

I want my money and

I want it NOW

by Martin Doucette

In a motion passed before the Council on Student Life, Gordon Steedman of the student services office said, "We are deeply concerned over the apparent crisis in the Nova Scotia Provincial Student Aid office, and their inability to process student bursary applications swiftly."

Recent radio reports said 70 per cent of bursaries had not been processed yet. Elizabeth Ann MacDonald, director of the Provincial Student Aid Office, says that's not exactly correct.

"The truth is, 30 per cent of applications have information lacking and have not been processed yet," she said.

Processing consists of reviewing of the candidate's application, sending it to the Department of Finance, returning the checks, and sending them out to the schools.

When students were questioned about the lateness of their bursaries, the answers ranged from "I was told a list of names was lost", "they told me they are usually backlogged like this," and "they put me on hold and I hung up so I actually don't know the reason."

"The loan part of the thing went well and on schedule but the bursary part will probably bring us bad marks," says Mac-

Donald. But Dalhousie is in the same situation as every other school, as applications are processed individually. Only special requests get processed ahead of the others.

Students were asked to make their applications by October 15, which is earlier than usual, so why were the bursaries late? The responses from both the Provincial Student Aid and Student Services differ.

"We started late, we had workers out with illnesses at the peak periods, and I cannot stress enough the human component involved in processing the many applications. The office of Edmund Morris recently authorized overtime to complete the processing of the bursaries," says MacDonald.

Gordon Steedman of Student Services says, "In September we had a good turnaround of about three days, but we have other work to do here and the later applications were affected." He said of the system in general, "If New Brunswick can get bursary checks out by January 15, Nova Scotia should be able to also."

Steedman calls the system complicated and convoluted, and says there were still 1250 applications to be processed just before the February break.

There was one rumour going around regarding the loss of a list

of some sort. "Apparently, some yellow bursary applications were misplaced by the Provincial Student Aid office and they requested a photocopy of the names from the date lost," says Steedman.

MacDonald says, regarding the lost list, "The applications were later found and those would have been attended to in their proper sequence."

The department says the bursaries have been given the once-over and the only ones left to process further are those lacking information of some sort.

Student leaders have urgently appealed to Advanced Education Minister Edmund Morris to act to help process the money. Dalhousie Student Union president Caroline Zayid says in her letter to Morris that, as of two weeks ago, only about one quarter of the Dalhousie students requesting a bursary had received it. Zayid also notes the frustration of students who couldn't get through to student aid counselors, and criticizes the unpublicized policy of the student aid department which cuts bursaries in half if the applications are late. 1987-88 is the first year for this policy.

Royden Trainor, Chair of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia, also sent a letter to Morris, describing the desperate student who have contacted his office. After last year's SUNS Task Force on Student Aid, Trainor writes, "I was led to believe that this year was going to be different. *By all accounts it is worse* (italics his).

Registrar gets tough

No more hassles

by Ariella Pahlke

After years of complaining, Dalhousie undergraduate students won't have to put up with early registration hassle any more.

Dalhousie's new registrar, Gudrun Curri, has set up a new registration process for undergraduates in Arts and Science, Management Studies, and Health Professions faculties. Curri wants to separate the functions of advising and enrolment, which she believes will save students a lot of trouble.

"The students will no longer have to run around," she says.

Advising will happen between March 16 and 18 during Undergraduate Advising Week. Curri has set March 15 aside for an Undergraduate Advising Fair in the Green Room at the SUB.

"The reason I suggested this advising fair is to facilitate students to go outside their disciplines. It's also in their territory," says Curri. Representatives from the Arts and Science departments will be there to answer questions.

Actual enrollment will be managed centrally and won't occur until later. Once students have received their grade statements and registration forms, Curri wants them to mail in their registration material. She anticipates 80 per cent of students will have registered between June 13 and August 19.

Says Curri, "There's no need to rush in. I would hope that stu-

dents would mail it.

Although enrollment in classes is still going to be granted on a first-come, first-served basis, Curri does not believe this will pose the problem it has in the past.

"There was an artificially created demand. Students would sign up for ten courses in March, just in case they didn't get what they wanted," she says. "Now students will only be allowed to register for five classes."

"The analysis has shown that there are sufficient places available for required lectures," says Curri.

As well as being the registration by mail deadline, August 19 is also the date by which students have to have paid their first tuition fee installment. If a student has not paid by this date and has not indicated that she or he has applied for student aid, the student will have to select classes again.

