

Delays in reimbursement

Health plan problems

by Margaret Rumsey

The Student Health plan has come under fire from individuals lately because of delays in reimbursement, said John Graham, overseer of the Health Plan for the Student Union.

"With 7,000 students to administer the program to, you will find some claims go astray", said Graham. "However, almost half the delays resulted from requests from students who were not entitled to assistance from the Program."

Graham said these claims included from the University of King's College as well as part-time students who had not paid student fees. Also, full time thesis students experienced delays because they were omitted from the university computer print-out of eligible students.

Frequent difficulties were also encountered when reimbursement was requested for prescription drugs which exceeded the 30 day supply limit. Such claims required

verification to arrive at the appropriate amount to be paid out.

Graham advises that students who enter a claim early in September should note a six week delay may be expected while the new computer printout of eligible students is being prepared.

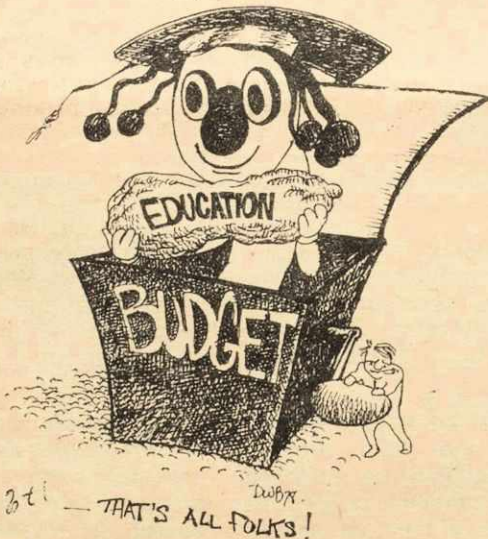
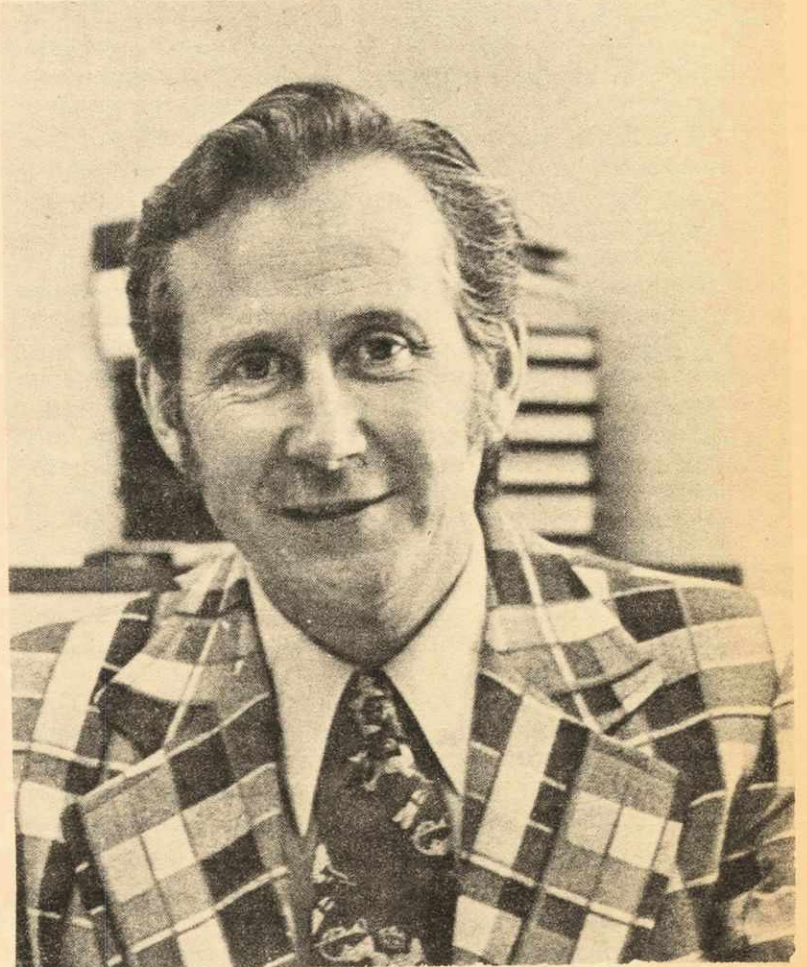
For those not familiar with the Dalhousie Student Health Plan, it is a policy between individuals and John Ingles Ltd. of Toronto. The Plan offers students financial assistance for various medical expenses with programs ranging from a Blanket Accident Expense Program, an Accidental Dental Program, to a Principal Sum Indemnity Program paying up to \$10,000. A small portion of the student fee is used to pay for the coverage. Students travelling outside of Canada are covered, up to a certain amount. To take full advantage of the Plan, students can also register their spouse and their children for these benefits.

