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Students now able to pay rent

by Mary Pat MacKenzie

On Monday, January 5th hundreds of Dalhousie students arrived at the Dalhousie Awards office to pick up the second disbursement of Canada Student Loans and were greeted with a rather shocking surprise. The loans were available but when cashed were to go to the Dalhousie Business office against a student's tuition and not directly to the student. For many students this meant they would have no money for rent and food purposes until Provincial bursaries arrive sometime in late January or early February.

Apparently the federal government issued a directive to the Dalhousie awards office late last fall to the effect that Dalhousie's policy on issuing student loans to students should be changed. The government wants assurance that student loans are actually being used to pay tuition costs and not for student vacations in Bermuda or Europe.

Almost every other University in Canada puts a "lean" on student loans when they are issued. That is, the student can only receive whatever portion of his or her loan is leftover after university tuition fees have been paid. Dalhousie has never done this before but the government has determined that it must do so in the future. Though the awards office and almost certainly two of the vice presidents were aware of the change to be implemented January no notice was given to the students before the Christmas break.

For students who depended on their second loan installment to pay rent and food costs until the

bursaries arrived the situation could have been extremely critical. Fortunately the policy has been rescinded at least until next September. On Tuesday morning, Jan. 6, Bruce Russell met with Vice President Marriott, Dean of Student Services, Gordon Steedman, Director of Awards, and Vice President McNeil, Finance, to discuss the situation. It was decided that since students had no notice of the new policy it would not be implemented until next September.

Students who have already negotiated their loans but who need the money already paid to Dalhousie to tide them over until bursaries arrive can go to the business office and obtain a refund. Students who have had their loan forms filled out but who have not presented them to the bank can go to the awards office and get new forms certified.

The University administration has agreed to accept the responsibility for not implementing the government policy and will explain to the Guaranteed Loans Administration that the policy will be implemented next September. Further they are taking full responsibility for not implementing the policy because students were not notified in time to make other financial arrangements.

The situation next September will be that when a student loan form is authorized by the Dalhousie Awards office the bank will be instructed to send the students first tuition installment directly to Dalhousie. The student will only receive whatever is leftover after tuition has been paid.



University adds to beginning of term confusion by trying to put many students in the red.

The new policy is supposed to cut down on the number of students who withdraw from University immediately after receiving their loans. The government considers a student enrolled in University only

after fees have been paid while Dalhousie has traditionally considered students enrolled after they sign a conditional registration form payment of fees is not a condition of enrollment.

University press meet in Montreal

From December 27 until Jan. 2 McGill University in Montreal was taken over by the Canadian University Press. More than 150 delegates trekked to Montreal for the 38th Annual CUP conference. The delegates represented students newspapers from almost every university in the country.

You may from time to time notice "CUP" placed on an article in the Gazette. For the past 38 years Canadian University Press (CUP) has been building a nationwide student communications network, the primary aspect of which is a news service. More than once a week a collection of campus news stories from across Canada is sent to every university newspaper.

However, CUP is not just meant to be a compilation of campus newstories. The eventual goal is to develop more analytic functions and offer an alternate viewpoint on the news. Progress has been slow, mainly because of the high turnover rate inherent in all student

organizations. And perhaps as expected, the Atlantic Region student newspapers have seen the least benefit from CUP.

Delegates, especially from the Atlantic region went to the Montreal Conference with the determination to combat stagnation and upgrade CUP services.

Thus the "Great Leap Forward" was devised. This two year plan when completed will give Canadian students a truly remarkable information network, complete with regional bureaus, a reporter on Parliament Hill, and an increased staff of field people.

What does all this mean? While many commentators are judging students as apathetic in relation to the "riotous" sixties others are discerning a more realistic attitude among students. Students are more cynical about change and reform, and although most can see the need for change the issues are much more complex and clouded. Students need a more accurate and

realistic picture of the Canadian situation along with more effective means of action. Hopefully a better CUP organization will provide not only more accurate information but also a definition through analysis of a more effective means of changing the system.

Those interested in a more detailed and complete picture of Canadian University Press can simply pop up to the Gazette office and catch a staffer- or better yet become one.

Statement of Purposes for National News Service

Canadian University Press recognizes that a class society exists in Canada, and the important role the post-secondary education system plays in maintaining the existing social order. This role is reflected in the policies regarding accessibility to post-secondary education and the resulting composition of the Canadian student body, in the content of the education we receive, and is evidenced by the future positions which we are expected to occupy within the economic and social order.

Canadian University Press, as an agent of social change, must as its main priority attempt to use its

national news service to provide Canadian students with information and analysis of the nature and role of post-secondary education within the Canadian economic and social system, relate the current policies of financial cutbacks being waged against post-secondary education and other social services to the general economic crisis facing Canada, and assist students in mobilizing opposition against these policies.

Further, the news service should report on and critically evaluate the role played by existing student organizations in responding to this situation, and encourage change in the leadership and/or structure of these organizations where they fail to recognize their responsibility to mobilize students.

Canadian University Press must also use its national news service to provide Canadian students with information and analysis of the capitalist economic system in which we all live, and to assist students in mobilizing against that system where it is found to be preserving the class structure or to be oppressive to women, minorities or others within Canada.

Be it moved that the statement of purposes be adopted.