

Letters continued

Thank you - awareness up

To the Editor,

I want to thank you for your recent coverage of issues related to Counselling and Psychological Services. One very positive side-effect of the current contract negotiations has been the fact that more and more faculty, students and staff have become aware of the Counselling and Psychological Services Centre and of the services we provide. The support we have received to date has been tremendous and is very much appreciated.

However, there was one error in the September 23rd article which I would like to correct. It was stated that the Centre comes in contact with approximately one quarter of the student population each year. The actual proportion is probably closer to 10 - 15 per cent of the total full and part-time enrollment per year. About a quarter of all Dalhousie students will use our services during their time on campus. Last year, for example, 830 students received individual counselling and 765 were involved in group programmes. No record is kept of the many students and prospective students who use our Career Information Centre, nor of the number of medical students who receive study skills instruction through written materials prepared by our staff in conjunction with the medical school.

So far this year, enrollment in our programmes is up. As

well, we have a new Career Resource Coordinator, supported from a grant from the Counselling Foundation of Canada, whose services are in great demand. Since the beginning of term, over 300 graduating students have taken part in her 2 session workshops on resume writing and preparing for employment recruiters. These workshops are being presented in cooperation with the Canada Employment Centre on campus. Workshops on locating the Hidden Job Market will be offered early next term.

So if all goes well, and our stamina holds out, it looks like a bumper year ahead.

Sincerely,

Judith L. Hayashi, Director
Counselling and Psychological Services

Suitcase blues

To the Editor:

I am a fifth year student at Dalhousie University. However, I attended S.M.U. for one year (1977-78) and have been living in S.M.U. residence for the past five years. I reapplied for residence accommodation June 30, 1982. On July 19, 1982, I received a letter from the Acting Director of Residences informing me that there were no rooms available this fall.

The S.M.U. Residence Handbook and S.M.U. Calendar state: "Students are reminded that their application and their \$50.00 deposit must be received by June 30 if any preference of (room) is desired." "...Rooms in residence are assigned by Residence Staff on a priority basis and students must occupy the room and bed assigned to them. While it is impossible to provide single accommodations to all who request them, first

consideration is given to returning students. After returning students' requests have been accommodated, new students will be considered for single accommodation." I also noticed that neither the Handbook nor the Calendar has specifically stated that the residences are for S.M.U. students only or that they are given first consideration for acceptance.

Because the Residence staff has accepted my \$50 and the application form (before the deadline), my name should at least appear on the waiting list according to a first-come-first-served basis (referring to the applied date). Unfortunately, this is not the case. At the end of August I was informed by the Acting Director of Residences that my application would be kept on file and would be processed once the waiting list (S.M.U. students only) is expired. This means that if any S.M.U. students apply for residence in late August, September or even today, they will be considered for residence before I will. Why does the S.M.U. Residence Office accept our Dalhousie applications and the \$50 deposit?

An educational institute is not an underground business. They should do things according to their written policy and if there are any changes from year to year, these should be made clear in the Handbook. Moreover, the policy for admittance is questionable when one considers that there are over 10 Dalhousie students and possibly others from other institutions living in residence at this moment. What is ironic is that the President of the S.M.U. Residence Society happens to be a full-time Dalhousie student. In other words: where do they draw the line? I am asking the S.M.U. Vice-President (Administrative), Mr. Noel, to take a stand on this issue. I welcome any readers' comments. By the way, I am still living out of the suitcase.

Yours sincerely,
York Tang

Commentary

Student economic concerns high and dry

by Kim Rilda van Feggelen

It's September 1982 and the Government has cut funding of Dalhousie University by 3.5 million dollars. There was little outcry, really, considering how much it will cost the students to make up for the budget deficit at the University. Perhaps we've just become so used to increasing tuition fees that we no longer think we can do anything about it. After all, marches on Province House did little in the past.

So what can students do? Obviously, the government has pulled out and shown that they are no longer willing to support University students as they have done in the past. So the solution must come from within this time.

First, we must take another look at what University is and what a University education means in 1982. The first mistake to make is in thinking that education, including a University education, is a right and not a privilege. We must

abandon the idea that a university education be economically available to everyone, regardless of economic background or means, for this is no longer the case.

This attitude was big in the 60's and 70's but did not apply before then and does not apply in 1982. During the 60's and 70's, North America went through an economic feast. With a baby boom and an economic wealth left over from a war, it was possible for most people to afford University and those who couldn't soon began receiving help from government subsidized loans. Anyone could attend, and most were encouraged to attend because a university education usually meant a secure job future.

In the 1880's, though, this was not so. Throughout the history of University it has been available only to those who were wealthy enough (or dedicated enough, as in the monks). And not only that, you

also had to be male.

The 1980's paints a brand new picture. We face major economic changes in Western society, and consequently a change in attitude towards a University education. The result of the affordability of education in the past 20 years is that approximately 10,000-15,000 people a year, in Canadian institutions alone, graduate with a B.A. And that makes a B.A. a very common piece of paper. Only about 6-7 per cent of those students will find work related to their field of study (unless they continue beyond their B.A.s). I haven't even touched statistics for science or commerce or other degrees. And to top it all off, the push for University educations for our young has been so great that North America now severely lacks workers with any technical skills; so bad is the situation that we have to "import" workers by the thousands, while Canadians remain unemployed (but

educated). There just isn't a demand for English Lit. Majors.

The value of a B.A. is no longer what it used to be. Consequently, University enrollment has gone down over the past few years (this is also due in part to the end of the baby boom and increasing costs). Therefore Universities have less students providing for their income and yet they, in turn, must pay annual increases for their services and professors. Therefore, Universities really have little choice but to raise tuition fees.

Now, where does that leave the students? For anyone attending (or thinking of attending) a University in 1982, a major re-assessment of the value of his/her education is necessary. Anyone looking for job security in an education should realistically be prepared to stay in University and work for a Doctorate or at least a Masters degree.

(This may not be true for computer science students.) And he/she should also be serious enough to realize that some sacrifice of luxury is necessary in order to afford that degree (students have always been poor, and, indeed, some would argue that comfort, without luxury, lends itself to better study habits - no t.v. or nightly drinking binges). If you aren't ready to work for your degree then forget it - you're wasting your time and money.

However, we still haven't solved our problem. No matter how little some students have, and how serious they are, they cannot afford an education. Student loans and scholarships just aren't enough.

So how about the idea of tuition costs being based on students' marks? We already have a merit **continued on page 10**

GOING TO A HALLOWE'EN BASH??

Rubber Masks * Wigs * Baldies
Beards * Moustaches
Make-up * Noses * Hands
Accessories * Hats * Snakes
* Blood *

HOLLIS SPECIALTY
1532 HOLLIS ST.
(Corner Hollis/Salter)
OPEN EVERY NITE 'TIL 9:30
Tel. 422-4576



Brunch With The Best

Thackeray's is offering the best, most abundant brunch in town.

Weekends just wouldn't be the same without our Highland Eggs, Steak and Eggs, Eggs Benedict or French Toast.

Brunch is served from 11:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

Our regular menu is also available. Restaurant open 11:30 a.m. to midnight.

THACKERAY'S
and
DOWNSTAIRS
Spring Garden at Brunswick