

the

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DALHOUSIE'S STUDENT VOICE

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## '91 fees up 25%

by Ryan Stanley

Dalhousie students will have to pay an average of 25 per cent more in tuition fees next year, after the University's Board of Governors approved the increase on Tuesday.

The Board, after listening to several student representatives who requested an incremental increase in fees, overwhelmingly passed a new tuition fee policy which calls for Dalhousie tuition fees to be raised to, and remain at, 105 percent of the Nova Scotia average.

The increases were recommended by the Financial Strategy Committee (FSC), a body set up in January of last year to investigate the university's financial situation and to propose a way out of Dalhousie's chronic debt and deficit problems.

The FSC's recommendations regarding tuition fees were adopted in full by the Board of Governors.

"We have a problem that's a long, long way from being solved" said Allan Shaw, chair of the FSC, in defending the hikes.

Under the new policy, students in the arts, science, commerce, and other faculties will have to pay an additional \$300 on top of their present fees. At the upper end of the scale, medicine and dentistry students will be expected to come up with another \$820 next fall.

Student leaders have tried unsuccessfully to soften the blow on students. Joe Lougheed, one of

two student representatives on the FSC, feels the increases are too sudden. "We would have preferred a two to three year incremental approach" to fee hikes he said.

Although the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has accepted the principle that fees must rise, its representatives proposed alternative schemes involving lower and more gradual increases.

Lougheed said the DSU had suggested an average increase of 8.9 percent a year, which corresponds to recommendations made by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

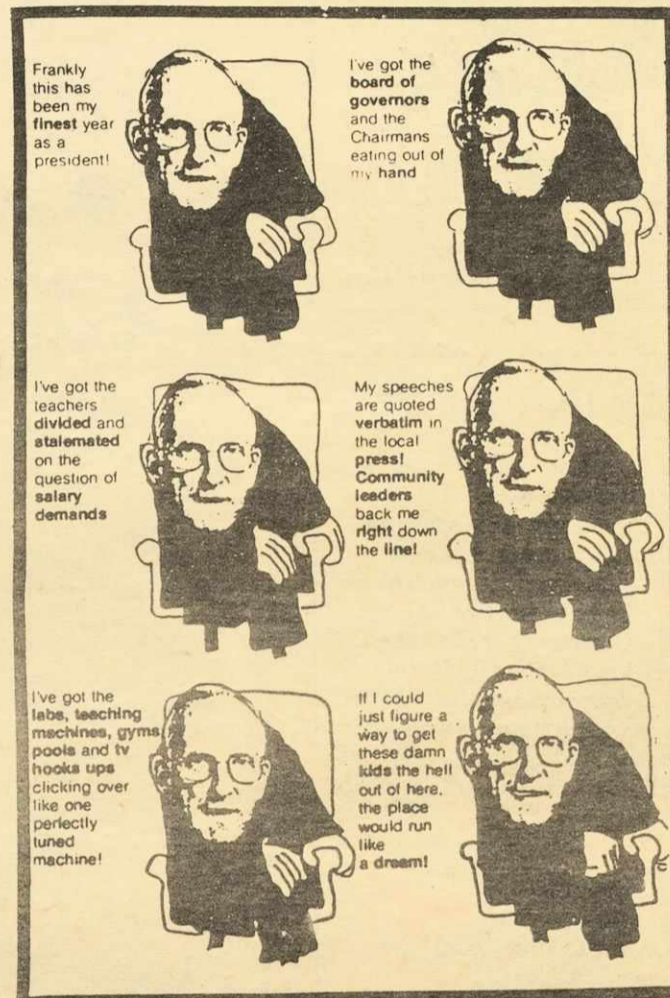
At a question and answer forum for students on October 10, Shaw justified the severity of the hikes by pointing out how Dalhousie's fees have steadily fallen behind those of other Nova Scotian universities in recent years. This is due to an agreement, reached in 1985 with the DSU, which limited tuition fee increases over a five year period.