No one can register between August 19 and September 5. Those who do not register by mail in the summer must register between September 6 and 9 and still do not require department signatures. After September 30, students will have to register through their departments. They will also be charged a \$100 late fee.

"I ultimately want this to go to voice registration," says Curri. In this case, students would be able to register using a touch-tone telephone, simply by dialing into the computer.

News analysis

Pressure by sanction

by Jayn Ritchie

When considering the issue of anti-apartheid sanctions, in the last few years the Canadian government has taken a pro-sanctions stance to the world and to Canadians at home.

It may be easy to believe that Canada is standing firm on the issue of sanctions against the South African government, because an awful lot has been said — and seen on television — about Canada's opposition to apartheid.

At the 1985 Commonwealth Conference in Nassau, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said he was determined to impose "meaningful economic sanctions" against South Africa, and at the mini-summit in London in 1986, he said he would include a ban on importing South African agricultural products, coal, iron, steel, and uranium. He even travelled to Zimbabwe, met the ANC representatives, and said he "understood".

But what I don't understand is how Mulroney, after still taking a pretty hard line at the October 1987 Commonwealth conference in Vancouver and claiming

to sympathize with anti-apartheid organizations, has been so slow in enforcing and increasing his sanctions effort.

Well, can they work or have they worked? On September 16, 1986, Canada made a move to restrict the import of agricultural products, liquor, uranium, coal, iron, steel, and gold. Coincidentally, Canada is not significantly affected by any of these import restrictions, as we had either competed with South Africa on the world market with these products, or the products (fruit, wine, etc.) could easily be obtained elsewhere. We should not forget that these trade items are estimated to be worth only one quarter of Canada's total trade with South Africa. According to official reports, Canadian exports to South Africa have remained a steady \$150 to \$200 million throughout the 1980s.

Amidst a great deal of press coverage concerning South Africa, sanctions, the commonwealth, and Canada's role in anti-apartheid, Joe Clark declared that Canada was suffering from 'sanctions fatigue'. What he implied was that all avenues of sanctions against South Africa

had been explored and that there was nothing left to be done. Sanctions seemed a dead end.

But South Africa is back in the headlines, reminding us once again that this remains an urgent issue. In the last week, the South African government has banned 17 legitimate organizations within the country, among them the UDF (United Democratic Front), and insists that COSATU (the Congress of South African Trade Unions) stays clear of politics. Their representatives have stated that these tightened restrictions will not quell unrest in the population from now on; they will only lead to an escalation of unrest. The most recent resistance began with the highly public arrests of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Alan Boesak on Monday. These extremely visible figures have experienced limited harassment compared to the less public and therefore more vulnerable members of the recently banned organizations.

To return to the question of whether or not sanctions have worked: As we can see, Canada's stand on the issue is not always all it pretends to be, especially

when we consider exactly what is sanctioned. But even more meaningful is this comment: "The sanctions which have been adopted constitute the easy first step of sanctions and it is telling that the government has suggested that there is very little left to be done." (L. Freeman, *Southern African Report*, Dec. 1987) Some recent studies have clearly indicated that sanctions will work effectively if they are fully and consistently applied. The studies aside, we know that sanctions in their present state — poorly and inconsistently applied by only part of the international community, and frequently allowing for 'loopholes' which South African businesses actively explore — are still having an effect.

The white South African community has been very concerned about the threat of sanctions. If the recent advertisements in Canadian papers by the South African Embassy have been of concern to you, you should read some of the local South African advertising: "Moenie worrie nie" ('don't you worry') — We're still flying high! We found a way through, sanctions or no sanctions. So stay with S.A.A. With

your support, we'll keep the flag flying high." (*Johannesburg Star*). The airways are not the only ones running these ads: IBM also ran similar disclaimers (despite their announced withdrawal), as well as Hewlett-Packard, Harnschfeger SA, and BMW.

There are other telling signs: Anglo American and Gavin Rely's unprecedented rendezvous with the ANC, as well as the growing number of Afrikaner intellectuals who are objecting to apartheid, culminating in the Dakar meeting last year. All are signs that the white South African population is afraid of the impact of sanctions. And for all the potential force of sanctions, there is only one reason they should be pursued. That does not mean that sanctions should be pursued by the morally righteous West as a punitive measure against the morally corrupt and inferior apartheid supporters. The call for sanctions was initiated and has been repeatedly asked for by the representatives of the majority of black South Africans from within the country. The Canadian government has been asked for assistance by the black community. It is time to respond with honesty.