

STUDENT CRISIS

Admin sends tuition for a hike

DALHOUSIE Administration has proposed a 10 per cent increase in tuition fees. Despite the proposal's release, on October 31, the DSU did not receive it until November 7. The DSU was not able to discuss the hike until the DSU meeting on Sunday, November 17.

At this meeting, student governors were directed to challenge any proposed increase and ensure that educational quality and accessibility are considered in all negotiations. Student governors were also asked to compel the Board of Governors to lobby both the provincial and federal governments for adequate funding for quality education at Dalhousie University.

Despite inadequate preparation time, over 600 Dalhousie students arrived for the November 19 BOG meeting. It had to be moved from the Board room to the McInnes Room in the SUB. The high level of student energy forced the Administration and the Board members to take notice of student concerns.

Student governor Beth Beattie successfully amended Administration's motion. The Board of Governors voted to refer it to the Financial Strategy Committee, Finance and Budget, and the Student Relations and Residence Committee (for committee mandates, see insert). Notice of times and places will be posted two weeks in advance of all committee meetings. These meetings are open to everyone.

The 10 per cent tuition increase when added to last year's 25 per cent, translates to a \$645.00 increase over the two years. A quarter of last year's fee increase was allocated to student financial assistance programs. Yet with this proposed increase, only one quarter of the four per cent increase will also go to these programs. The four per cent will keep Dalhousie at 105 per cent of the Nova Scotia average for post-secondary education. The Financial Strategy Committee has not explained why this campus needs to be at 105 per cent.

"The projected inflation rate in the third quarter of next year is around 3.1 to 3.4 per cent," said Peter Pottier at Sunday's DSU meeting, "but when I asked why an increase of 6 per cent to meet the rate I was told that the 'university inflation rate' rises higher and faster

than the general inflation rate." Another time Pottier was told that the 6 per cent increase was based on a guess of the tuition fee increases in other Nova Scotia universities by the next school year.

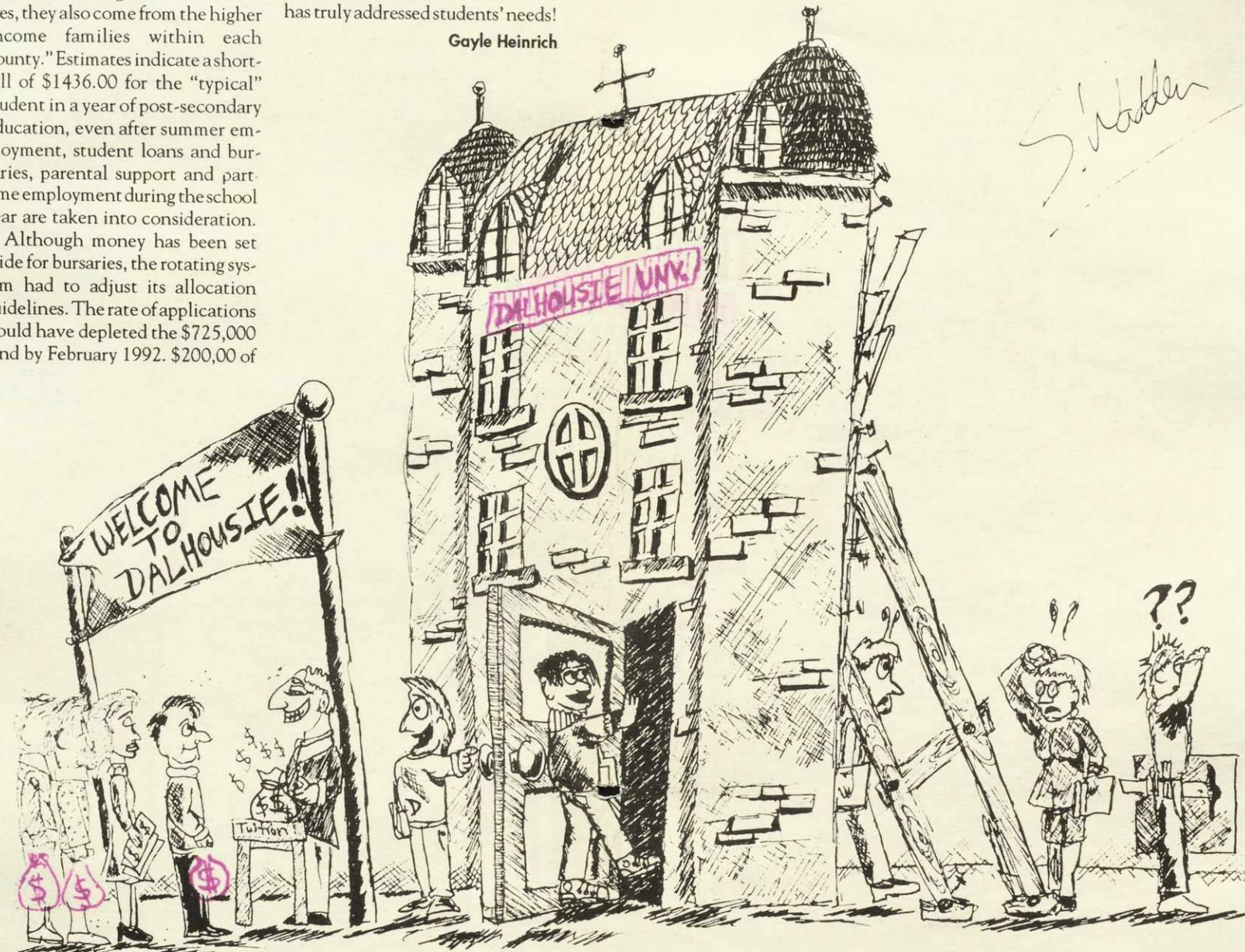
This increase threatens students who are not from affluent families. A recent Students Union of Nova Scotia survey found that "not only do Nova Scotia university students come from the higher income counties, they also come from the higher income families within each county." Estimates indicate a shortfall of \$1436.00 for the "typical" student in a year of post-secondary education, even after summer employment, student loans and bursaries, parental support and part-time employment during the school year are taken into consideration.

