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Higher in debt and harder to get

Nova Scotia toughens up on aid for students

by Doug Whittall

Tightened qualification requirements in Nova Scotia's bursary program will force some students to negotiate additional loans of up to \$1000 to make up shortfalls.

Students Union of Nova Scotia Executive officer Peter Kavanagh accused the Conservative government with implementing "an attitudinal change which will result in universities becoming more elitist than they already are." Kavanagh adds, "We're positive there's a lot of interest in this thing."

The problems in the bursary plan are caused by two changes the province introduced this year. One change concerns residency. If you or your family live within 15 miles of your institution you cannot claim away-from-home living expenses. Also, you no longer qualify as an independent if you have been in university for four years. Now you must have been out of secondary school for 48 months, be married, or have been in the labour force for at least two 12-month periods.

Mount St. Vincent student Sue Drapeau is one of those interested

students. She says her bursary grant will be reduced by an estimated \$1000 because she is classified as dependent for the first time in three years of receiving aid, because her parents live within 15 miles of the school. As a result Drapeau says she will be forced to borrow the difference wherever she can get the money. On top of that, Drapeau will have to renegotiate a consolidated total of \$8,000 in aid loans after this year.

"Basically, my bursary will be cut from last year's level by half," says Drapeau. "They're telling me now I have to base my bursary claim on parental income and I don't feel my parents should have to pay because I've been on my own for eight years."

Drapeau, who is studying for her second degree, says she knows of at least a dozen other students in the same boat.

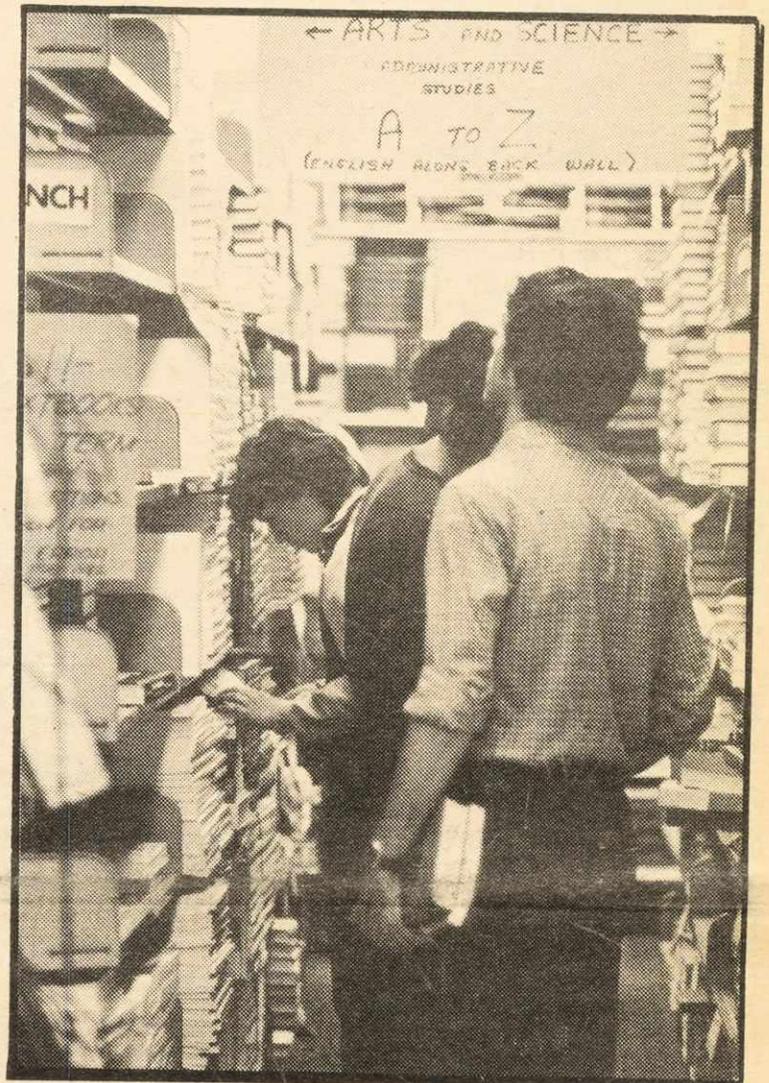
Education Minister Terry Donahoe said that many students who previously qualified as "independent" were in fact still supported by their families. "Cabinet simply considered that the fact you go for a second degree is an artificial way of

determining dependence versus independence," said Donahoe.

