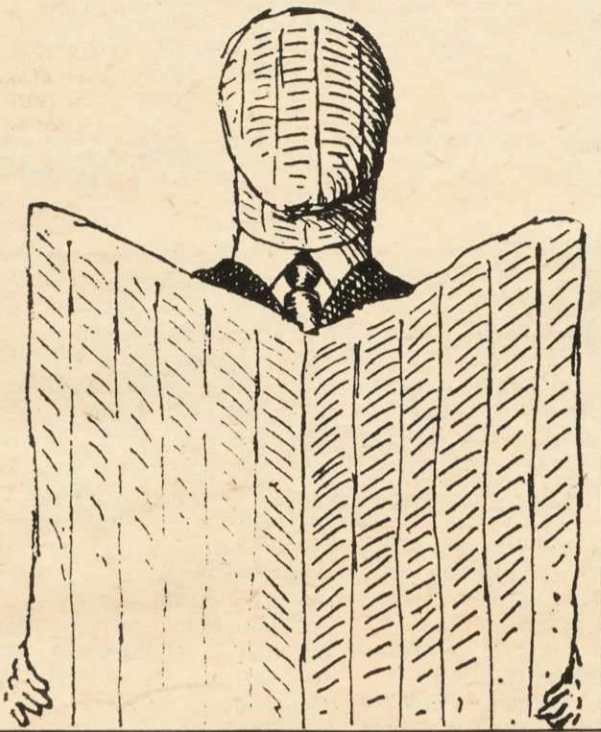


you were saying

Write GAZETTE News



Lower lounge not elitist

To the Editor:

Several points require clarification with regard to Mr. Dawson's letter about the Tupper Lounge (Dalhousie Gazette, March 8). The Lounge facility is not being built solely for students in the Faculty of Medicine. The agreement for the Lounge construction is between the DSU, to which we all pay fees, and the following organizations:

- Dalhousie Medical Students' Society
- Dalhousie Pharmacy Society
- Dalhousie University Nursing Society-Canadian University Nursing Students' Association
- Dalhousie Dental Students' Society
- Dalhousie Occupational Therapy Society
- Dalhousie Dental Hygiene Society

Lounge funding is on a 3:1 basis by the DSU and the DMSS respectively, and the DMSS funds were raised independently over the past 17 years. All health professions students will pay a small yearly fee for lounge upkeep and management.

The majority of health professions students spend a substantial portion of their time on the lower campus. A steady 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. class schedule on most days leaves little time for jaunts to the SUB, and the lower campus cafeteria eliminates the need to go there for lunch. (I'm certain that patrons of the SUB cafeteria would not appreciate hundreds of additional people in the noon line-ups). Furthermore, most health professions students spend 2-4 hours each evening in the medical library or Tupper Building study cubicles. It must be emphasized that the new lounge is not another Grawood bar. It is primarily a place for students to take a break from their evening studies.

In a 1983 referendum, a strong majority of medical students voted for a lounge open to all Dalhousie students. Mr. Dawson's juvenile remarks about elitism require no further comment.

Sincerely,
Bob Pottle
President, DMSS

Free speech

To the Editor:

The *Commentaries* in your last issue illustrate the advantages of freedom of expression; advantages which both commentators appear to oppose.

