

International student fees rise once more

by Cathy McDonald

The announcement of an increase of \$250 in the international student levy hit Dalhousie's foreign students with surprise and dismay. Foreign students now pay \$1,000 on top of tuition to attend Dalhousie.

"If you think Canadians are upset about a 15 percent tuition increase you can imagine what an extra \$1,000 is like," said Sharon Davis, the International Student Representative on the students council. Davis was angry, but realized "there isn't much we can do about it. Some of us might not be able to come to school next year."

An original fee of \$750 was introduced in the 1979/80 academic year, as recommended by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

The reasons for the extra fee were "primarily financial" according to Larry Durling, Director of Financial Planning of the MPHEC. Durling said the fee was introduced the year after the MPHEC's recommen-

dations for government funding increases were not met. "It's hard to make an argument for significant increases in government for significant increases in government funding when we are subsidizing foreign students the same amount as Canadian students."

Durling noted also that there is a higher concentration of foreign students in the more expensive faculties such as engineering and graduate programs.

Davis, however, challenged the perception that foreign students are a financial burden. "They (taxpayers) think they pay to keep foreign students here. But they don't realize we bring an influx of money." Davis pointed out that the money a foreign student spends comes from outside the country, while a Canadian's money is not new to the country.

Davis criticized an inconsistency in the application of the differential fees. Students who were already enrolled at Dal-

housie when the first levy was introduced were exempted. However, students now paying the extra \$750 will not be exempted from the \$250 increase.

Dr. John Orkar, International Student Coordinator, said the effect of higher differential fees would be to lessen the number of students governments can send to Canada. While a developing country needs more qualified manpower, it would instead be able to send fewer students, he said.

The perception that foreign students are rich is not true, Orkar said. "I deal with people from the very poor up to the very rich. You can't just look at

a few and generalize." Orkar said sometimes a whole community supports one individual student, or the father saves everything "because his son or daughter needs an education."

Ted Marriott, Dean of Student Services said, in his opinion, the less well-off countries would have to suffer because of higher differential fees. Of the 600 foreign students at Dalhousie, the percentage from developing countries is already "dismally small."

Marriott said not enough research has been made into the implications of differential fees. "The assumptions made about cost are too simple," he said.

In reviewing the policy this year, the MPHEC attempted to analyse changes in the place of origin of foreign students. Using the visas issued by Immigration Canada, Durling said, "It's difficult to trace it directly, but there didn't seem to be a change in the distribution of foreign students."

"We are trying to keep an approximate balance (of foreign and Canadian students), this route was much better than imposing quotas," Durling said.

Differential fee levels differ across the country. While B.C. has no levy, Quebec and Ontario fees are \$4,400. Differential fees are significantly higher in the United States and England.

Visa students may get rebate

by Cathy MacDonald

Visa students who registered in September may be eligible for a \$14.50 rebate of their student union fees.

Mary Gatién, executive assistant to the Dean of Student Services, has been complaining about an overcharge to international students for health insurance.

Students arriving for the first time in Canada are not eligible for Nova Scotia Medical Services Insurance (MSI). Those who are not covered by some other plan often purchase the University Health and Accident Plus Life health insurance, which cost \$190 this year.

In addition to coverage for doctor's visits and hospitalization, the plan includes extended

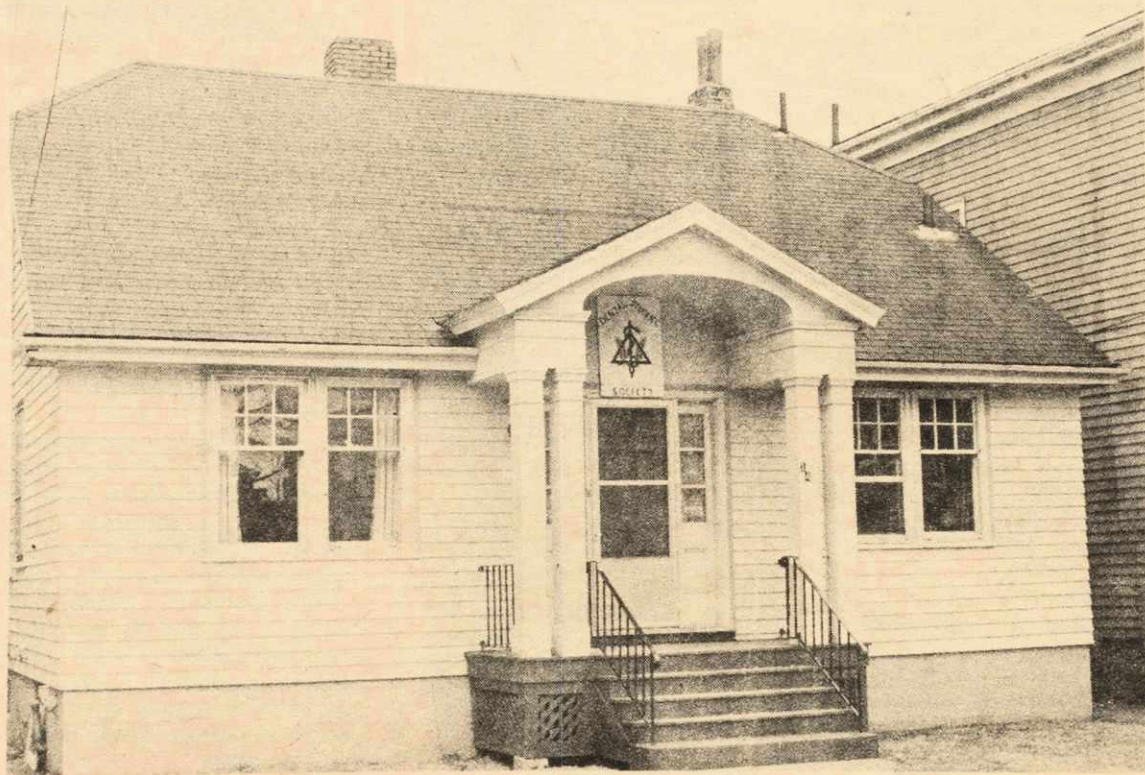
health care insurance to the same company through the Dalhousie student union fee.