The deletion of oral contraceptives from the prescription

drugs which can be claimed is one of the significant changes in this year's Plan. Graham said without this change, the premium for each student would have climbed to \$19, instead of \$8.50.

Another modification is for foreign students on visas, who will receive an assist this year with a revised method of payment introduced by Ingles. Rather than face two payments of \$125 a year for the first two years in Canada for medical services, foreign students may now opt out for the Provincial Plan at the end of the first 12 months. In the second year of the Provincial Plan only a small percentage payment (about 1 / 12 of the \$125) is made.

"Communication with the students regarding the Plan should now be improved," said Graham, "with a new zenith line to Toronto". To alleviate further problems, students can communicate directly to Mr. Ingles any questions regarding their claims by calling 1-800-268-9059.



Tuition hikes

by John Demont

Students will feel the pinch in 1979 at Dalhousie as student fees have risen 9% over last year's costs.

Tuition has increased \$76 over 1978-79 in all faculties. This rise is the result of concurrent, but very unequal, hikes in University and Student Union fees, two of the three fees which are used to calculate the total student tuition. Only the Society fee, which varies from faculty to faculty, has remained stable.

While the increase in Student Union fees is a negligible one—one dollar which will be used to pay for the university yearbook—the increase of \$75 by the university accounts almost single-handedly for the jump.

"The hike seems somewhat out of character at Dalhousie," said Mrs. Joyce Kelley, the Supervisor of Student Accounts at Dalhousie. "We've toed the line pretty well in the past."

There were no increases in University fees the last two years. Last year the total student cost did increase, but this was purely due to a raising of the Student Union fees and a doubling of Society fees.

The growth in this year's University fees can be traced to a lack of funding by the Provincial government, said Otto Nofle, Dalhousie's Director of Budget Administration. "Support from the government wasn't as high as was expected this year, which accounts for the fee increase.

Actually, we maybe would have wanted a larger increase but we decided to forego this in order to stay in line with other universities."

Residence fees at Dalhousie have also experienced a surge. Both single and double rooms at Shirreff and Howe Halls have gone up \$180 or about 10% from last year. The blame for this, according to Mrs. Kelley, may be placed on spiralling food prices.

The group hardest hit during the 1979-80 year at Dalhousie will be the foreign students. Incoming foreign students, as well as any foreign students changing faculties, will now be forced to pay an additional \$750. This amount is a differential fee which had previously been paid to the

university by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Council (M.P.H.E.C.), but which now the individual student will be responsible for.

Attempts have been made to alleviate some of the financial load on students by the Provincial Department of Education who have increased the provincial bursary by \$100 to \$1200. Maximum student aid is now \$3000 (\$1400 loan, plus \$1200 bursary, plus an additional \$400 loan if needed). However, since this is dispensed according to a person's particular need as assessed by the department, many will not be eligible for the additional \$100, and, as a result, will gain nothing from this measure.

Dal sent \$150

Diff fee case

The Dalhousie Student Union has sent the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) \$150 to assist in its legal battle over differential fees.

FAS is taking the University of Alberta to court to prove higher tuition for foreign students is contrary to the province's human rights. The initial legal tangle was dismissed on a technicality, but the judge seemed sympathetic and recommended an appeal.

Dalhousie Student Union President Dick Matthews said that he could not give his opinion on the issue as he was bound by the constitution to give only council opinions on council affairs. He also said that the opinion of council and his own fell pretty much in line. "It doesn't add to a university to cut out foreign students. University

education consists of a mixture of ideas and it just doesn't make sense to cut out a group who's ideas are different than ours."

This year the Nova Scotia government decided not to allocate the \$750 per capita levy for all students, only Canadians. Foreign students at Dalhousie now pay \$750 as well as the regular tuition fees. Government grants are determined according to enrollment in the various faculties being assessed individually.

FAS is hoping a ruling calling differential fees discriminatory will act as a test case across the country.

Presently, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Newfoundland are the only provinces not to institute differential fees.

Strike planned

MONTREAL (CUP)—Fourth year notarial students at the Université de Montreal are planning to strike if year-end exams are not abolished.

The students are asking for the abolition of two year-end exams given during a two-day period and worth 50 per cent of their final grade.

Student representative Pierre Peladeau says the students feel the 30 exams and 10 assignments given by the university during the course of the year are sufficient. He said he wants a four to six month internship in a notary's office to replace the exams.

Last year 178 law students at the universities of Laval, Ottawa, Sherbrooke and Montreal took part in a two-month strike when the same demands were made.

Other demands include reducing the number of students per class and the hiring of more notaries as full-time professors.

The Chambre des Notaires was supposed to give the students their answer to the demands at a June meeting, but the meeting was rescheduled for an undetermined date in September. Now the students have been told it will be held in early October.