

Editorial

The Bookstore: Direct Pressure Can Work

Probably the most important result of the bookstore demonstration on Thursday and Friday was the evidence that students, even just thirty of them, can apply direct pressure to the Dalhousie administration to correct some of the ills found in the university.

There is no question that the demands of the "Committee for Fair Book Prices" were reasonable. Their demand that books be recognized as a legitimate educational expense, just as is almost all other equipment used here would mean a subsidization of the bookstore by the province, through the university administration. The Committee made it clear that if the administration found itself unable to shift funds to accomplish this subsidization, then it should be required of the university's governors that they publish a full financial statement to prove their inability to do so.

This request for publication of the university financial statements is not only necessary from a student's point of view - it would be nice to know, after all, where our six hundred dollars a year is going - but also from that of the people of Nova Scotia, who are contributing approximately one thousand dollars for each of us here.

As Student Union President Randy Smith made clear to Dr. Hicks last week, student demands for lower book prices are of such importance that if they are not met "mobilization" of the student body might be considered necessary.

If this were to come about, it would mark the beginning of a new era in the relationship between the student body and the administration of Dalhousie - that of "Student Power."

For, believe it or not, this is exactly what that word all of you have been so frightened of for so long really means: That because of our numbers (which is the only potential basis for any sort of power we can possibly attain) we can stop or slow down any function of the university when we feel that it is not operating to our benefit, as it should.

So maybe next time, now that we have seen that six or seven hours of direct action can have more effect than two or more years of "talking

to our administrators, we can find more than thirty people to press our demands.

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