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What? Cutbacks at this time of year?

by Cathy McDonald

Dalhousie may be short \$3.5 million as a result of cutbacks announced by the Minister of Education on August 20, five months after funding for the university was approved in the provincial budget.

The Maritime Higher Education Commission notified the province's universities that the \$4.5 million Non-space and Alterations and Renovations grant will not be forthcoming. Used for repairs, acquiring books and equipment,

the vast part of the money has been spent or committed over the summer months in good faith. Since the announcement, Dalhousie has banned all hiring and expenditures, while examining where the money can be recovered.

At the request of the Minister, all university presidents submitted on Monday an outline of the expenditures already committed. The province wants the universities to make the \$4.5 million savings, out of

their operating budgets if necessary. Education Minister Terry Donahoe has suggested payments on committed projects can be deferred until a future year.

"There's no way the university can make up the \$3.5 million," said John Graham, Manager of University Services. Graham accused the province of transferring its deficit problem to the universities. "It's a very unstable position in terms of future university planning. Even when they (the government) tell the universities they have the funding, how can they believe it?"

The university is looking into its operating budget for potential areas to make up the missing money. Every department is undergoing a budget review, Graham said. It has been only half a year since the university underwent its most stringent

budget exercise ever, attempting to make a dent in its large deficit problem.

Dalhousie was anticipating \$2,135,700 in the Non-space and Alterations and Renovations grants for this year. \$1.98 million of that has already been spent or contracted to be spent, according to a memo from University President Andrew MacKay.

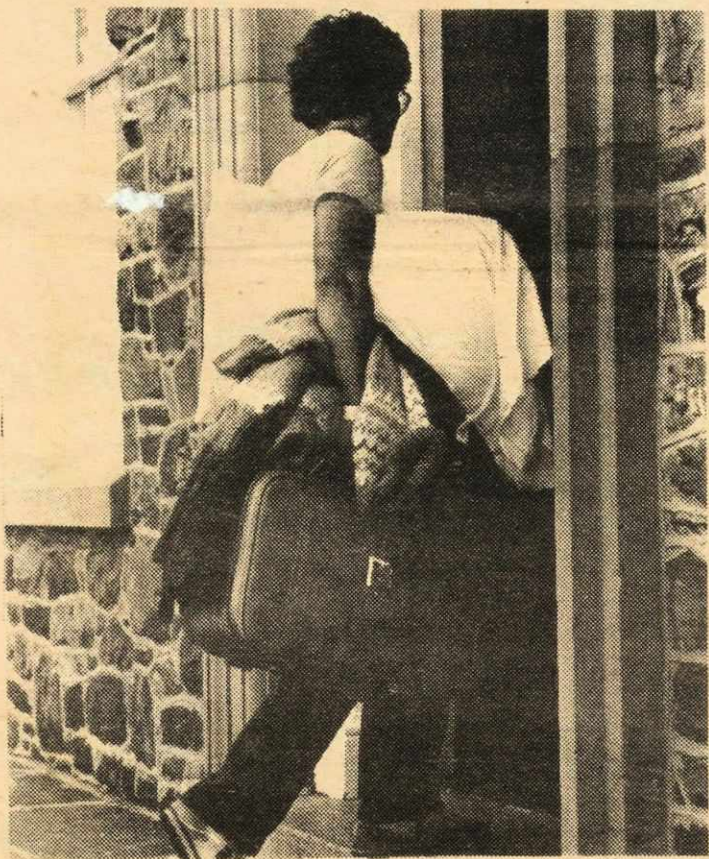
In addition, other funds which may have been eliminated include \$400,000 from last year's grants, and \$250,000 approved separately for new computers. \$765,000 was eliminated from the Medicine Department by the Department of Health. Adding interest charges for financing the expenditures that have been made pushes the total shortfall to \$3.5 million, according to MacKay's memo.

Students will be affected "one way or another" Graham said. One inevitable way will be through increased tuition, said President MacKay.

Students in the computer program may feel the effects of the cut first. New micro-computers for the use of the 900 first year students may never arrive.

At Saint Mary's University, President Dr. Kenneth Ozmon said the cut will "make our budget a disaster area". Saint Mary's, Saint Francis Xavier and Acadia Universities will all suffer about a half million dollar cut.

"This makes it very difficult to replan about four months into the school year. We'd have liked to have been consulted prior to the decision," said Ozmon, who is also the President of The Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents.



MORRIS/DAL PHOTO

Just a drop will do

SASKATOON (CUP) — If you thought Hondas sipped gas, what would you say about a car that gets 1302 miles to the gallon?

Engineering students at the University of Saskatchewan have produced a car that does exactly that. They walked away with first prize and a North American mileage record this summer at a 22-team meet in Marshall, Michigan.

"Tensor", as the test car is known, only needed to have its engine engaged for two short spurts to propel it around the 1.6 mile test

track. The car is a squat cylindrical-shaped vehicle powered by a standard two horsepower engine.

This was the third year U of S engineers won the mileage competition but it was their first North American record.

The car's designers attribute its astonishing mileage to "low resistance to motion, good engine efficiency and a unique driving style."

With a few modifications to their car, they'll be back next year, this time hoping to top 1600 miles per gallon.

Student Senator may be impeached

by Ken Burke

Pending the result of an impeachment vote next Sunday Dal Student Council may soon be missing one Senator, Greg Fitzgerald.

During Summer Council meetings, notice of motion was brought forward by Student Union Treasurer Shawn Houlihan calling for the impeachment of Greg Fitzgerald under By-Law XIV, section (6)(b)(i) of the Student Union Constitution, relating to gross dereliction of duty. The move to impeach Fitzgerald arose after details of a dispute involving Fitzgerald and AIESEC (a "B" society for Commerce and Economics students) came to light.

AIESEC claim that Fitzgerald forged several cheques for AIESEC funds while he was occupying the position of AIESEC Treasurer last year. The figure reported taken was approximately 860 dollars, according to Mark Childerhose, AIESEC's 1982/83 VP.—External. Childerhose reported that Fitzgerald has since paid back all the money owing to AIESEC over the course of the summer. Fitzgerald was impeached from AIESEC at the end of April, and his position as Treasurer has since been filled. Although AIESEC had asked Fitzgerald for a full confession in writ-



ing, they never received it, says Childerhose. AIESEC has promised Council full cooperation with information on the issue.

When approached by the Gazette to comment on this issue, Greg Fitzgerald declined to comment until after the Council meeting where the motion will be discussed. Fitzgerald was re-elected for

a second term in Senate at last year's general elections.

When asked whether the alleged embezzling was sufficient grounds for impeachment, Treasurer Houlihan stated that the motion was brought forward "Because I think it's gross dereliction of duty to do something like that to a student society while you're a member of Council." Houlihan claimed to have photocopies of the cheques which AIESEC said Fitzgerald forged. "There are definitely grounds for impeachment," he said.

A two-thirds vote is required for impeachment of a student councillor under the regulations laid out in the Constitution. There is a great likelihood that this section of the Council meeting may be off-limits to interested non-Council observers and the press. An in-camera discussion is widely favoured by Councillors.

Student Union President Peter Rans feels that an in-camera discussion is preferable, as "One has to protect both the legal and moral rights of somebody. If you throw mud at somebody, whether true or not, people will believe it." He added that in a situation such as this, "you just have to rely on the discretion of those who sit on council."