

Dal to decide

Position on differential fees

by Marc Allain

Foreign students at Dalhousie may be facing higher tuition fees and restrictions on their enrollment according to Vice President Andrew MacKay. MacKay told the *Gazette* that he expects the university Senate to adopt an official position on differential fees and quotas for foreign students within six months.

MacKay said the university is being forced into formulating policy governing the enrollment of foreign students because of "patterns developing in other parts of the country."

Three provinces now make visa students pay higher tuition than residents. Both Ontario and Alberta instituted differential fees in 1976 while Quebec only recently decided to charge visa students \$1,000 more for tuition beginning in 1979.

The arguments most frequently used in support of differential fees are that foreign students are subsidized by government funding and that they thereby constitute a drain on the economy. MacKay agreed, however, that this has been

proven to be a bogus argument and that the capital visa students invest in the economy is considerably more than the amount of government subsidy.

MacKay also stated that there was no evidence to suggest that the differential fees in other provinces were creating an influx of visa students to Nova Scotia. The university he said, had been monitoring enrollment and there has been only a modest increase over the last few years.

He noted that there has been a "marked but not terribly important shift" in foreign students to undergraduate programs in commerce and engineering but that these coincided with the general trends developing in post-secondary education.

MacKay stated that it was "terribly important" that a "reasonable proportion" of visa students be maintained, adding in the same breath that any definition of the word reasonable was completely arbitrary.



The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (there's actually one woman on it) received presentations from post-secondary institutions and the Atlantic Federation of Students at the Holiday Inn on Tuesday.

'Strike unlikely'

by Bruce Grant

There is little possibility of a faculty strike if the DFA becomes certified as the sole bargaining agent for the Dalhousie faculty, according to DFA president Phillip Welch. "Although the majority of Canadian universities have faculty unions or special agreements, strikes are practically never seen," Welch said.

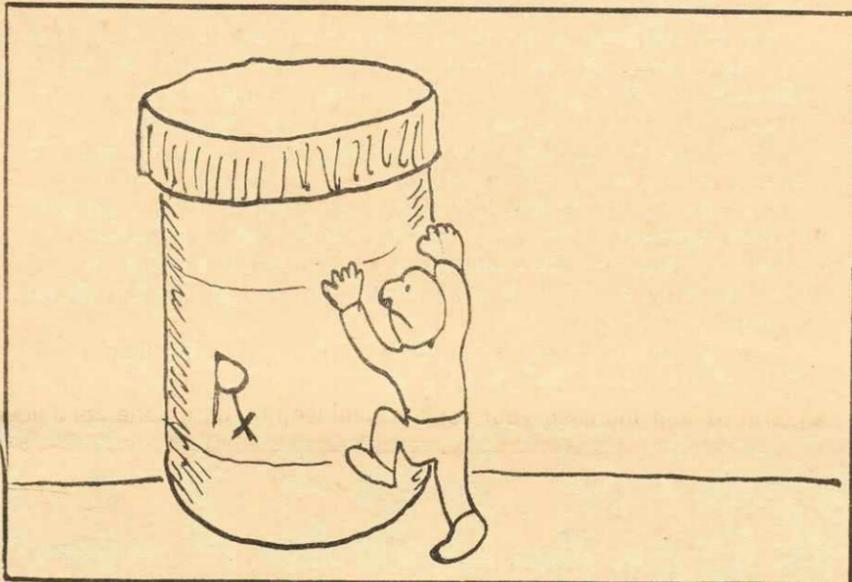
When asked how DFA planned to make up the difference in salary between the Dalhousie faculty and those of other Canadian universities, Welch said, "We're hardly going to make it up out of our own pockets." Once the DFA is certified, the faculty will have a "vastly stronger representation" before the administration.

