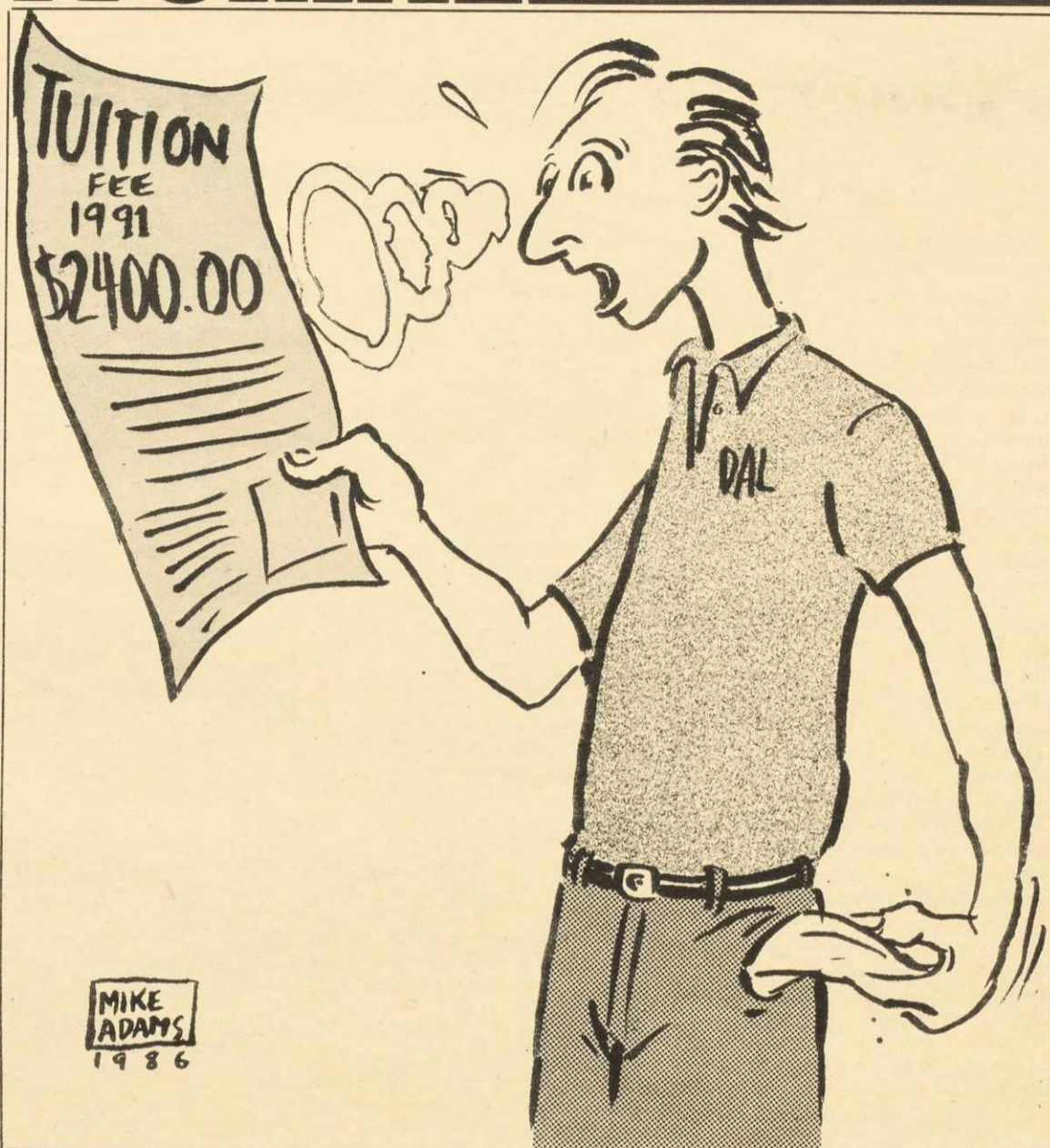
If the government expect students to pay double what they are paying now, the result will be a higher debt load at the end of university of those students who receive loans during their educational.

If some students are lucky enough to finish university without a debt to pay off, they will be paying for education through taxes. Paying twice for what ultimately benefits society makes little sense.

Another result of higher tuition fees will be fewer students, fewer ideas entering the university system. It seems strange that in a changing society such as ours, the Nova Scotia government would even consider eliminating accessibility to all students who are willing to exchange knowledge. After all, this is what university is all about.

It has been nearly one month since the Royal Commission released its report, and a tuition fee increase is only one recommendation of 115 affecting students. There has been little reaction from students. It is their responsibility to find out what could happen if the recommendations are implemented.

