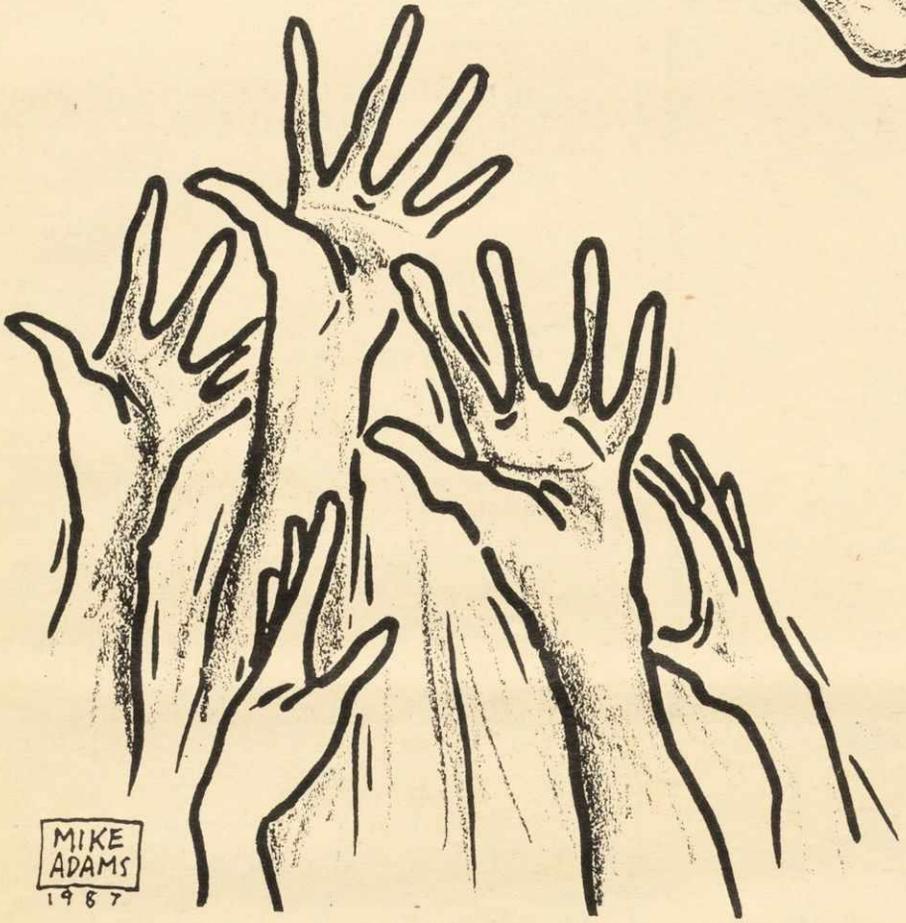
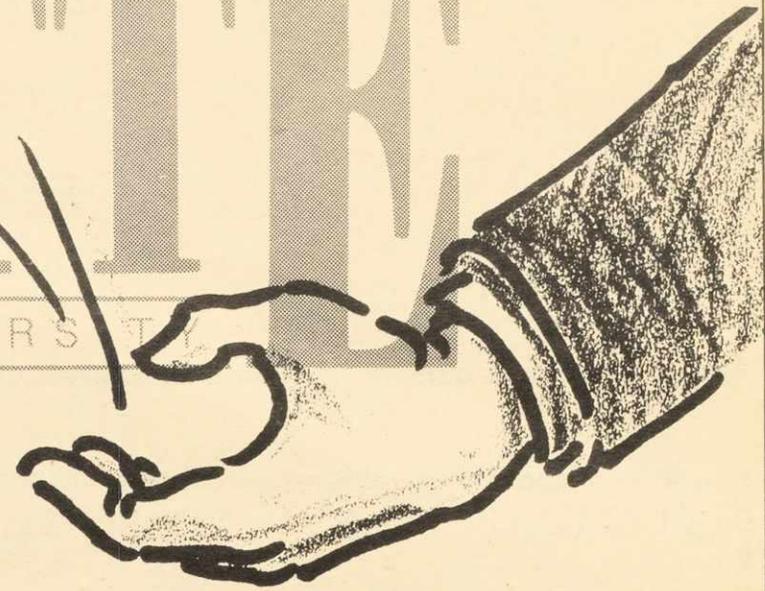
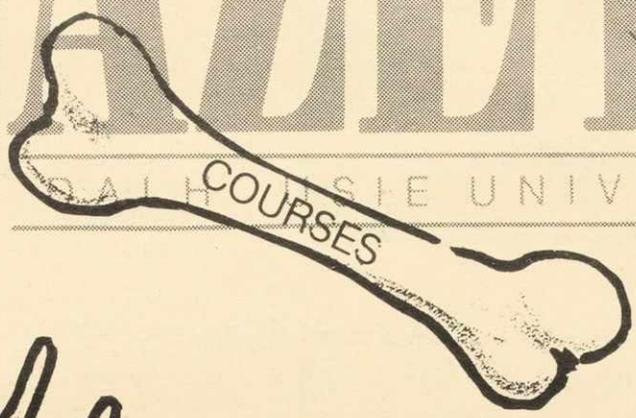


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Cuts cost students

By GEOFF STONE

The numbers of Dalhousie staff and faculty are decreasing as the University continues a hiring freeze and as part time employees continue to be cut.