According to the FSC's statistics, Dalhousie arts and science students pay the lowest fees in the province, or 15 percent below the top figure.

The increases mean Dalhousie fees will rise, in one year, to between five and ten percent above the provincial average.

The aim is to make Dalhousie students pay for a larger share of their university's operating expenses.

Shaw said students contribute 14 percent, or "only a fraction" of the cost of running the university



acces-si-ble /ik-'ses-a-bol, ak-, ek-/ adj (15c) 1 : usable for access 2 a : capable of being reached (~ by rail) b : easy to speak or deal with (~ people) 3 : capable of being influenced ; OPEN 4 : capable of being used or seen : AVAILABLE 5 : capable of being understood

when compared to other institutions in Nova Scotia.

But many students who oppose the hikes have argued Nova Scotian university students pay higher fees than most students across the country. Furthermore, fees in many of the specialized programs offered at Dalhousie are near or at the top of the national scale.

Students can expect to see at least some of the money they pay out in higher fees returned to them. The FSC's final report, issued in June of this year, recommends earmarking 25 percent of the revenues generated by the in-

creases for scholarships, bursaries, and student employment.

However, this commitment was not included in the policy passed by the Board, nor was how the money will be distributed or what proportion of it will be used for each of the three categories.

Dave Shannon, past DSU President and a member of the FSC at the time of the report's release, feels these financial assistance provisions will not protect many students who, he said, will not be able to afford their education once the tuition fee hikes take effect.

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## DSA, Admin at odds

by Lisa Legato

Negotiations broke down Friday between the Dalhousie Staff Association (DSA) and Dalhousie Administration. After two full days of negotiation sessions the DSA has requested a provincial conciliator and a strike vote may be taken as early as this week.

On October 9th the administration presented a counterproposal on a variety of items still outstanding. The DSA submitted their response on October 12th, listing monetary issues as a top priority. The Administration did not accept the DSA's proposal. A letter was filed by the DSA with the Department of Labour requesting the appointment of a conciliator. The appointment will be made in the next two weeks and the DSA has indicated they are prepared to begin conciliation at any time.

There have been 21 negotiation sessions since early June, during which more than half of the contract issues were settled. House-keeping items have been updated and an affirmative action article has been added to the contract dealing with pay equity and minority issues.

The most contentious issues have been dealt with last. The Administration has moved to modify policies of sick leave and seniority. Bette Yetman, executive director and chief negotiator for the DSA said, "We have made concessions but management wants more."

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## Dal Security leaves students in dark

by Gazette staff

Some students at Dalhousie are angered by what they call a serious lack of information about the presence of a potentially dangerous man on campus.

A man was "banned" from the Dalhousie campus on Oct. 1 after a number of incidents in which women were harassed on the Dalhousie and Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) campuses.

"Once the rumors started of a man repeatedly harassing women

on campus and official reports were made, many women became afraid of his presence," said a woman student, who did not wish to be identified.

She said there was a general sense of frustration at the lack of information about the individual.

When similar incidents were reported at NSCAD, the administration made efforts to warn students, faculty, and staff.

"We had a daily bulletin, we put a strong warning in it about the individual and other notices

were posted around campus," said Valerie Hill, a NSCAD secretary.

However, it no such steps were taken at Dalhousie.

Sandy MacDonald, director of Dalhousie Security, said the university has a responsibility to inform people of reported incidents of sexual harassment or assault, "if we feel there is a threat in the area."

However, MacDonald said he was unaware of any threat after the banning Oct. 1.

"When he was processed

[banned] he had a ticket to Ottawa. We thought he'd only be here [in Halifax] for one more day."

MacDonald expressed concern about spreading panic.

"That's my biggest fear. Dal is a place where rumours spread really quickly," he said.

Peter Pottier, DSU treasurer, agreed with MacDonald.

"In order not to create a panic, all we did was put that bond [banning] on him."

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