

Postcards punch gov't

by Paul Clark

"Get it together, cut costs!!"

That comment by first year science student Allan Leslie expressed the sentiments of many Dalhousie students who participated in the recent Student Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) postcard campaign.

Writing on the back of yellow leaflets addressed to Nova Scotia Minister of Education Terry Donahoe which were distributed around Dalhousie during the last two weeks of January, students criticised the government on a number of areas related to the cost and quality of post-secondary education.

"Universities like Dalhousie are given a glass of water with which to operate, from a whole ocean of government expenditure", wrote Sandra Zed, a third year psychology student.

As the costs of an education increase university is becoming a "playground of the rich", stated one of a number of students who pointed to a growing "elitism" at Dalhousie and other institutions.

Many students noted that besides tuition the prices of housing, food and books are rising, causing students to be

"hit from all sides".

"How do I afford a college education?", queried one student, "Easy—I skip breakfast, lunch and other non-essentials."

Summer jobs, if available, do not provide enough income to pay for a year at school, students said, and government loans and bursaries are often hard to obtain, insufficient and debt-incurring.

"I feel I will only be able to go back to school next year part-time given my present financial situation", one student said.

The tuition fees at Dalhousie were criticised as being among the highest in the country and several students said any more tuition increases would force them to go to school elsewhere.

"The other universities in Canada offer as good or better graduate programs at less cost to the student", said Theresa Hemsworth, a masters student in pharmacology.

Nursing students, who have to do six to eight weeks of clinical studies after the regular school year ends, thought their situation deserves special consideration.

"We have only two months to earn money in the summer

and I cannot even cover the cost of yearly tuition let alone clinical in the summer", said Julia Gilliatt, a second year nursing student.

"I have been forced to get a student loan and it does not cover this cost at all. The nursing students are getting the wrong end of the stick."

Jeff Champion, who organized the postcard campaign at Dalhousie, said it was intended to demonstrate to the government that students at Dalhousie are concerned about the rising costs of education.

SUNS planned to present the postcards to the Council of Maritime Premiers before they announced their level of post-secondary funding for next year, he said, but the campaign was not finished when the announcement came.

However, Champion said SUNS still plans to present the postcards at their next meeting with the government.

He said he was pleased with the responses SUNS representatives received in classes and at society meetings and was thankful to the Faculty Association for their active support of the campaign.

Over 1300 Dalhousie students filled out the postcards, he said.

'Supermom' criticised

VANCOUVER—"My kids and I don't like being portrayed as bumbling incompetents, dependent on a supermom to take care of all our needs."

That was the reaction of one man to the sexist content in television advertising, expressed at a Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) task force hearing on sexism in advertising.

"Women make up more than half of our teaching force, but are shown in ads as simpletons," said Maureen McDonald of the B.C. Teachers Federation (BCTF).

Male superiority over women is shown as normal and even necessary on television and when a man feels inade-

quate, he can just "go out and do something about it," according to Rape Relief worker Joanie Miller.

Millder told the task force of her visit to a rape victim in hospital with multiple stab wounds. The woman had been raped by a man who broke into her home.

She told Miller, "It was really funny. He was so careful of fingerprints—shutting doors with his elbows and knees . . . he must have watched a lot of television."

University of B.C. student, Betty-Ann Buss said that sexist language is a problem with television. She said that terms such as "authoress" and "woman-doctor" portray professional women as an inferior sub-species of men.

"We never say man-doctor," she said.

A speaker from the Vancouver Status of Women said radio is also often sexist, with music containing lyrics of male sexual aggression played by sexist young disc jockeys.

The general feeling of the speakers was that for the elimination of sexism in programming and advertising, self-regulation by producers and advertisers is only a start. Legislation is the ultimate answer, they concluded.

Public input on the subject of sexism in the media will be accepted in the form of briefs or recommendations by mailing them to: Task Force—CRTC, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N2.

Carpets delay Archives opening

by Darrell Dexter

It is beginning to look like the official opening of the new Nova Scotia Provincial Archives building may have to be delayed.

Dr. Brian Cuthbertson, the manager of the move, said Friday that the opening had been planned for the 21st of April of this year, but that would most likely be changed due to problems with the carpeting.

The contractors which had laid the carpet had failed to put down a large enough adhesive base. This means

that the carpet will have to be taken up and additional preparation done to the floor. It may even mean that new carpeting will have to be installed.

How long this will take depends on the availability of the materials. The contractors had been dealing with Crossley Karastan of Truro for supplies but the workers there are now on strike. Unless they have additional supplies on hand or can receive them from somewhere else the delay could be considerable.

The project falls under the

control of the Department of Public Works and the mistake will mean not just delays but increased cost. Deputy Minister Don Power says that none of this cost will be passed on to the Department but must be absorbed by the contractor. He claims the only increase to the department will be "the cost of a phone call".

The move is still taking place with as much expediency as possible. As to when the new Archives will really open, no one seems to know.

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