

EDITORIAL

Brace yourself; the MPHEC report

Guess what folks, tuition could be going up 16 percent, or more, and this has nothing to do with cutbacks. It's what the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission says is right. Their current report asks the provincial government to increase funding by that amount, as the cost of running universities increases, and it is implicit that tuition will keep pace.

But, something else students should realize is new in this report is that the MPHEC has made a clear indication that student fees should make up an increasing proportion of the university's budget. Whereas 16 percent would keep fees at about the ten percent level of the university's costs, we can assume that onwards to 20 percent is putting us where administrations and governments see fit.

There are a number of arguments being given as to why tuition should increase substantially. One is that the sources of funding to a university should be diversified, so it is not so dependent on government funding, lessening the aftereffects of possible cutbacks. This is backed up by the argument that "public support for post-secondary education should translate into a willingness to pay higher tuition," as a committee of university presidents, among them President MacKay, put it last fall.

This is a curious argument since a public willingness to support anything is most equitably translated through tax dollars.

Another argument put forth by the MPHEC is that universities would be more susceptible to change if they depended more on student dollars. The kind of change desired is that which produces more graduates in the technological fields.

This conjures up an image of students as consumers, with faculties aware of how much revenue they are generating according to their popularity with students. But universities are already aware of enrollment changes, and the new demands, for example, trying to find more engineering and computer science professors, are not easy to meet. And since tuition all goes into one big pot, and not to individual faculties, it is hard to see how this argument would apply.

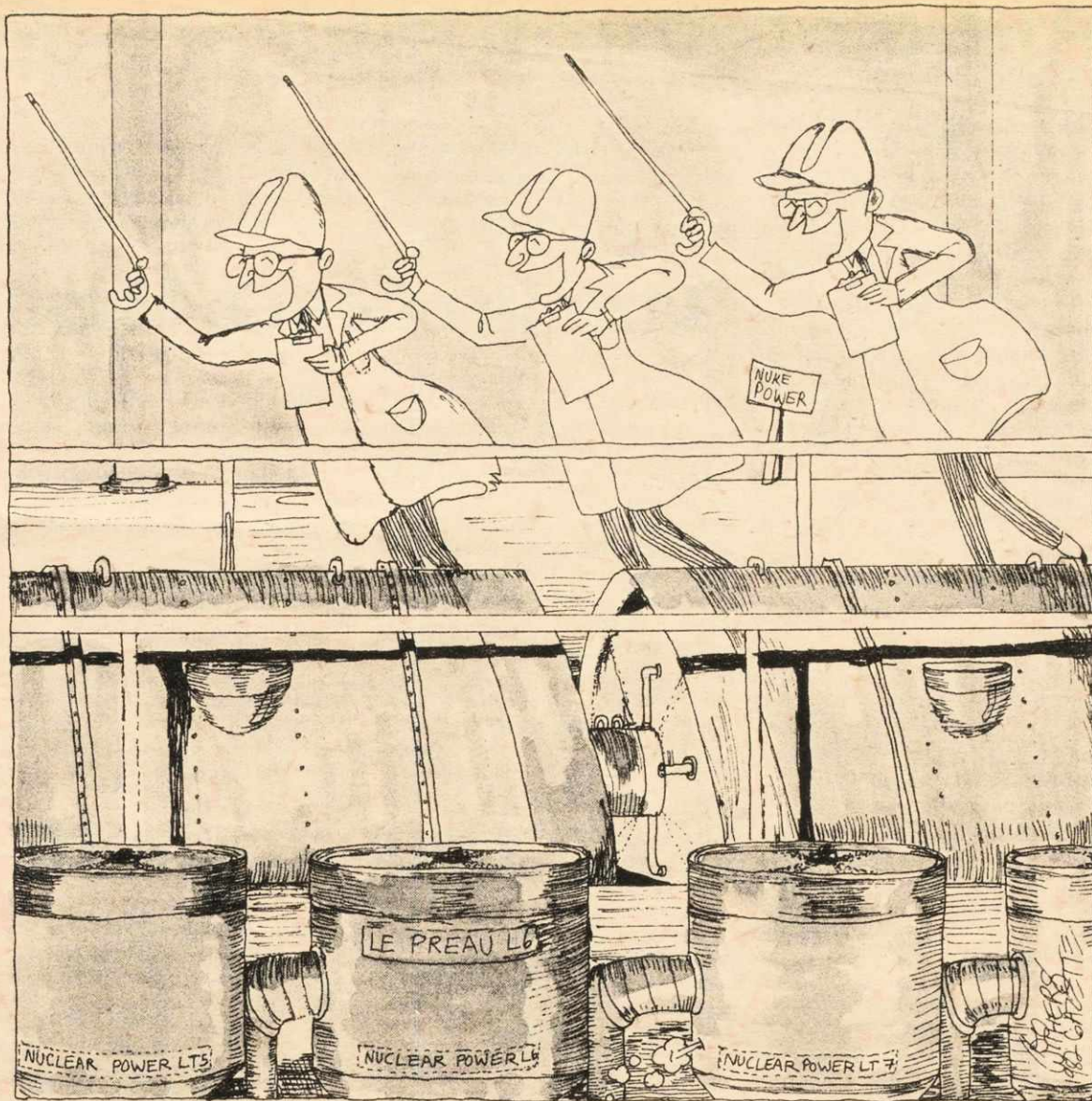
"Any higher tuition should be accompanied by improved student-aid" is an ever present rider. A higher loan burden is another reason for students

from insecure financial backgrounds to be anxious. Many drop out and work for a year, and some don't return.