Gatién has been discussing the overcharge situation for a couple of years. "The company said it's not true (that a duplication exists). They say there are other benefits," Gatién said.

Because of Gatién's complaints the director of the company, John Ingle, has given Dalhousie a rebate to equal what was paid twice by students this year. Students may apply for their rebate now or next fall.

After living in Nova Scotia for a year, visa students are given protection under MSI if they meet certain requirements.

In future years, students will pay a reduced fee to eliminate the overcharge.



The Dentistry students' house will cost each Dentistry student an extra hundred bucks in fees next year. And they didn't even have to pull teeth to get it...

Dentistry students drive fees up

by Catherine Ricketts

In reaction to the Administration's sale of the Dentistry House in late May, dentistry society students have voted overwhelmingly in favour of purchasing it back. A motion was passed in Council on March 28 to ratify results of the Dentistry poll and increase society fees from \$50 to \$150 to increase revenues for the venture.

The Dentistry House is used to house society members and hold social functions. This year it has been used by Pharmacy and Physiotherapy students as well.

"Historically, small societies such as ours have always had a house," explained Brian Smith. "We may not necessarily make an offer on the one that we are presently using. The administration plans to sell several houses, and we intend to make an offer on the one we feel best suits our purposes."

Smith does not feel that the membership hike is extravagant, even when compared to the other cutbacks and fee increases that students are suffering from. "Most of the dentistry students are older and have been in school for a number of years," he said. "An extra \$100 is a nominal amount when compared to the thousands that have already been paid out and the potential earnings upon graduation."

In addition to existing society resources and revenues from fees, the alumni will be canvassed for funds. The university will be expanding the faculty within the next few years, which means that there will be increased funding coming from the fees. A committee will be formed within the next few weeks to examine the feasibility and possibilities of the venture. Real estate appraisals, contractors' estimates and upkeep costs will all be examined in order to choose the house best suited to the society's needs.

Society income this year was upwards of \$20,000, and the society proposed that it would be able to handle up to a \$50,000 mortgage. Rents now collected from students living in the house amount to \$775 per month.

The dentistry students hope that some special consideration may be given to their offer by the university. John Graham reiterated the possibility of concessions, noting that Dentistry students "have been good tenants". He was pleased with the initiative that they have shown to keep their house. "They seem to be more willing to do things for themselves," he noted.

Smith rejected the notion that dentists as a group get preferential treatment. He defended the society's position, saying, "This is our own money. We are not a bunch of elitists. If other societies were as cohesive a group as ours they too would be able to finance their own house."

Differential fees may begin

MONTREAL (CUP) -- A provincial students' association claims the Quebec government might impose differential fees next year for students from other parts of the country.

Education minister Camille Laurin announced March 12 a continued freeze on university tuition fees for next fall, but he did not specify whether the freeze applied to all students or only to Quebec residents.

Chantal Fortier of the Regroupement des Associations Etudiantes Universitaires (RAEU) said this could mean the ministry plans to impose differential fees on Canadian students from outside of Quebec.

Paul Smith, McGill University students' society vice-president external, confirmed the provincial government is considering the discriminatory fees.

"This move would be dishonest," said Fortier. "Already there was an increase for foreign students." Students registering for the first time in Quebec must now pay \$4,100 per year.

"Their attitude may be that this is a way to use force to break student solidarity," said Fortier. "This move will not affect Quebec students, and that will keep them from fighting the increase."

The McGill registrar, Jean-Paul Schuller, was unaware the Quebec government might be considering differential fees for out of the province students.

Schuller said the move may not be intended as a political message. "But how could they prevent people from outside from reading a political message into it? I would hope the federal government would have a response to this," he said.