Although money has been set aside for bursaries, the rotating system had to adjust its allocation guidelines. The rate of applications would have depleted the \$725,000 fund by February 1992. \$200,00 of

student financial assistance was set aside to create student employment on campus. Students submitted 2,755 applications for the 155 jobs created.

The financial situation of Dalhousie Students is frightening. A further increase in tuition will restrict access to post-secondary education to only the financially wealthy. Neither Dal Administration nor the Board of Governors has truly addressed students' needs!

Gayle Heinrich



The hypocrisy of 'Internationalization'

There is a lot of talk about high tuition and other fees in Canadian Universities. While I type this article, bosses at Dalhousie are contemplating on a 10 per cent fee hike. One section of the student body that is being drowned in the melee is the international student body, which not only faces the brunt of fee hikes such as the one being envisaged now, but also has to put up with other financial demands by the University and the Province. While everyone who has anything to do with a university talks about "Internationalization"

of the campuses, they refuse to put the money where their mouths are. The topic of differential fees has been talked about very much... probably too much, considering the fact that nothing has been done about them. In a nut shell, differential fees not only hurt the students who have to pay them, but also the University that is forced to charge them, as clearly, it acts as a disincentive to prospective foreign students. Further, in the Atlantic provinces for instance, the Universities are not only forced to hand over these to the Provincial Gov-

ernment, but are also not given funding for the International students there. In addition, these fees go into a common pool when the time for reimbursement comes. In other words, as the Canadian Bureau of International Education

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puts it, "...an institution which enrolled more than the average receives less money than was collected — and less than is actually needed to finance programs..." Interestingly relevant is the fact that Canada encourages (qualified) immigrants into the Atlantic Provinces, and it is well known that a prospective immigrant into Canada who shows an intent to live in Atlantic Canada is viewed more favourably than someone who wishes to live in, say, Ontario. In addition, it is untrue that international students do not contribute monetarily to the Province. Over \$2 million was spent by interna-

tional students in Nova Scotia alone during the year '88-'89. Needless to say, the Differential fees must go.

