

Students react to costs

by Margaret Sutherland

Dalhousie students appear dismayed at an expected tuition increase next term of approximately 75 to 90 dollars.

According to Dick Matthews, president of the Dalhousie Student Union, an 8.1% increase in government funding to Dal last week was not sufficient to allow the university to keep tuition at its present level, thus the anticipated 10% hike in tuition.

The reaction of some students to this announcement was that of wry resignation.

"Oh well, I'm already angry at what I'm paying, I guess I'll just have to get a bit more angry. . . ."

Others, however, expressed much stronger dismay at yet another rise in their expenses.

"Another one! What more do they want from us? Our first born child?!. . ."

Lorraine Ansel, a day student enrolled in the King's School of Journalism who worked for a few years before resuming her education full time, said any increase will have a fairly serious effect on her finances.

"I'm afraid that this will put me further into debt. I have a student loan presently, so hopefully I'll be able to get an increase in it. It's a shame university costs so much. It limits the amount of students able to get an education past high school, and as enrollment drops, universities will probably have to raise fees even more to cover costs.

"If tuition were more reasonable, so many wouldn't be forced to opt out of college. As it is, with the worthlessness of a B.A. in the

job market, people are just not finding it worth it and are looking for something more practical elsewhere."

For another Journalism student, the situation is even more frustrating. Bruce Colfe feels that for him to make it through university will take a major effort.

"It's not just another seventy or ninety dollars, but all the extra costs that appear are making it very hard for me to get an education."

"As I see it now, working part time during the academic year, full time in the summer, and withdrawing in the future to work full time for a few years to finance my education, I may be able to complete in six years what most students could in four."

"And working during the term, you miss so much. It's not only not being able to spend more time with your friends, but I don't even have the time to study properly or get nearly as much out of your courses as you want to. To me, that is extremely frustrating. I'll have to be pretty serious about my education to get through college this way."

Chris Mitchell is an arts student who is also totally financing his degree by money he has earned.

"I guess I can cope with another hundred or so dollars. This increase just means that I'll have to work that much harder this summer, and I also will probably be applying for a student loan next year."

"Thing is, it's not just this increase alone, but these things do tend to add up over the years. It is all getting further and further out of my

already overextended reach. But what else can I do? Sure, I could always drop out of college and go to plumbing school and learn plumbing, but then I couldn't be an English major. So, I guess I'll have to pay it."

There are some students who will not be adversely affected to any real degree by these increases in the near future.

A student on scholarship from the Bahamas who did not wish to have his name printed expressed sympathy for those students less fortunate than he.

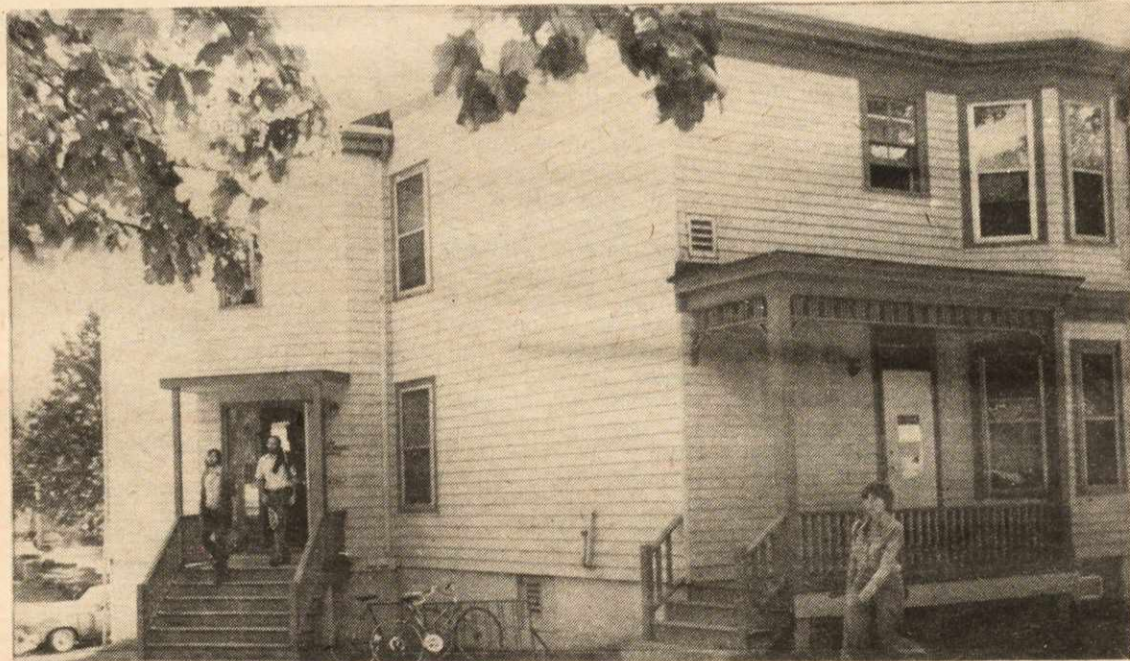
"As my tuition and board are being paid for by a scholarship, this increase will not affect me. However, I do think that it isn't fair to those students who must work and scrounge all summer or all year to put themselves through college."

"Student employment is very scarce and even with a job, the average student wage rarely rises proportionately to tuition. I think that every measure should be taken by the university to keep these students', and all students', costs as low as possible."

For Dan Praeg, a first year science student, the present increase will not mean any real hardship.

"Well, considering inflation . . . ninety dollars is not nice, but I don't think it really can be helped. Expecting no rise at all is stupid."

"That much of an increase doesn't affect me substantially, at least in the short term. Now if increases continue over the long term, say every year, I can see it making a significant difference."



Grad House's birthday

The Graduate House is celebrating its fifth birthday today and a gala party complete with birthday cake and the music of Bill Stevenson, Skip Beckwith and Tim Co-hoon is planned for Friday, February 9 to celebrate the occasion.

The Graduate House is a non-profit social club for graduate students which first opened its doors at 6154 University Avenue on February 8, 1975. Former DAGS Presidents Bob Flute and Sean

Wood oversaw the move from the former South Street location and were instrumental in establishing the House at its present location. The interior of the House was designed by Jim Sykes, the University's Engineer, who took on the work as a personal project and succeeded admirably. Since 1975 the House has operated under the competent management of Bob Bagg, who has also helped place the House on the road to recovery after a Good Friday

morning fire in 1978 which forced the House to close its doors for a few months.

The Graduate House is today an integral part of many graduate students' education, providing a safe (though not always dry) harbour from the raging storms of academia. And so we welcome all grads and their guests to come out tomorrow evening, share in the festivities, and wish their House a Happy Birthday and many happy returns.

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