Delphine Du-Toit, executive director of the Dalhousie Staff Association, says the cuts and the Ritchie recommendations are putting stress on staff and giving students a drop in the services they receive.

Thirty-seven positions have been cut during the past six years, with many more lost through attrition.

Du-Toit says at least seven staff members have left the registrars office by job reshuffling or no replacement for lost staff.

Barbara James, who works at the registrar's office, says the cuts in staff have made work more stressful. "We're now doing four people's work," she says.

James says the University has made a mistake with the Ritchie recommendations, and that the increased stress is causing more staff to become sick and miss work. She says the present situa-

tion has ignored the staff as people.

James, who presently cannot answer calls during work because of the student lineups, says the University is losing students through their cuts.

She says this loss has made the University increase promotion, which makes them spend more money. "Right now they're doing a push for new students, it's reverse psychology," she says.

James says students are not receiving enough support after their first year. She says the student union has not realized the extent of the problem, "I don't think the DSA is aware," she says.

The 5.25% cut to Arts and Science departments has forced many faculties also to consider firing part time professors and graduate assistants.

Micheal Bishop, chair of the French department, says the real effect of the cuts will not be felt until final approval of classes is given in August, "You never really know till a week before classes," he says.

Bishop is angered over the thoughtless nature of cutting across the board, "It's not based

on academic merit... it's based on economic vulnerability," he says.

Quality of teaching will certainly be affected, Bishop says. "It (the cuts) must not affect the right of Canadian students to take the courses they want to take."

Other faculty members stressed the same concerns, and pointed to such expenses as administrative cost and the new VAX computer as areas that should be cut first. The faculty say that Arts and Science is a key part of the university and it is senseless to cut the programs offered.

An informal survey by the Gazette found that most students, including non-arts and -science students, feel they are not receiving enough assistance through a lack of teaching assistants and lab instructors.

Students also said they would not have attended Dalhousie if they could not have taken English 100 or Biology 1000 in their first year.

The majority of the students said they had been affected by unreasonable line-ups during their time at Dalhousie, but most said it did not affect their daily routine.

Top marks for optimism

By ELLEN REYNOLDS

If last year's increase in provincial government funding to universities, announced as 3 per cent, turned out in reality to be 0.8 per cent, how optimistic can the university be about the announced 6.5 per cent increase for this year?

"The increase appears to be an improvement," says Bryan Mason, vice-president of finance and administration, "but there are no specifics for Dalhousie yet."

So far, each department must cut 5.25 per cent from their individual budgets for next year. According to Mason, this is the result of Dalhousie's financial straits and a projected deficit of \$500,000 next year.

Mason doesn't expect the provincial funding increase of 6.5 per cent to lower the 5.25 per cent department cuts. "I don't think that it (the 5.25 per cent cuts) will go down. We're going to have to live with that. If we got the 6.5 per cent government increase, across the board, it would have a major impact on departmental budgets but it's more likely to be a modest increase" says Mason.

Things are still up in the air and Mason expects to know by the end of the week what the 6.5 per cent government increase will actually mean to Dalhousie students.

Many departments already know, as they draw up their budgets, what the 5.25 per cent cuts will mean to them. "Different departments will be affected in different ways" says Donald Betts, Dean of Arts and Science. "There will be a significant reduction in part-time faculty, about a third of last year's," says Betts.

In response to the 6.5 per cent government increase in funding, Betts says, "It's not enough to operate at the same level, (it's

better than expected but not enough."

Departments are waiting to see how the 6.5 per cent increase from the government will affect the president's budget, which had directed each department to cut 5.25 per cent.

In most cases, part-time faculty are the first to be cut. This will hit hardest departments like the Faculty of Music, which depends heavily on local musicians hired as part-time instructors. "Most part-time work is going to be done by full-time faculty, which means much more work for full-time faculty. That obviously affects quality," says Carol Van Feggelen, Chair of the Music Department.

Also, the partial hiring freeze suggested by President Clark is underway. "A committee has been formed," says Mason, "and the process is in effect."

The history department, which lost two professors this year, is unsure they will get their much-needed replacements. "One of our profs is carrying a serious overload," says Graham Taylor, Chair of the History Department. "We need new blood, new ideas to keep the department alive."

English is being forced to cut seven sections of English 100 from this year's 28. Allan Kennedy, spokesperson for the department, says this "will mean turning away approximately 400 students for English 100 next year." Kennedy says they are short five full-time faculty and have been for three or four years. As a result, some courses are offered only once every five or six years. "The department will try to maintain high standards. I'm writing to the president and if he is telling us to lower standards we can double the number of students and cut essays in half, but We are assuming that Dalhousie wants to remain high quality," says Kennedy.