

There is no Solution

Early March. The mess seems to have finally been cleaned up. After a couple of scary and frustrating weeks, students are finally receiving their bursary cheques which were delayed due to a massive screw-up by the provincial student aid office.

But to look back . . . February 15: Four months after the deadline for bursary applications, and one month after New Brunswick students had received their cheques, Nova Scotian students were desperately awaiting theirs. According to DSU president Caroline Zayid, at that point, only about a quarter of Dal students expecting bursaries had got them.

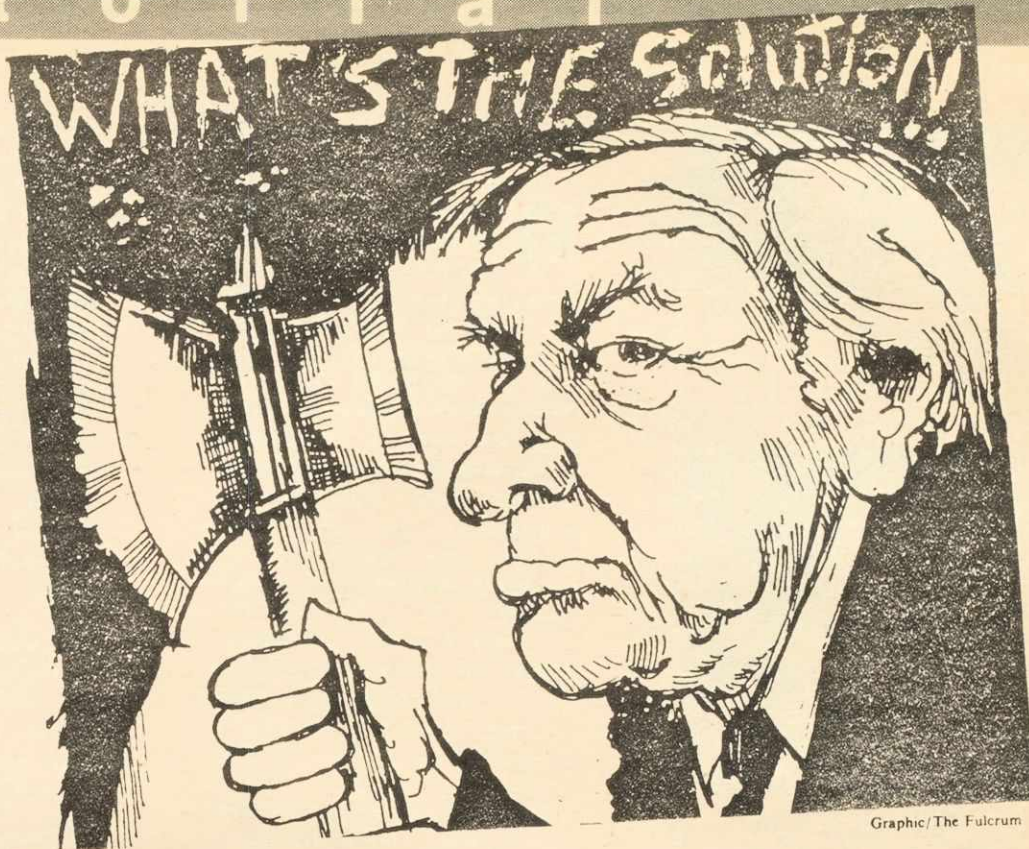
The other unlucky students faced interest charges on outstanding tuition fees if they had not paid them by January 29, the last day to pay fees without penalty. And 30 days after that, the students faced financial dismissal — always a relaxing thought along with concerns about mid-terms and frills like rent and food. Many students were forced to get emergency

loans from Dal Student Services if family and friends couldn't lend them enough.

The provincial Student Aid office needs better publicity for its deadlines, policies, penalties, and especially its phone numbers! Everyone knows the hassle of trying to reach a counsellor, but this year the office didn't even have the foresight to change its phone numbers before the directories were published. That left students with a recording and then the joy of clogged lines and the hold button. (Director of provincial Student Aid Elizabeth Ann MacDonald said she had to stress the 'human component' in her office. How 'human' is hold, that bureaucrat's blessing?)

