# Free tuition in final year a no go — for now

BY LEE PITTS

Speculation that Nova Scotia's minister of education would like to give free tuition for the final year of post secondary education was nothing more than 'wishful thinking', according to David Harrigan, spokesperson from the department of education.

But, he says, it might be possible in the future.

In an article in last week's Gazette, Mark Galley, Dalhousie

Student Union (DSU) Vice President student advocacy, said he heard provincial education minister Jane Purves say she'd like to implement a program where the final year of post secondary education would be free for students, as a way of tackling rising tuition costs.

He heard Purves make the comment at a meeting for student leaders in October, nearly a week after she took over the position.

Purves was commenting on a Saskatchewan election platform that

promised free tuition for the first year of university and commented that the final year would the better

David Harrigan, a spokesperson at the department of education, says there's no money for such a

"The province has a real bad budget crunch," Harrigan said. "We've got a \$10 billion debt."

Susan Clarke from the Nova Scotia council of higher education agreed that the comment was only

made in passing.

Galley is disappointed that the provincial government won't put money toward free tuition for students

"It's definitely not something they could do in the next few years,' Galley said, "[But] I think it's something they're still thinking about and I encourage it."

He still hopes sometime in Purves four year term, they'll implement a program of this nature.

Harrigan also seemed hopeful that late in Purves' term there may be money for some sort of pro-

"Any new program would be on hold for a couple of years," Harrigan said. "In future, maybe it's possible, but certainly not right now.

Galley says that if given the opportunity he'd like to work with officials to develop a plan that would benefit students and make

post secondary education more ac-

"If it's a program the department [of education] is... willing to consider, I'd like to give some student input," he said. "I feel it would be a good program.'

Right now, Galley says, the Nova Scotia government has a \$3.5 million savings from loan remission, thanks to the Millennium

"So there's savings and it's not known where this is going,"

He'd like to see the money go back into post secondary education.

But Harrigan says the provincial government is waiting for the federal budget to come down later this month before making any concrete plans to deal with rising tui-

"So much hinges on [federal finance minister Paul] Martin," he said.

## Cosmetic pesticides protest

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The protesters quieted down as to Natasha Flynn, a 15 old Sacred Heart student diagnosed with environmental illness took to the podium to speak. She compared herself to the canaries used in coal mines to test for toxic gasses.

"We react to being exposed to pesticides and other harmful chemicals by getting sick which tells us that what makes us sick is not healthy to be exposed to by anyone, and in that way we are better off than those who are not sensitive."

Of City Hall's 23 councillors only Graham Read of Purcell's Cove and Sheila Fougere were present at the rally.

Both councillors supported

"There is no need for the use of pesticides just to have a clean lawn. If you don't want dandelions, dig 'em up, or cut them," said Read.

After his speech Councillor Read explained that the presentation of a staff report from the Pesticide Bylaw Advisory Committee has been delayed by three weeks.

Read remains mystified by the

"I'm disappointed in that delay in getting the report because I was expecting to get it last week or this week. I don't know what's behind it whether it's the communities conned by the chemical companies, I don't

In order to pass a pesticide

bylaw, city council must first receive the staff report.

It is then possible to draft a proposed bylaw, which is put before a public hearing. After the public hearing council would be able vote on whether to enact the bylaw.

Councillor Read stressed the importance of letting individual councillors know your beliefs on this

"Many of the members of council are in favour of introducing a ban. Not all have been convinced yet so I suggest when you get home find out who your councillor is and call them [or] write them and explain to them that it isn't just a few whiners and complainers. There are some people who are very sick now."



And hey guess what? No one cared 20 years ago either

Chief Electoral Officer for the DSU remained disappointed by the lack of turnout for DSU candidates. There were only three positions which were being competed for, while a large majority of positions were either uncontested or completely vacant. (Empty positions included 5 senate positions, law reps, two arts positions, three science reps, and the commerce reps. One of the two pairs running for the presidentexecutive vice president team was running as a joke team to protest student apathy at Dal. The pair said they had no plans of showing up at any of the all important forums where students could hear all of the platforms.

No one noticed though because no one else went

Wooh, and here we are 20 years later . . .

DSU Elections on the Go

DSU Executive wannabees vied for top spots as the elections got underway. Candidates all shared similar platforms and equally bad haircuts. Crazily enough, (you can never stop being overwhelmed when you read back issues of the Gazette, students spoke on student finances and miscommunication between the DSU and the lowly student body.

If it's broke, leave it a while longer

History grad students banded together in solidarity after a fellow grad student complained that the elevator outside of the main history building had once again broken down. The student, who was confined to a wheelchair said he was forced to become dependent upon his fellow students to help him in and out of the building whenever he wanted to leave or enter the building. Top dogs at the history office said they had contacted the administration on numerous occasions, administration said they had contacted physical plant who, when contacted, said it was up to maintenance to fix the elevator. Maintenance staff had not been seen since the December break.

### Halifax harbour smel they do not remove a lot of the

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McCombs stated that after the plan is put into place, these practices will be regulated by law and will be prohibited. The tankers will be required to connect with the regional system. According to McCombs, it is futile, at the moment, to regulate these tankers and cruise ships. The case simply would not stand up in court, as the entire city now uses the harbour as its destination for sewage.

All of this makes it seem as if Halifax is finally getting its act together. But there is still more that needs to be done. A large part of the responsibility now lies with the residents of Halifax. Even though these plants appear to be well under way, chemicals that are found in paints and other household and industrial chemicals that are often thrown down the drain. Source control of contaminants is one of the major issues that the HRM still has to face, as too many people continue to toss their hazardous materials down the drain and let them vanish out of mind. The HRM is planning on introducing new bylaws restricting the dumping of these chemicals in to the sewage system. Residents and industries have to become more aware of the effects of dumping toxic chemicals down the drain.

The remedy to this problem is to encourage the public to first eliminate unnecessary toxins from

their lifestyles as much as possible. Natural alternatives to cleaners should be pursued. When hazardous materials such as paints and varnishes are used in the home, the waste should be disposed of in the appropriate manner.

So, Halifax appears to be on track to shedding some of its skeletons. The signs of action seem to be there from the municipality. It is now our responsibility as residents to keep pushing the municipality for higher standards and faster results.

For more information, current and past, on the harbour cleanup you can refer to the HRM website at www.region.halifax.ns.ca// harboursol.

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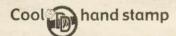




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Lawrence of Oregano Pub, 1726 Argle St. Lower Deck Good Time Pub, Historic Properties

Maxwell's Plum English Neighborhood Pub, 1600 Grafton St. Mercury Restaurant & Lounge, 5221 Sackville St.

Merrill's Cafe & Lounge, 5171 George St. Mexicali Rosa's, 5680 Spring Garden Rd.

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Rogue's Roost Restaurant & Brew Pub, 5435 Spring Garden Rd. The Attic, 1741 Grafton St.

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