

# DSU pres criticizes boycott

by Jessica Meijer

The price of movie tickets has escalated to new heights and Saint Mary's University Student Union President Sanjeev Chowdhury has decided to take action. Famous Players Inc. charges \$6 for adult tickets Monday to Thursday and \$7 on the weekend; other Halifax theatres charge \$6.50 daily with Tightfisted Tuesday prices of \$3.75.

"It's an uphill battle" to get prices down to a reasonable level, said Chowdhury, but he feels it's a battle worth fighting.

"We felt that the issue, while not being one of the most important, is worth pursuing."

During orientation week the dons of the residences and the orientatin staff were asked to discourage students from going to Famous Players theatres. "The more students that go there [to Famous Players] the more justification [they have] for their prices," Chowdhury pointed out. To

encourage the boycott against Famous Players the student union is also bringing free feature films twice a month to campus. This program was also in operation last year, but wasn't that successful due to poor publicity.

However SMU "kicked it off Sunday night and had a really good turnout," said Chowdhury.

SMU's stand on boycotting the theatre has gained the attention of the local media. On August 22 *The Mail Star* ran an article on the issue and "after it hit the paper, we had so many comments," most in support of the student union's stand. However, Dalhousie's student union executive was not as pleased with the *Mail Star's* article.

"We were shocked and appalled that they would give this much coverage to this issue," stated Terry Crawley, Dalhousie's Student Union Vice-President. Dalhousie's student leaders felt that priority should be given to other serious political issues.

"(We're) not saying this is not a political issue — but there are other ones."

In a letter to the *Mail Star* on August 24, David Shannon, Student Union President, wrote, "while the question of how much

money will a student need for his/her entertainment is meritorious in nature, spending four columns of your newspaper on admission costs to a movie theatre is a shallow and inappropriate address of the issues which really

concern students today.... A problematic student attrition rate and the imposition of user-fees at post-secondary institutions ... are the stuff of sophisticated student unions today."

The battles rage on.

## Funds slashed

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deficit-cutting program.

The bill has been condemned by teacher, student and health care groups.

Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) researcher Mike Old says C-33 will mean \$900 million less in federal payments for post-secondary education between 1991 and 1995.

Ministry of finance officials point out that although federal spending will be reduced, it will not fall below the rate of inflation, and extra payments to poorer provinces will continue.

Critics are quick to point out that C-33 is not the first cutback in federal transfer payments. In 1984, the liberal government limited growth in transfer payments as part of its '6 and 5' restraint program.

The conservatives' C-96, introduced in 1986, reduced the growth rate by two per cent.

Old says between C-96 and C-33, the total loss to post-secondary education funding will be \$6.8 billion by 1995.

"Some provinces will be unwilling, and others just aren't able to make up that kind of difference," says CFS chair Jane Arnold. "The burden is going to be shifted to students, and students just can't take anymore."

"This shows to students, and especially people who want to be students that the government's commitment to post-secondary education is not real," she says.

"You have to wonder what the feds are doing when Mulroney makes these comments about how education and research are meant to be priorities, and then they turn around and announce these cutbacks," Arnold adds.

## Dal's mission

scholarship and research, we consider personal service to our community, performed by our faculty, staff, and students, to be one of our major responsibilities."

"Racist, sexist, homophobic" What the Gazette will not accept. Racist means slurring a person on the basis of his or her race or colour. Homophobic means discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Sexist is a little harder, because everyone has his or her own definition of sex. If you should write something and worry about being sexist, try this. Insert your gender in the place where the other occurs. Would it offend you? For example, "Those damn (insert your gender here). You can't live with them, and you can't shoot them."

Of course, this is an incomplete list. As other terms come to prominence, we will explain them. In the meantime, watch out for that propoganda!

Sandy MacKay

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**The Right Honourable John N. Turner, Leader of the Opposition, will be speaking to the students of Dalhousie University on Thursday, Sept. 21, 1989 from 9 am to 10 am in the MacInnis Room of the Student Union Building. A question and answer period will follow. Everyone is welcome to attend.**

## Student Aid Information

### ... At Your Fingertips



An on-line Student Aid Information Service has been established to assist students in following the status of their 1989-90 Canada Student Loans and Nova Scotia Government Bursaries.


For your convenience, the computer systems are set up in the following locations:

**Dalhousie (Killam Library)**  
Monday - Thursday ..... 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Friday ..... 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Student Aid Office**  
Monday - Friday ..... 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**U.C.C.B. (Room B1023)**  
Mon - Thur ..... 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
Friday ..... 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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