The drive for certification has proceeded in lieu of any "major overtures" from the university administration towards reaching an agreement in the current dispute. Welch told the *Gazette* the DFA would consider alternatives to certification if presented with acceptable proposals by the admin-

istration. While this principle is still in effect, he said, there has been no communication from the administration. "They apparently see no utility in making any further offers," Welch said it appears as though the certification vote of Feb. 16 will be followed up.

An offer of binding arbitration was rejected by the DFA because it provided only for arbitration on the issue of salary. Welch claimed that to have binding arbitration on salary without arbitration on tenure or contract leaves the administration open to do anything it wants. "They could raise your salary by 15% and terminate your job on the 30th of June."

The DFA feels that the university has not considered faculty salaries a priority in the past, Welch said. "They seem to feel that the faculty of a larger university should be poorer because of the honour of being there," he said. "That is strange logic. By that reasoning the Dal faculty ought to be higher-paid than many in Canada."



A decision is needed

by Jeff Round

Dalhousie students are encouraged to vote in Dal's prescription drug plan referendum during council elections March 15.

This year the plan is facing a deficit of almost \$17,000, according to Gail Rudderham, student council treasurer. Council has decided to call the referendum to put the plan back on a break-even basis.

The four alternatives on the referendum to solve the drug plan problem are: 1) increase fees by \$4.00 making them \$9.00, thus covering extra costs; 2) discontinue the Allergy Service, Dental Plan, and Summer Service (May 1-August 31 constitutes the summer service) and increase fees by \$1.00; 3) Increase fees by \$2.00 and withdraw summer service; (4) Begin a co-pay plan, with students paying \$1.00 per prescription they receive and increase fees by \$2.00.

The drug plan, operated by the University Health Service in conjunction with M.K. O'Brien's Phar-

macy, was instituted in September, 1970, as an insurance plan to cover the cost of prescription drugs for full-time Dal students. With the exception of birth control pills, all drugs prescribed by the Student Health Clinic are dispensed by O'Brien's free of charge to eligible students. The plan's latest feature was last year's inclusion of a dental plan to provide protection for students who sustain accidental damage to natural teeth.

Up until the current fiscal year, the plan broke even with the revenue from the \$5.00 per student fee taken out of the \$50 student union dues paid at registration. A low participation rate during the early years of the plan resulted in a surplus of revenue which was carried over from year to year as a provision fund.

The provision fund is nearly exhausted and with the current trend of expenditures, council's deficit will be \$16,905 for the present fiscal year.

Election special on Monday

The Election Special will be on the stands Monday. This edition will include interviews with the two presidential teams, information from council candidates as well as further information about the drug plan and Gazette referenda. Don't miss it!!

Staff breaks off talks

by Jeff Round

Dalhousie Staff Association (DSA) is breaking off contract negotiations with the university administration, according to Jane Mersereau, DSA president.

DSA is meeting for final talks with their conciliator Friday. If the administration has come up with no new offers DSA will ask for the conciliator's report to be filed, Mersereau said. Once this happens, DSA will call a membership meeting to report the university's offer. If it is not accepted a strike vote meeting will be called. DSA is in a legal strike position 10 days after the conciliator's report has been filed.

According to Louis Vagianos, Vice President of university ser-

vices, Dalhousie would not be making any further offers. "We have finished our negotiations with them and have made an offer," Vagianos said. Although the university was offering nothing significantly different this year there was the assurance negotiations for next year's contract would begin right away, thus avoiding the difficulties of negotiating under a time constraint.

At present the university is offering a 1.7% increase retroactive to June 1977, when DSA's contract expired, plus a 2.5% increase in April for two months. "This results in a total of about a 2% increase," Mersereau said. DSA is asking for an increase of 3.75% retroactive, plus 2.5% in April and 4 days holiday during the year.

Newfoundland students back NUS and AFS

Students at Memorial University of Newfoundland have approved membership in both the National Union of Students and the Atlantic Federation of Students. The results of Tuesday's referendum are: AFS: For—590, Against—180; NUS: For—559, Against—206. Turnout for the referendum was 15% of the student population.