

# Bursaries in jeopardy

At present the Nova Scotia Budget is undergoing its annual review. The Treasury Board will be looking for ways to tighten and save. One aspect of the budget coming under close scrutiny is the education budget, particularly the student bursaries. Word has it that bursaries are "getting a rough time" at the hands of the Treasury Board.

So it could be an even rougher time for students next year. Unfortunately we cannot say that we're surprised. After the arduous fight waged with the NS Government this summer by the Ad-Hoc Student Aid Committee it was expected that the matter would come up again, now that a new budget is being prepared. A standing Student Aid Committee should have been set up, as was recommended, but one wasn't. Now students may have to pay for that oversight.

However students should not sit back and let it happen. The students' case should be made clear to the Government. Once again students need to press for their rights.

A decline in bursary money means that fewer people can afford to go to university, enforcing the trend of education only for the rich. In a "free society" everyone should have the opportunity to attend university.

The arguments are the same as those that are being used all across the country in the face of hostile Treasury Boards. However, these days governments do not regard education as a priority. For short-sighted administrations that live for next year's budget, education probably would not be very important. Only those that think toward the future will place education in its proper position. Canada may have a lack of cash but we certainly have no surplus of answers. For universities it may be "now more than ever".

We urge students, especially those in student government, to fight to insure the same level of bursaries and work to obtain an even higher level so that all who need a university education can obtain one.

A Student Aid Committee should be set up immediately. The students' case should be taken to the media. Student leaders, those on the Executive and those involved with Atlantic Federation of Students and National Union of Students, must bring our point of view to those dealing with the budget. Minister of Education McAskill should know that students will not sit quietly while education becomes more the privilege of those who were born wealthy.

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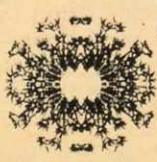
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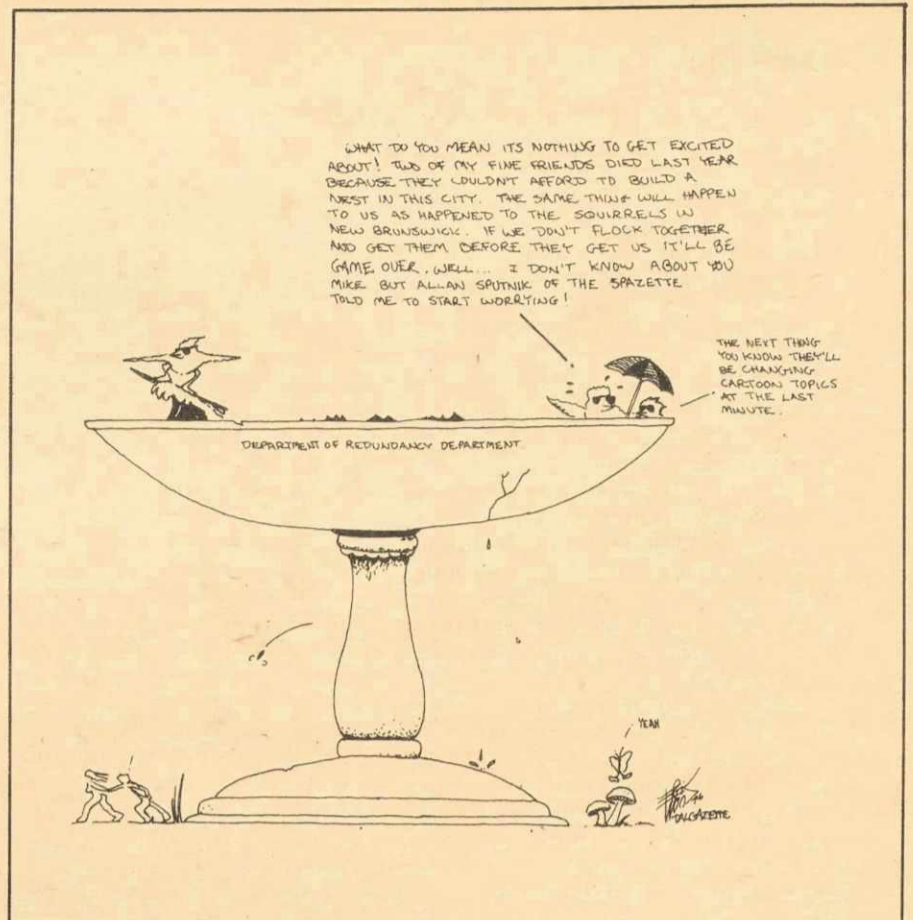
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## Letters

### Increase misleading

To the Gazette

I have read with interest your piece 'Faculty Salary Increases Exceed Inflation Controls' (Gazette, February 19, 1976).

Apparently the author did not know that salary increases for faculty in Canadian universities are normally determined in the winter or spring of the preceding academic year, and go into effect, normally, on July 1. Thus if there was an overall increase of 14.2% in salaries between 1974/75 and 1975/76 exceeding, as the article says, levels set in the federal wage-control legislation, this increase was agreed upon and took effect long before such legislation was even proposed last October.

At best the reference to wage-control levels was irrelevant. At worst it was misleading to your readers, and damaging to the image of university teachers.

Apparently such wage-controls will, however, govern salary increases for most Canadian universities' academic staff to take effect next academic year. This in spite of the fact that most such teachers are not fee-gathering professionals and cannot, like many others, augment their incomes beyond salary increases received by, say, working longer hours the way doctors and dentists can.

Two further points about the article are worth making. First, the average salary figures quoted neatly exceed Dalhousie's; which would indicate we have some 'catching up' to do. Second, in what other profession (with the possible exception of the clergy) can a person spend seven or more years in preparation by university training and, if he works very hard and rises to the top of that profession, has an international reputation, etc., and his career earning what the average dentist in Canada earns, considerably less than what the average physician earns?

Roland Puccetti  
Chairman

### Disappointing elections

To the Gazette:

This letter has not been written to reflect on personalities, rather, its

intent is to comment on the student body of Dalhousie.

I feel the recent student council elections at Dalhousie reveal the quality, the mentality, and consciousness of most Dalhousie students. In the first election in years which had credible candidates offering realistic well-developed platforms, the students (20% or so) that voted, decided AGAIN to vote simply on popularity.

Any careful examination of policy and platforms would clearly have shown that the executive team which won - Neal and Gillis - was by far the weakest. Their programme was basically shallow, with the usual housing / student aid empty promises to carry it. While the other candidates were talking about day care and unionization, while they had specific and well developed stances on housing and student aid, Mr. and Ms. Popular were talking about building a banana split! It makes me want to puke.

Once again popularity and not issues decided a Dal election. Thank god I'm leaving.

This election has done a lot to reinforce the cynicism of thinking students. I could be wrong about the new team, I hope I am, because while popularity is nice, competency and proper priorities are better. A final special thanks to the residences for selecting another caretaker council, and I hope you get a chance to eat split.

G. Dillis

### Who's more important?

To the Gazette:

I find the need of money and limited pool of recruitment arguments on secretariate salaries sufficiently contradictory that I will not pursue them beyond commenting that other members of council are in a similar position with regard to the opportunity cost of their time.

However, I would like to take umbrage at the editorialist (Gazette Feb. 19, 1976), who suggests that the Housing and Communications Secretariates are on the basis of their names more valuable than Community Affairs and Academic Affairs. That author has a rather insular view of the services provided by the Students' Union and the likely effect of a council's priorities

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