

up up and away

## Fees will climb

by Andrew Campbell

Tuition fees will account for approximately 16.5 to 17 million dollars of Dalhousie's operating budget by 1993-94, according to a statement submitted by the university to the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. This is an increase of over 2 million dollars over 1988-89 levels. The statement was prepared by the President's office and members of the administration.

According to the opening letter of the statement, signed by President Howard Clark, the statement "has been endorsed by the senate and the board of governors of the university."

The Financial Strategy Committee's (FSC) final report, however will not be passed until at least November 3, 1989. Two of the major bones of contention in the FSC reports have been the questions of tuition fee increases and accessibility to post-secondary education. In their reports, the FSC and the administration have been quiet on these issues since mid-summer.

The fact that tuition fee

increases were mentioned in detail in the university's Role and Planned Capacity Statement before the FSC has had a chance to make a final report has some student leaders apprehensive.

"This is quite obviously an example of the cart being put before the horse," says Dave Shannon, DSU president and board of governors representative. "The university was trapped by deadlines set by the MPHEC and the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education," Shannon explained. "But priority must nevertheless be given to the FSC's decision, which is not final yet. This is the only way that the FSC's work is to gain any credence with respect to its decision on tuition fees."

No decision on the question of tuition fees has been made since the Financial Strategy Committee suggested Dalhousie set its fees at 105 to 110 per cent of the Nova Scotia average in their report last May.

DSU Executive Vice-President Terry Crawley is less than con-

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## Not the church, not the state... March for choices

by Gazette Staff

Women do not want abortion laws, and Nova Scotia should ensure women can have abortions performed without delays, speakers at a pro-choice rally in Victoria Park said Saturday.

The demonstration was part of nation-wide protests marking Canada's Day of Action on Abortion. The goal of rally organizers was to tell Parliament to quit drafting a new abortion bill replacing the 1969 Criminal Code legislation struck down as unconstitutional last year.

Kathy Coffin, of the Canadian Abortion Rights Action League, told the crowd of 150 women and men that women were not criminals if they choose abortion, because women are moral, conscientious people who can make their own decisions.

Members of local pro-choice groups echoed the CARAL stand, saying the

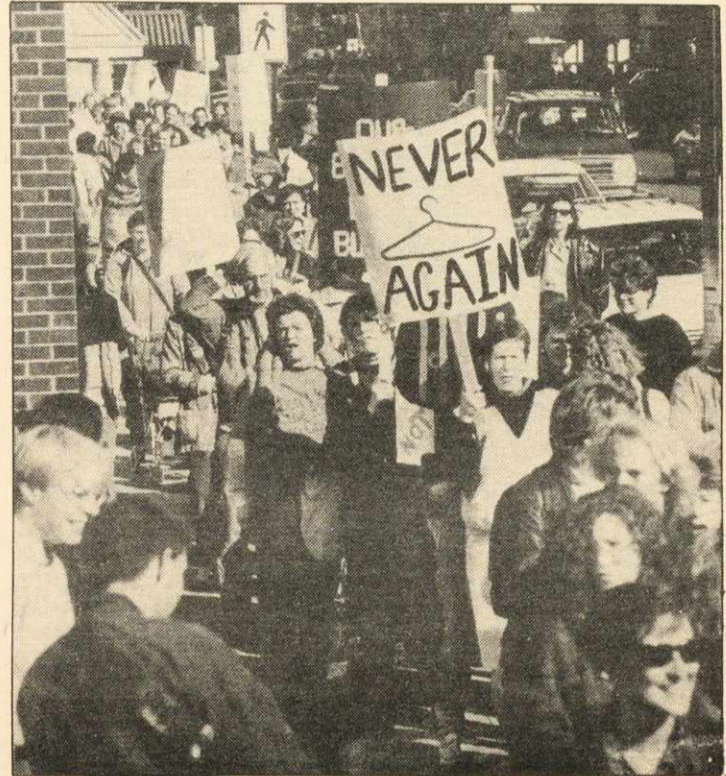


Photo credit: Mark Earhard

150 singing on Spring Garden Road

decision not to have a child is a private, not a state, concern.

