

# Let them eat cake

Things around Dalhousie are pretty screwed up.

As a student at Dalhousie, you have probably noticed the outdated lab equipment, the lack of professors in your department, and the general disrepair of Dalhousie buildings and grounds.

But the problem that is even more shocking involves a university that doesn't even know how much money it has. The university is presently running at a \$25 million deficit, and doesn't have an administrative computer system that can keep track of it.

Also, the university has grown from small to large with virtually no planning. This means the whole system is put together by a tape and string method

So, like any system about to crumble to the ground, Dalhousie's only defence is to spend money on spectacular shows that might keep a few people in the dark until the end.

Spending money on cutting down bushes in front of the chemistry building when lights are not being upgraded is one example.

Another peculiar expense is the new phones being installed across the campus. These snazzy high-tech phones are lots of fun. The Gazette has been having a riot trying out the 18 phone number memory and all the other features.

But hey, there are no new positions opening for professors, and classes are getting larger rather than smaller. Why are we acting as though this university is on top of the world when we talk on the telephone? We still have to face the reality when we hang up.

Other expenses include the new VAX computer system. This wonderful system shows Dalhousie to be up to date in new technology; it will bring more students to Dalhousie to study.

But Dalhousie's administrative wizards haven't noticed they still are going to have to heat the classrooms for these students, and maybe even give them a parking space, not to mention an affordable abode within city limits.

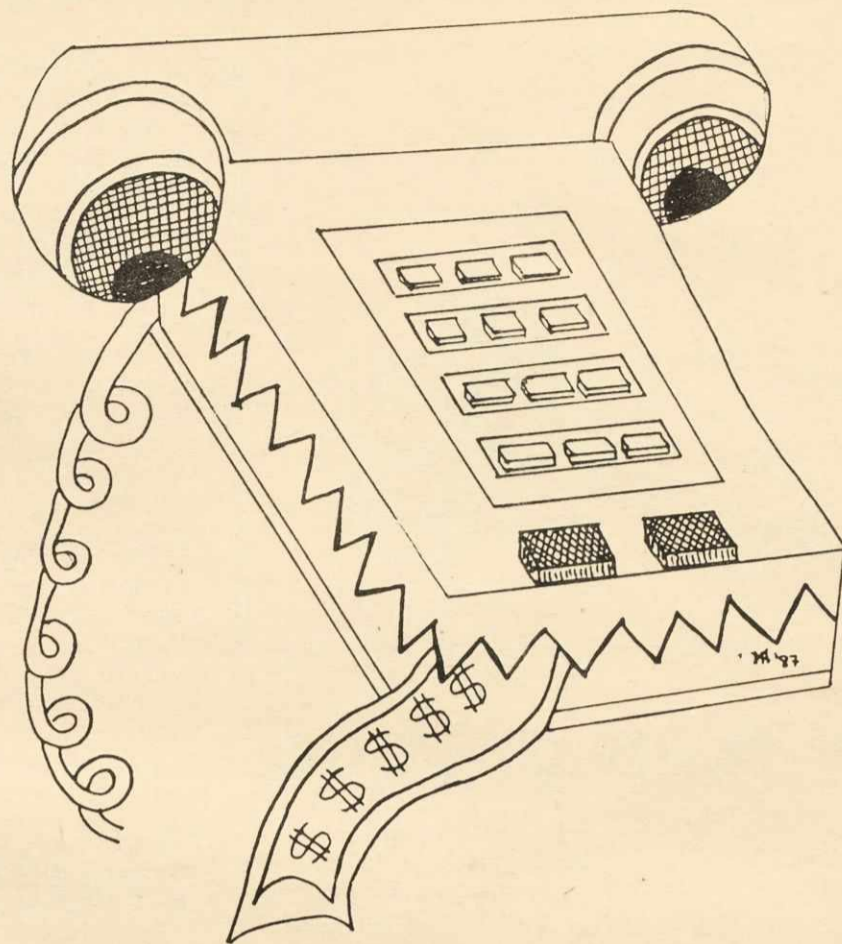
A good comparison to these expenses would be if someone had only \$10,000 to live on in a year, and went out and bought a new car. When you are in the car, things are great. It's just feeding yourself that's difficult.

Dalhousie has been letting the cupboard go bare for too long, and new coats of paint will do nothing.

Of course, the university cannot simply shut down operations until they can start the whole thing over again, but the scary part is, the administration does not even try to work on the fundamental problem. President Howard Clark has only found time to look for teaching excellence, and to stab other universities in the back for MPHEC funding (see Dal News, November 25).

He has never publicly disclosed that the University is in a crisis, and that if there is not an immediate infusion of funds going into restructuring the university system, Dalhousie will stop. It will stop dead, and all of the students studying there and all of the faculty and staff will be left with a bankrupt university. No kidding.

Geoff Stone



Ho!

ALL The STANDARD

SEASONAL CLICHES

...and good luck on your exams!

from The Gazette

Hutchinson