It is the students' responsibility to speak out.



## Time for Dalhousie to divest

THE WINDS OF CHANGE that have blown across several campuses in the United States and that of McGill in Canada, intensifying activism for political and human rights in South Africa, have passed us by.

Like their colleagues in other universities, students should be wondering whether money put in trust for them is being used by the Botha government to strengthen its strangle-hold over the opponents of apartheid in South Africa.

It is clearly immoral to garner profits from a system of institutionalized racial oppression, a system in which 4 1/2 million whites suppress politically, financially and emotionally 22 million blacks in the name of "separate development".

Knowing that sanctions to the extent that we might wish for will never be implemented by Western governments and corporations, we should do our part to aid in the struggle.

The DSU and the Senate have passed motions favoring the withdrawal of five million dollars invested in corporations that in effect support the racist regime.

Dalhousie can join the 60 institutions across North America who have so far removed five bil-

lion dollars in investments from South Africa.

No one is contesting the Investment Committee's obligation to make responsible investments. However, the "prudent man" rule to which it seems bent on adhering does not take moral, political or social factors into consideration.

Let us hope that after giving the proposal "due consideration" the Board of Governors decides to withdraw Dalhousie's investments in the corporations that according to Bishop Desmond Tutu "buttress an evil system."

### Thank-you

To the Editor,

On behalf of the Dalhousie Tigers men's basketball team, I would like to thank all of the residence students from Howe and Shirreff Halls who came out and supported us on our January 10 game against Mount Allison. In my five years at Dalhousie, last Friday's crowd was the largest we have ever had for a game against Mount Allison and it was easily one of the noisiest crowds we have

ever had at Dalhousie.

We hope that the residence students, as well as all Dalhousie students, will continue to support the Tigers as we drive for the Final Four. Once again, thank you, and we hope to see you at our next home game against St. Francis Xavier at 8:30 p.m. on January 28.

Sincerely,  
Bo Malott

### Empty rhetoric

To the Editor,

It is comforting to know that the days of enlightened and responsible criticism are not dead but simply resting peacefully. The past three issues of *The Gazette* enjoyed stinging political commentary from the letters of Misters MacIntosh, Jacobson, and Peach on the subject of SUNS — that favourite of student political footballs. These experts of the provincial scene have provided scathing rebukes of our provincial students organization with such criticisms as duplication and financial irresponsibility.

Their letters contain no evidence or examples of these accusations, but hollow dogmatic statements rarely do. It is wearisome to hear these political pundits that criticize something that they neither know anything about nor take the time to find out about. SUNS provides the only province-wide student voice to the media, the government, and the public — for one dollar

and fifty cents. The executive receive no honouraria nor do we have any full-time staff. Where are the financial excesses?

The province is now pondering a 100% tuition hike, an end to the bursary program, and the closing of university departments while others try to score political points with empty rhetoric. For those who wish to participate in the SUNS conference on the Royal Commission, it will be held at Saint Mary's on the weekend of January 18-19, however do not expect the aforementioned critics to bring their opinions to this debate as their letters indicate that an accessible and quality education system in N.S. is not among their chief political priorities.

Yours truly,  
James LeBlanc  
Chair — SUNS

### DSU immoral?

To the editor,

*Conscience is a open wound and only truth can heal it. (Uthman dan Fodio 1754-1816)*

I was surprised to read in *The Gazette* of Jan. 9th in the article "Banking Machine Practical", by Valerie Matheson, that the vice president of Dalhousie Student Union, Reza Rizvi, in his attempt to justify the student union's action on transferring its account from the Bank of Montreal to the Royal Bank contends that "all Canadian banks now invest in South Africa." This is totally

inaccurate.

With the exception of the Royal Bank, all of the major banks in Canada have adopted some restrictions in their dealings with South Africa. Only the Royal has held out, giving the impression that only the Royal is pro-Apartheid. It seems most peculiar that the Dalhousie Student Union takes this precise moment to move its funds out of the Bank of Montreal which adopted restrictions in business dealings with South Africa to the Royal which has not. The Student Union just has no legitimate explanation for its actions.

Dalhousie still invests in South Africa. At McGill, the Student Union was the initiator of McGill's decision to pull out its shares from the companies with business connections in South Africa. Where does our Union stand on this issue? If it chooses at this time to positively support the pro-Apartheid bank, how can the same union ask Dalhousie's governors to act on moral principles and divest? The Union itself has gone out of its way to be immoral.

James Kadyampakeni.

A petition can be signed by those interested in urging the Dalhousie University Board of Governors to divest its South African stock at the Student Union offices, SUB rm. 222.