Apart from that, other financial concerns remain for such students. They are not allowed to work off-campus, and even to work on-campus one needs an authorization that costs \$75 and countless hours at the immigration centre. Also, it is becoming increasingly difficult for international students to receive scholarships as most are restricted to landed immigrants and citizens. Those in professional programs are the hardest hit by this. Though international students contribute to the Canada Pension Plan, they are never reimbursed. International students receive almost no social service benefits for the taxes they pay. The list goes on.

In recent months the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) have been showing interest in foreign student concerns. In April 1991, the CFS adopted certain policies on some of the key issues. But still, a lot remains to be done. The International Students

Association (ISA) for instance, is so caught up in motivating international student participation and creation of awareness that little constructive work can be done. Also of no help are various so-

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called cultural groups on campus. In addition, Canadian students often feel that such issues are not relevant to them. Nothing could be more untrue. For instance, if differential fees were abolished internationally, Canadians would

have better opportunities to study abroad. We could then usher in true internationalization. If the province reimbursed universities for the fees (as a punishment for enrolling international students) collected from them, Canadian students would have better schools.

All said and done, the number of foreign students in Canada is on a steady decline. For instance, between 1984 and 1989, it fell by about 35 per cent. Most foreign students come from Hong Kong, and students from Third World countries are becoming scarce. Governments prefer to sponsor their students at cheaper universities. In essence, it is time that Canada realized how (in)valuable its international students are and adopted a fair give and take policy with respect to them.

Maresh V. Tripunitara
Chair, International Students Association

Education cuts: access denied

In assessing the funding needs of post-secondary education in Canada, the recently-released Stuart Smith report suggests that students should pay as much as 25 per cent of the cost of their education in tuition fees.

A quick analysis of the current figures shows that a Dalhousie undergraduate, paying \$2,200 in tuition, covers approximately 17 per cent of tuition costs. Thus to in-

crease the student share to the amount indicated by Dr. Smith's work may cost as much as \$1,000 - and this figure does not consider the effects of inflation.

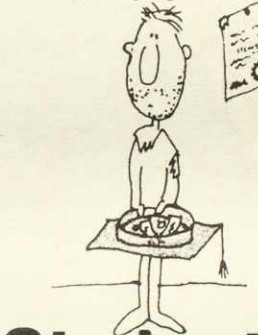
How would a tuition increase of this magnitude affect students at Dalhousie? Especially with so many students still feeling the pinch of last year's tuition hike, and another ten per cent looming on the horizon, we must ask how many

students simply will not be able to attend university because of financial problems.

To be reasonable, it doesn't look like the administration is going to back down on its present agenda to hike tuition. If this is true, and Dr. Smith's suggestions are considered, then raising tuition must be done in such a way that accessibility is not threatened, and the poorest students may still go to school.

Our society places a very high value on education, as seen by the fact that all children must go to school until a certain age. Similarly, figures indicate that 40 per cent of new jobs in the 1990's will require a university education. Because of such needs, the provincial government has claimed that "Education spending is a key investment in the province's economic future."

But getting a good education in



Student employment centres die

As of April 1992, Dalhousie students will be deprived of a Canadian employment centre. No more job notices will be posted on campus by recruiters, nor will student applications be accepted for screening and forwarding to possible future employers. Therefore, students will receive no assistance in finding part-time or permanent jobs. Those students who will be most affected by this shut-down are: the Business students, followed by the Science students, and then the Arts students. As well, those corporations who now recruit employees from Dalhousie may only do so where their offices are located. This means recruiting will most likely take place in the large industrial centres like Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver.

The Employment and Immigration officials have recommended a solution to this problem: a centralized employment centre. This employment centre would be used by all the Metro universities as well as the general public. Its location would be at Bayer's Road Mall. There is no easy access by public

would be well justified in responding angrily as unemployment this summer increased by more than 65,000 students. As well, over the last five years, spending on student summer employment has been cut by \$72.3 million.

transportation for any of the universities in the area. Another possibility is that Dalhousie may start up its own employment centre. Although this sounds like the optimal solution, it will cost the students additional money which will be tacked onto their spiralling tuition fees.

This illustrates how much students need these Employment Centres on Campus and how much we should be opposing their closure. So let's do something about it!

Ian Digby

Karen O'Neil

