

Racism and reality

In March 1977 overseas students living in Nova Scotia on student visas had medical insurance coverage withdrawn by MSI on the grounds that they were not residents of Nova Scotia. The decision was protested by a number of groups, among them the International Students Association (ISA) and the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) who were granted a hearing before the Health Services and Insurance Commission (HSIC).

In January of this year a recommendation on the matter was made by the committee and forwarded to Maynard MacAskill, Minister of Public Health, for a final decision. It has now been almost two months and still no decision has been made on the recommendation by HSIC.

Until eligibility is re-established for visa students, the federal Immigration Department is demanding proof of independent medical insurance in order for visa students to study in Nova Scotia. This can mean an added expense of at least \$75 per year. Now with the threat of differential fees overseas students will be discouraged from attending university here. Already tuition increases for foreign students have been implemented in Alberta, Ontario and Quebec.

Money is quickly becoming a barrier to overseas students who, as visa holders, are not permitted to work here. The presence of international students at Dalhousie is beneficial to us all. They bring with them the assets of a varied cultural experience and outlook which enriches the education of Nova Scotia's students.

In a recent comprehensive study of foreign students in Canada conducted by the Canadian Bureau of International Education it was shown that Overseas students are not a drain on the economy. Rather, their financial contributions to Canada were shown to be significant.

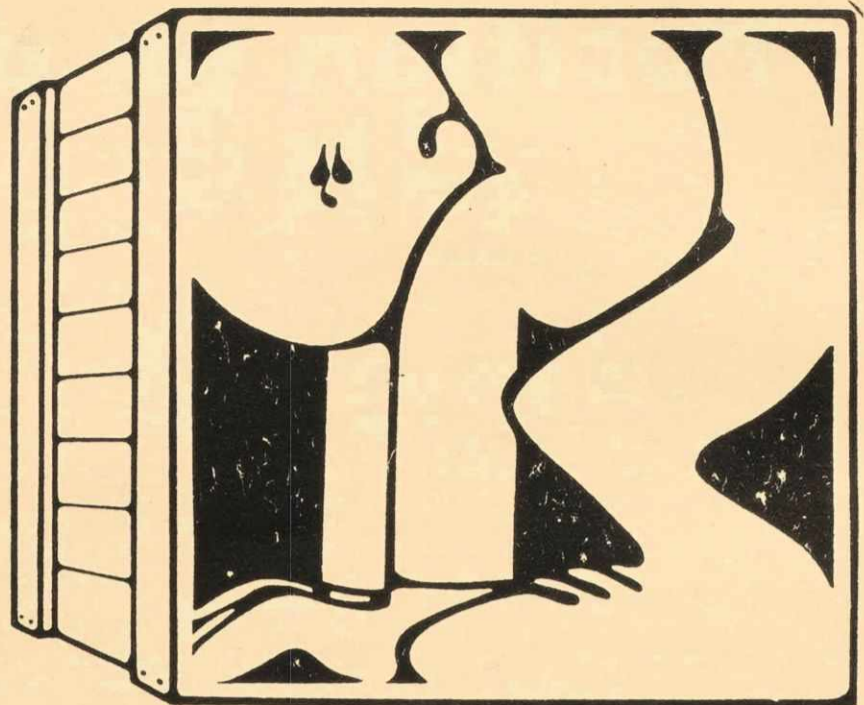
The decision to adopt positions which are discriminatory now rests with the Liberal Government. Certainly there is no reasonable justification for such policies. Will they act honourably and recognize the gesture of goodwill that these students represent or will they pander to racism? We'll soon find out.

Vote yes

The decision on **Gazette** independence will be made by the students of Dalhousie. On March 15, along with student council elections, you will decide if the **Gazette** and council should be two separate entities.

We urge you to support the **Gazette** in the referendum. Surprisingly enough, council **unanimously** agreed that we should become independent. A student paper must not be under the control of its government. Both the newspaper and council will run more smoothly without being tied financially to each other.

A great deal of work has gone into the new constitution and we feel it is a fair document which will allow for democratic control of the newspaper. Rather than approaching council for



permission for our various expenditures, we will be dealing with a publishing board, which will exist for the sole reason of monitoring newspaper operations. The **Gazette** staff and editor will be working with people whose specific interests will be the **Gazette**. The new arrangement will also allow the staff of the paper to become more financially aware and informed about the paper's operations.

Pamphlets and posters will be circulated throughout the campus, and, as well, we hope to speak with students personally. Monday's election special will have further information about the new set-up and if you still want to learn more about the concept, give us a call or drop by. Anyone is welcome to read our constitution and to discuss it with us.

For an extra \$1.50 you can become a member of the **Gazette** Publications Society, allowing you a vote in the operations of the paper. The increase will allow us to have a sound financial base to plan our future as a better newspaper with greater student involvement.

On March 15, vote yes for an independent Dalhousie **Gazette**—it will be best for us all.



Solidarity with miners

To the **Gazette**:

On behalf of the organizers of the film showing of **Harlan County USA**, I would like to publicly thank the persons who contributed money to the support fund for the striking UMW coal miners in the United States.

A telegram was sent to Miner Support Committees in Beckley and Morgantown, West Virginia, and the collection of \$217.47 will be split between the two communities. It was signed "Friends in Nova Scotia."

If any contributors or other persons would like more information about this, please contact me at 422-2475 or room 408 in the Student Union Building.

Once again, thank you for your generosity.

Harvey MacKinnon,
Overseas Student Coordinator

Why shoot the teach?

To the **Gazette**:

It has recently come to my attention that tuition hikes and program cutbacks aren't the only problems hindering the quality of our education. Another serious roadblock we may have been overlooking is the quality of our professors. The hiring practices of professors here at Dal clearly

favours the candidate who is the better researcher. Does it follow that he who knows best is the best teacher? Not by a long shot. Though Dal has an excellent crop of educators, there are nevertheless many weeds in the garden that need pulling out. There are still those that can't or won't condescend down to the student level of comprehension; there are those who come to class ill prepared and thus deliver lectures which lack all continuity and meaning; there are those who haven't a satisfactory grasp of the English language; and there are those that just don't give a damn about teaching, but would rather only publish research papers to add to their credentials.

Presently, it is basically the individual departments that choose new professors and negotiate contracts with those already there. Students have no say in who comes, goes or stays. This has to change. There was a time when there was a course evaluation committee and a student academic affairs secretary who directed student complaints to the administration and department heads, but for some reason these have been scratched from the constitution and hence are no longer functional. It is time for them to be reinstated.

You the students, are responsible for letting us, your representatives, know when a professor is being unfair or just has no ability to convey ideas. That's what we're here for, that's what you elected us to do and that's what we want to do.

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the dalhousie gazette

The **Dalhousie Gazette** is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union. The views expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or staff. We reserve the right to edit material submitted for space or legal reasons, or if considered offensive to our readers.

The deadline for advertising is the Friday noon preceding publication. Articles and letters are due Monday noon. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity, if necessary, will be granted. Letters should not exceed 600 words, and must be typed if more than 100 words.

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This space is dedicated to Sandy McNeill. (wonders never cease)