Soon it will be more of a risk to go to university if you don't enroll in a faculty where a quick and ready job awaits you to pay off the student loan.

These arguments for higher tuition could just be a lucky loophole for the provincial government, which has suffered a reduction in federal funding this year. It can thank the trustworthy MPHEC, for recommending a larger than previous years funding increase of 16 percent, at the same time saying that students bear more of the burden, and eventually the government would pay less.

The arguments to "make universities more susceptible to change," to "reflect a public willingness to pay" and to "diversify funding sources" equal no more than the familiar user-pay argument, with decorations. The Maritimes have the highest tuition levels in the country. As students, the implied 16 percent plus for tuition in the MPHEC report is a lot to swallow, and this year's arguments are incredibly flimsy.



♪ ♪ AIN'T SHE SWEET ♪
SEE HER MAKIN' NUCLEAR HEAT
SAFE AND CLEAN AND JUST OCCASIONALLY
THERE'S A LEAK ♪ ♪

LETTERS

Rent-a-terrorist

Dear Editor,

Cancel all appointments. I have been kidnapped. Five masked and armed men came to my office at 2:30 p.m. Friday afternoon. They stopped in the outer office first, however, and inquired as to whether I was in. The office staff smiled at the masked men and indicated that I was in my office, motioning the men in the same direction.

As the men entered my office blasting their guns and creating a carnival atmosphere, I knew this was no ordinary gunfire. No, it was something very different.

These men were terrorists. And not just any terrorists; they were:

The LSD PTQ or the Lobotomized Students of Dalhousie Peoples Terrorist Quartet or 8 guys who are terrorists.

They presented a list of demands. I read them and suggested that they go home and forget it. They had a suggestion of their own, but it would not have been possible, not even for a circus person.

They rushed me at cap gun point to the getaway car. I jumped in and the car sped away in a cloud of smoke bomb sparks.

When at the corner of Robie and University, they couldn't decide what to do so I suggested the Midtown. Everyone quickly

agreed and we proceeded to that tavern. We all borrowed some change from the people in the tavern (two were unconscious), and bought beer and steaks, laughing heartily. After a few, we left. We drove back to the university. However, when I had entered the car I located myself of all of the weapons (the hook and the gun). Immediately I pulled the weapons out from underneath me and inadvertently kept them in my hands. Before we arrived back at the university, one of the terrorists asked "who's got the hook and the gun?" I replied, "I have both" and gave them back to him. He then cuffed me in the head and inquired in a most endearing fashion "why did he have the gun and the hook both?"

When we got back to the university, the terrorists made a startling offer. They said if the student union would subsidize similar and frequent terrorist activities, they would let me go free. We all agreed that apathy on campus was a problem and that it the long run than terrorism so that if we turned all apathetic students into members of the LSD PTQ, students would be better off.

So I thought it was logical that the student union should, for a

start and as a show of good faith, reimburse these men for their expenses incurred. (They have assured me that they will be applying for funds through the grants committee as well.)

This week's expenditures reached about \$50.00 and I propose that the matter be brought up at the next council meeting.

John Logan
President
Student Union

Editor's note: This group is available for taking hostages in the university community, is paid on a per diem basis, and guarantees its work. Can't you think of even two or three people who you wouldn't mind not seeing again, ever? Further, "anonymous" hostage taking can be embarrassing. This, of course, is where the subject is taken away by these men and no demands are made whatsoever. The man is away for say, about two weeks, and when he is returned by the group, he is mortally embarrassed because no one had noticed he was gone. This service is offered cheaper in the university area due to economics of scale.

Chute! Gazette errs again

To the Editor,

May I present some (hopefully) constructive criticism?

During the year I spent as President of Howe Hall, the one thing I found consistent about the Gazette was its ability to misquote me every time they sought my opinion.

Now the Gazette's errors are becoming even more embarrassing. Each year the Chemistry Department presents the "Walter J. Chute Distinguished Lecture Series in Chemistry," yet a front page article last week refers to

the "Walter Chute memorial lecture." Not only has the lecture never been so called, but the phrase universally implies that poor Dr. Chute has passed away!

How sad I feel to have missed the passing of this distinguished professor! Nevertheless, we can all take comfort in the fact that Dr. Chute's ghost can be seen daily in the halls of the Chemistry building. And what a robust and healthy-looking ghost he is, too!

Sincerely,
Greg Tynski