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the University Grants Committee (UGC). The UGC holds the universities' purse-strings and so has some control on the numbers of professors, departments and students.

The funding for students to pay their tuition fees, board, lodging, and other expenses is provided by grants paid by local government

education departments. These are not loans, but non-returnable money "donations". The size of the grant the student receives depends on the level of parental income, provided by student was living at home at the time of university application.

The whole system is based on the 1950's attitude that university education should be open to all who reach a certain degree of intelligence at age of 18 or above, regardless of family background and income.

Many British young people are being denied their right to a university education. The cuts in funding have caused a drastic rise in the qualifying grades of entrance examinations.

At the same time many more young people wanted to go to university rather than face an unemployment rate of over 13 percent. Last year, 10,000 people applied to go to Stirling, while there were only places for 500 first-year undergraduates. People who were once considered capable of entering university five years ago are now being refused entrance.

The personal maintenance grant which students are required to live on while at university has fallen far below inflation. It is now worth less than half its initial value in 1950.

"Successive governments have reduced the value of the students' grant and the purchasing power of the grant has declined steadily,"

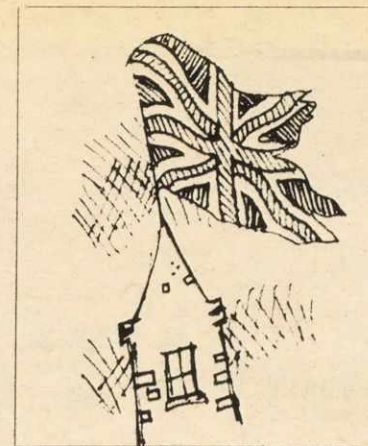
said Williams. "Many students have genuine hardship in surviving while trying to do a degree and many have to borrow money from parents or get overdrafts [loans] from the bank to make ends meet."

The result is that British students eventually do have to obtain loans. Also, parents who are required to pay part of their son's or daughter's expenses fail to do so. A survey carried out by the Stirling University Students' Association in Sept. 1982 established that only half of the parents gave the required amount to the student.

The financial problems of the

British student are many, just as the universities themselves are having financial problems. It is compounded by the relatively poor economy in Britain where only half of all university students found any work over the summer of 1983. What started out as a good idea in 1950 has turned into a major problem for British students in the 1980's. □

Bill Mitchell is an exchange student from the University of Stirling, Scotland, studying at Dalhousie this year.



## On Stage at the Cohn



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## Turks protest author of *Midnight Express* at McGill

**MONTREAL (CUP)**—Angry Turkish protestors baited author and ex-drug smuggler Billy Hayes during his recent speech at McGill, saying the movie based on Hayes' experiences, *Midnight Express*, discriminates against Turks.

And a bomb threat forced evacuation of the auditorium just before Hayes spoke.

Hayes, whose recent speaking trip to Ottawa and Montréal marked his first time out of the United States since he escaped from Turkish prison nine years ago, said the negative portrayal of

Turks in the film was Hollywood's fault not his.

"I wish there were more sympathetic Turkish characters in the film," Hayes said in an interview before the screening.

At one point in *Midnight Express*, Brad Davis, who plays Hayes, screams, "I hate you. I hate your cities and I hate your people. You're all pigs!"

Before the screening, Turkish demonstrators outside the auditorium handed out flyers saying the film shows Turkish people in a bad light.

During Hayes' speech to about 400 students, 25 Turkish people in the crowd interrupted periodically, demanding that Hayes apologize for the film. Hayes refused.

In July, a group of Turkish-Americans filed a \$300 million discrimination suit against the ABC television network and Columbia pictures for presenting the movie as a "true" dramatization.

During the interview, Hayes conceded the prison guards "weren't portrayed properly" in the film. "They were just ordinary schmucks doing their job," he said. □



# ARTS & EXPRESSION

Arts is not only in the eye of the beholder, but in the *Gazette* as well.

November the 29th the *Gazette* will be publishing an Arts and Expression issue comprising poetry, drawings, photographs and shorts selected from submissions we receive. If you want to express yourself, bring in your work by Nov. 22 to the *Gazette* offices, third floor, SUB.