



## The end of the world as we know it

Skyrocketing tuition and add-on deferential fees.

Department cuts and program cuts.

Larger classes and fewer profs. A more expensive, lower quality, and less accessible education.

In a nutshell, that is what the students who attend Nova Scotia universities are facing.

And really, there's not too much we can do about it except hold on tight and try to weather the storm.

Nova Scotia universities will watch as their collective funding is cut anywhere from \$24 million to \$47 million over the next three years.

The best case scenario, which would see funding reduced to \$171 million by 1998-99, represents a cut of \$37 million from the 1993-94 level. To put that in perspective, that \$37 million is about equal to the combined provincial grants to Saint Mary's, Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, and Mount Saint Vincent University.

Closer to home, Dalhousie is staring down a budget cut of \$10-20 million over the next three years. That's a big chunk of the \$83.5 million we received this year. In all likelihood, to get "lucky" and only have to deal with a \$10 million reduction (and that is by no means a guarantee), we'll have to swallow some of our black-and-gold pride and enter into a consortium with the other metro universities. Which would almost certainly mark the beginning of the end of seven distinct universities in metro Halifax (and whether or not that is good or bad depends on who you ask).

The goal of the consortium is to save money and find ways to

### EDITORIAL

create revenue, without sacrificing quality. Impossible, you say? Well, in theory, no, but in reality, yes, of course.

Savings are supposed to occur with the centralisation of various administrative services and the "non-replacement" of retiring profs. Administrative centralisation is projected to save \$5.4 million for metro universities over the next three years, with an additional \$1.6 million in savings becoming apparent along the way. Don't ask, I take it to mean that all the bugs aren't ironed out just yet.

According to our university president (and he's also the prez of the consortium), Tom Traves, there won't be a hiring freeze. However, the consortium plans to save \$5 million over the next three years by not replacing vacating profs. (get ready for ballooning classes).

Also, an additional \$5 million in academic savings "will be identified over the course of the plan." In other words, there's more pain to come; be very, very afraid.

For the most part, Dr. Traves has been frank and patient in explaining the consortium's proposal to the uninitiated, but he's still been wily enough to avoid nailing himself down on any sticky issue.

(Basic difference between Dr. Traves and past President Dr. Clark? Easy. Clark's glass is half-empty, Traves' is half-full. If Clark had been standing in the McInnes room last Thursday talking about budget cuts and tuition hikes, he

would have needed a police escort to leave. Traves kept smiling and escaped unscathed. But I digress...)

My point is that the face of post-secondary education in Nova Scotia is changing drastically and we, as students, can't do much about it. We can offer our suggestions, input our info (I love the computer age), and be consulted every step of the way, but in the end, reality will step in and we'll be paying \$6000 in tuition in a few years.

This won't be over in three years; it may still be just beginning. So get your degree and get the hell out.

SAM MCCAIG

## LETTERS

### Breast info

To the editor,

I want to first of all commend the Gazette and in particular Tania Trepanier for the excellent article, "The Politics of Breast Cancer" and its review of the current Nova Scotia Art Gallery's showing of "Survivors, In Search of a Voice: The Art of Courage." It was an admirable piece alerting the reader to both the personal and political tragedies reflected by women's experiences with breast cancer.

I would however, like to offer a point of information concerning the brief mention that breast examination information sheets can be obtained at Shopper's Drug Mart locations. While breast self-examination plays a vital role in early detection, readers should be aware that Shopper's Drug Marts are a subsidiary of Imasco Corporation, which is also the parent company of one of Canada's largest cigarette manufacturers. It seems that once again what is being given by one hand is being stolen away by the other, i.e. the health of Canadian women.

My purpose here is not to diminish the need for women to take charge of their own health in this regard, but rather to give yet another example of the sadness, subtlety, and depth of the political dimensions of women's health issues in this country.

John Hubert

### Blowing smoke

To the editor:

Re: Josef Tratnik, Nov. 23rd, "Bleeding Hearts Blowing Smoke."

Right. First off, I am a non-smoker and am somewhat asthmatic. My lungs are already screwed up enough as it is, and I don't respond well to smoke-filled rooms. So. What about this cigarette advertising issue thing? Well, I feel that there are already plenty of institutions "hooked" on cigarette money.

The government is hooked on the taxes they acquire by the sales of cigarettes. Many events in the arts communities are hooked on the support they receive from cigarette companies (although I must confess, what concerts I did attend for the Dumarier Jazz festival this year, it seemed that most of the audience supported the cigarette companies directly!).

I think the issue here is "Do we want to implicitly support smoking by running their adverts (and taking their money, of course!)"

This is a moral decision, one which should be reached by the people at the Gazette by whatever means they usually use. If there is any student input on this matter, it should be considered. If there is student outcry, and the Gazette offices are stormed by a salivating throng of angry students

hungry for blood, possibly the Gazette could reconsider its decision.

While I've always wondered, "Do these advertisements really DO anything?", I believe that this is a separate issue here. What I do know is that I am opposed to running cigarette adverts in the Gazette, and whatever financial (in?)dependence that may involve.

As for the slippery-slope arguments on beer, condom, and whatever other adverts are run in the Gazette, I think the same arguments apply. Gazette staff should sort out what they want to do, listen to student input (if there is any), and act accordingly. I hope other students who have any opinion on this matter will make their opinion clear to the folks at the Gazette.

Tim Chipman

### Internet idiots

To the editor:

Re: Morton Plimsky, Nov. 9th, "Internet not for idiots."

While I agree wholeheartedly that "The Internet" has become one of the most media-hyped overblown tidbits recently, I must confess that I have no sympathy for 'Morton Plimsky' in the least. If a plumber were to express a profound fear of getting his hands wet, I might feel that a change in work or a change in attitude would be appropriate. Likewise, as a customer support representative for an Internet provider, Morton should be capable of dealing with the "stupid" questions that are obviously part of the job.

One of the biggest problems with "computer technology issues" is that it all becomes "totally obvious" and "intuitive" to anyone who has spent enough time working with the stuff. Alas, once you attain this state of existence, it becomes quite difficult to relate to other uninitiated mortals who are not so comfortable with computers.

(What?! You don't understand the terms Drag & Drop? Baud Rate? Compression? Desktop? Virtual Memory? You harebrained fool!)

Tim Chipman

### Hey hey! Ho ho!

To the editor:

One last thing: "Hey Hey! Ho Ho! This stupid bloody boring unoriginal chant has GOT to go!". Sheesh! If universities are (supposedly) the residence for original thought in our society, can't public demonstrations do better than this? I do realize that mob mentality is generally reflected by the average IQ divided by the number of people participating, but this phrase has turned up in many articles in the Gazette, and we aren't even halfway through the year yet. Grumble grumble...

Tim Chipman

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