The Pro-Choice Action Coalition, formed last spring as a patients' escort group for the Morgentaler clinic, lambasted Nova Scotia's Bill 107. The bill prohibits abortions from being performed in private clinics. Other medical procedures such as CAT scans are included in the act.

Coalition member Annette Chiasson said under the current hospital-only system, delays of three weeks are common. "Abortion delayed is abortion denied," she said.

She also criticized Health Minister David Nantes for saying last week that abortions are readily available and women do not have to wait for them.

march march march march march march march

## Students organize VIA protest

by Allon Ben Ari

A small but vocal group of students met last Friday to protest the recent cutbacks to Via Rail.

Congregating outside the Dalhousie Student Union Building the group marched across campus shouting "students taking action to save Via's traction," "join us today so you can go with Via tomorrow," and other slogans. The march then moved down Spring Garden Road, along Argyle Street in front of City Hall, and followed Barrington Street to the train station.

The march was organized by three Saint Mary's University students (Ross MacDonald, Robin Oakley and Kristin Grimson)

concerned about the affects the cuts will have on students. Oakley said "the protest was a success because people became aware of it (the issue)."

The roughly 30 protesters were joined en-route by passers-by who supported the march, swelling their ranks to about 50 by the time they reached the train station. The group also received support from people driving by the march; many honked their

horns and gave "thumbs up" signs.

The protesters gathered in front of the Via Rail station to hear speeches from DSU President Dave Shannon, Saint Mary's University Student Association (SMUSA) Vice President Internal Ian Morison, New Democrat MLA John Holmes and others.

An effigy of Ron Lawless, chief executive officer and president of Via Rail, was burned at the protest. Oakley stated that the student organizers had nothing to do with the effigy. "I don't think it was necessary. The march was enough and that sort of thing just makes people mad."

The protest was organized without any official support from the DSU or SMUSA, although Shannon, Vice President Terry Crawley, and Arts rep Alex Burton were on hand to represent the DSU.

Crawley explained the DSU council had not yet passed a motion supporting the aims of the march and therefore "couldn't start spending money left, right and centre (to support the march)." A motion was passed through council three days later denouncing any cutbacks to the Via Rail system in Atlantic Canada.



Rochelle Owen: Dal photo

The voices of concern

## Sodales 'kick ass

by Tim Daley

Dalhousie University won the 1989 Hart House International Debating Tournament at the University of Toronto on October 15. Dalhousie's team of Stephen Pitel and John Atchison, both first year Law students, finished ahead of 61 other teams representing Central and Eastern Canada and the United States.

Pitel and Atchison posted a 5-0 record in the first stages of the tournament. They defeated teams from Waterloo, York, Western, Queen's, and King's College, discussing possible criminal code reforms, gender-based discrimination, and a new national symbol for Canada. Dalhousie then defeated McGill in a public semi-final round to advance to the final.

In a lively and entertaining debate against Queen's University, held before a crowd of 200 observers, Dalhousie successfully defended an innovative proposal

to better teach children about the charter of Rights and Freedoms. The plan involved distributing pieces of a Charter jigsaw puzzle in cereal boxes. The audience vote was 80 per cent in favour of Dalhousie.

Individually, Atchison finished third out of 124 competitors, while Pitel was seventh. Pitel had earlier won the 1989 English Nationals, and Atchison had won the 1988 French Nationals. Both hope to represent Dalhousie at the 1990 World Championships in Glasgow, Scotland.

SODALES, the Dalhousie Debating Society, will be hosting its annual invitational tournament on the weekend of October 27-29. Debates will be held in the Arts and Administration Building, and the finals will be in the Nova Scotia legislature on Sunday afternoon. Anyone interested in judging during all or part of the weekend are asked to call John Atchison at 425-3050.