Students also weren't informed about the drastic and arbitrary policy of halving the bursary if the application was late. And once again this year, it was follow-the-bouncing-deadline. Not that it helped. Processing was still late despite the early October 15 deadline.

The year started out okay. Fall



Graphic/The Fulcrum

bursaries went smoothly, and there have been some pre-election sops thrown to students this year, following last spring's SUNS Task Force on Student Aid. Two student members were named to a provincial committee on student aid and the bursary ceiling was bumped to \$2000 from \$1700, though you still have to go in hock for the maximum loan before you get any free money. And how many peo-

ple get the maximum bursary amount anyway?

But as SUNS chair Royden Trainor said in his letter to our new minister, the capable Mr. Morris, "the \$1.5 million increase . . . is helpful and appreciated, but such increases next year are useless if students can't access money that exists in the budget this year."

Although it's rumoured that Buchanan plans to postpone the

upcoming elections till after those radical students are gone home, he may find that we have long memories. Unless the department is made more efficient, and realizes that their mandate is to ensure access to the funds and not create impediments for students, then students may probably vote for a party more committed to student needs.

Heather Hueston

l e t t e r s

Je suis OK Tu es OK

To the Editors:

Blushing in the Department of French? Well, I cannot speak for my colleagues, but I like to think they, like myself, would tend to restrict their high emotion to things other than a touch, even a good dose, of franglais by a well-meaning student. Do oceanographers blush at conversations in fish and chip shops? Do historians fall faint at our inability to remember more than one per cent of yesterday's reality? Do physicists blush at pre-quantum minds? I keep my blushing for private pleasures and collective monstrosities. There is none to spare for franglais. Let us just enjoy each other and leave it at that.

Michael Bishop
Chairperson
Dept. of French

pas comprendre. Bien sur, il y a la question d'éthique et morale, mais aucune femme est forcée d'avorter si elle ne veut pas. Même si elle décide d'avorter, ce n'est pas un meurtre parce qu'un fœtus n'est pas un bébé comme une brique n'est pas une maison.

La nouvelle loi, tout simplement, permet l'avortement, et non force l'avortement. Alors, tous ceux qui sont contre la nouvelle loi, s'il vous plaît cesser de gémir.

Charles Hanna

You're Welcome

To the Editors:

We are writing with respect to Paul Paquet's article "Big-time party hacks throw party". First of all, we would like to thank Paul for painting a "glowing" picture of the social environment of the Nova Scotia Progressive Conservative Annual Meeting. We

would also like to thank Paul for the keen interest he showed in the political process in his attempts to "sneak" into the convention. Paul said "crashing the P.C. convention wasn't terribly difficult". Paul is quite right. The Party has prided itself on openness, only charges delegate fees to help defray some of the costs of the conventions, and issues tags to facilitate a friendlier environment in which individuals can address each other on a first-name basis.

If you would like to attend the convention next year, Paul, you should give us a call before you head down. We would be only too happy to introduce you to all elements of the convention. While it is true that the social atmosphere can be "intoxicating", we would hope to introduce you to the many other important aspects of the convention. The Cabinet Contact sessions on Friday night provide an excellent opportunity for direct and

informal contact with provincial and federal cabinet ministers and members of caucus. Similarly, the Sunday morning policy session (which you were evidently in no shape to attend) permits an open debate on issues of interest to Nova Scotians.

We hope to see you at the next meeting of the Dalhousie P.C. Youth. Perhaps we will be able to show you politics can be a year-round educational experience as well as being a good time.

**The Executive
Dal P.C. Youth**

C E L E B R A T E !

**International Women's Day
with the Gazette**

**We invite you to contribute to our
March 17th Women's Issue**

*Artwork, photos, fiction, poetry,
opinion pieces, letters, etc.*

Deadline: Monday, March 14, 1988

Supreme Court right

To the Editors: Pour tous les gens qui opposent le nouveau projet de loi d'avortement, vous avez la tête dure! Les Canadiens devraient être reconnaissent d'avoir une loi comme celle-ci. Cette loi permet la femme d'avoir un choix à qu'est-ce qu'elle veut faire. Qu'est-ce qu'il y a si mauvais de ça? je ne peux

ABORTION

"Two sides to every story..."

Somebody had to stop me.

I'm not the same as when I began.

It's not a game of Monopoly.

Hutchinson