Gordon Steedman, director of Dalhousie student awards, thinks the government is saying "send us proof of parental income and we'll help out if need is established," rather than cut the budget outright. "Students have two choices," says Steedman, "either they get a bank loan if their parents will co-sign, or they appeal." Steedman says he is concerned about those students who do not qualify as independent and cannot get parental aid.

Dalhousie Student Union President Peter Rans says, "The variety of changes to the student aid package by this government has made it far more difficult for deserving students to get the funds necessary to continue their education, particularly in the bursary package."

Bursary grants are given out in the second term. Meanwhile, Sue Drapeau says she is going to "wait and see" until her application is processed before taking action. "I'm following the rules right now," says Drapeau, "if I don't get enough, I'll appeal, with a large group if necessary."



Bookstore prices may be still heart-stopping, but according to the Bookstore, they're not pulling in any profit. However you look at it, texts sure are expensive buggers.

Morris/Dal Photo

Fitzgerald resigns from Council

by Ken Burke

Dalhousie student senator Greg Fitzgerald has issued a letter of resignation to student union president Peter Rans. Fitzgerald was facing a motion of impeachment at the student council meeting on Sunday, September 17.

The letter, which Rans received this Wednesday, states that Fitzgerald's resignation of his position is effective as of September 1, 1982. In the text of his letter, Fitzgerald said, "I deeply regret having to do this, but feel it is in the best interests of all." The letter was dated September 1, 1982.

Rans would not say whether or not he would accept Fitzgerald's resignation or wait for the impeachment motion at the council meeting on Sunday. "Some council-

lors may wish to proceed despite the resignation," he said. Rans also declined to state his personal views on the merits of resignation as opposed to proceeding with impeachment.

At least one councillor feels that impeachment should proceed.

Shawn Houlihan, the student union's treasurer, thinks the impeachment process should proceed as originally scheduled. "I think his resignation should not be accepted," said Houlihan. Houlihan was the mover of the motion to impeach Fitzgerald during Summer Council this year.

Fitzgerald would not elaborate on the letter of resignation although he did say he would not appear at the Sunday council meeting.

It's pay-up time at the bookstore

by Bruce Galloway

Along with higher tuition, room and board, and just about anything else you can think of, students are looking at a 13 per cent increase in textbook prices this year.

Irving Kirk, manager of Dalhousie's campus bookstore, attributes the price rise to increased labour and shipping costs and a dramatic jump in the price of paper.

Despite giving the appearance of 'making money hand over fist', Kirk is adamant the bookstore operates only on a "break even" basis. Last year, for example, the store made \$29,000 from total sales of over \$1.5 million. Most of this profit, noted Kirk, came from the sales of items other than textbooks such as T-shirts and beer mugs.

Textbook prices are set by the publisher, with the bookstore having little or no say in the matter. The store buys books from the publisher at a 20 per cent discount and then uses the difference to cover operating, shipping costs and brokerage fees.

John Graham, Manager of University Services, believes the high price of books can be traced to the practices of publishing firms. "Because of large production costs and a rapid turnover in the textbook industry, recovery costs must be high," explained Graham.

In a 1979 analysis of the textbook industry, Professor Ray Cleveland of the University of Regina pointed to a number of factors which lead to overpriced texts. Notable among these are the use of high quality materials by the publishers, uncontrolled duplication of books on the same subject and the lack of any pressure from professors and administrators for cheaper alternatives.

Alternatives do exist, however. Professors in Dalhousie's Mathematics department and Law faculty write their own first year textbooks, which sell for substantially less than standard texts.

This year the Dalhousie Student Union has opened a used bookstore on the main floor of the

S.U.B. Books are being sold for as little as 60 per cent of their original cost. Off campus, Schooner Books on Inglis Street and Back Pages on Queen are used bookstores mainly offering English texts second-hand.

Along with higher prices this year, students face another traditional hassle: long lines. Irving Kirk is quick to admit that the primary problem is a lack of space. "We have seven registers going this year," said Kirk. "I know it is still not enough, but we just don't have room for any more." Kirk has requested more room but so far has received nothing definite from the Administration.

For his part Graham believes the line-up problem has improved over the last five years. At present, there are two proposals for expanding the bookstore: one which would see the store take over the space now occupied by the Kampus Klipper. The other could see the store moving to the first floor of the S.U.B. and occupying the area now used by the Housing Office and the "Brown Bag" lounge.