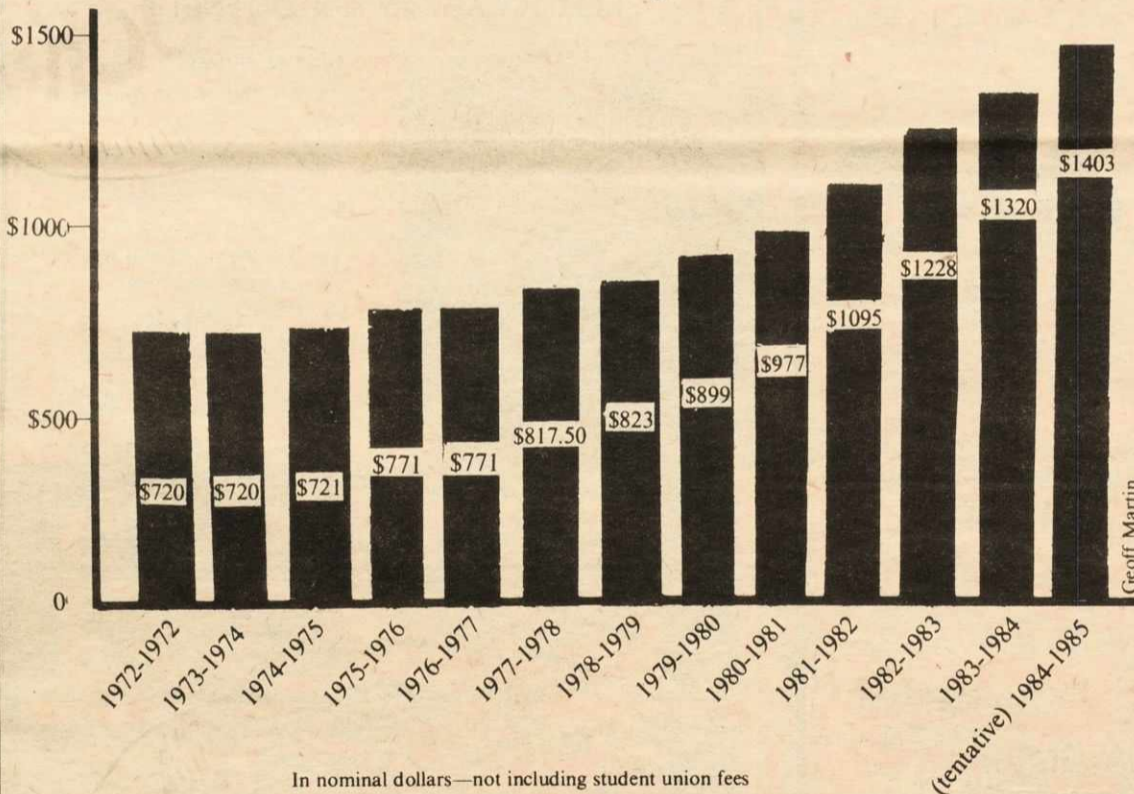
First we have Hugh Paton, who apparently believes that the central character of *A Clockwork Orange* is "a most pleasant looking individual." In the same breath, Mr. Paton condemns the *Gazette* for its lack of objectivity, and apparently advocates the deportation of Charles Spurr. Making the world safe for Hugh Paton?

On the other extreme, we are treated to Mr. Spurr's usual foggy-headed denunciation of everything and everyone (except Albania or Enver ----), including myself. If Mr. Spurr would cite actual documentation for his "well-documented" CIA institute (or indeed for most of his statements), then he might have some degree of credibility.

But what a pity that neither Mr. Paton nor Mr. Spurr (nor indeed the *Gazette*, on election matters) is capable of making their points without recourse to common insult-hurling and libel. The great advantage of free speech in that while both may say what they will, I am not compelled to listen.

P. F. Dawson

Tuition fees at Dalhousie—Undergraduate Arts and Science



Tuition increased an average of 6.4% per year between 1971-72 and 1983-84, and an average of 12.1% between 1978-79 and 1983-84.

Source: *Cost Versus Resources: Time to Change*, appendix XII, by Caroline Zayid, Atul Sharma, Peter Rans and Tim Hill.

Celebrate Spring!



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continued on from page 1

ing fiscal year, which for the university commences April 1, 1984.

The Maritimes Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC), a publicly-funded body which recommends levels of funding, has called for a 7.5% increase in funding for Dalhousie.

Though combined government revenues make up over 75% of university revenues, the level of this support is normally not announced until June or July, and it is also normally lower than MPHEC recommendations.

The Senate Financial Planning Committee (FPC) also contributed to the tuition decision, calling in a special meeting last Fri-

day for an increase not to exceed 6% or the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), if lower.

Shawn Houlihan, DSU Treasurer and student "observer" on the committee said that he was pleased with the Senate motion especially since the meeting began "in a rugged way, with some of the faculty members pushing for a greater increase.

"But the committee had a heart-to-heart discussion about student problems and needs, and the Sentors were very understanding about financial problems faced by the average student," Houlihan said.

President-elect Alex Gigeroff, who will be responsible for next year's campaign on tuition, refers

to the result as "just a fantastic achievement.

"Full marks go to all of the people involved, Tim Hill and Karl Nightingale especially. It shows the board is more sensitive to the student position regarding the actual economic climate faced by students," he says.

Hill stated that the information from 250 responses to a questionnaire in the residences was "very helpful" in providing the entire board with an update on the present financial status of many Dalhousie students.

At present, the student union is conducting another survey in order to obtain more comprehensive financial and demographic information on the Dalhousie student population.