

opinions

Proposed teaching cuts make sense in tough times

While listening to the morning news a few days ago, I heard the possibly saddening news that Dalhousie's School of Education was in danger of being closed due to recommendations made by the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education. Along with Dal, the education departments at Saint

Mary's and St. Francis Xavier are also in danger of being cut. Lastly, the Nova Scotia Teachers College in Truro is due to be shut down.

Accompanying this story was a related piece about six NSTC students who were planning to walk the roughly 100 kilometres to Province

House here in Halifax to protest the closing of their school.

Why is it that every time something goes against us, we feel that we must march, chant, write letters or chain ourselves to bulldozers and demand that these wrongs be righted? Why don't people just accept that the government has to cut back, that some development must be done or that sometimes stuff just happens and we can't do anything about it?

I do appreciate the determination of the six students. They marched in cold and wet weather and got a chance to meet with the Education Minister. For their troubles, the students were told that the school won't close until 1997, when this semester's students should be done their training. Not surprisingly, this was not what the students wanted. They wanted more. I have to wonder what exactly they are teaching at this school up in Truro, or for that matter at any of our institutes of higher education.

While the news of the impending closures surprised me, it didn't really disappoint me. I've read that Nova Scotia only needs about 50-60 new teachers a year and that Nova Scotia produces around 600 teachers a year. Anyone with a Grade 9 education can tell you that these numbers just don't add up to a smart way for the government to spend its money. To me, it looks like ten times as many teachers as we need. No matter how good the teachers may be from whatever school you choose, we don't need them all.

I also hear how we will need these

extra teachers in the future. How is this possible? We will still have three schools in Nova Scotia producing teachers and we must have a huge glut of unemployed (o. never-employed, as the case may be) who can fill in the gaps for quite a few years.

I feel that a person should have a right to an education, providing that there is a use for that person's education. Why train someone in a particular field for three or more years if after that time their training has no particular usefulness?

People need to understand that there comes a time when certain programs and certain classes have to be cut due to the tough economic times that we are living in. Just this week, our debt reached \$500 billion, the largest per capita debt of the G-7 nations. Waste must be cut out of

every budget, federal and provincial. Yes, there is much waste in the governments themselves, but cuts must start somewhere.

I may be biased in my views since I am enrolled in a degree program, statistics, that I believe is in no danger of being cut. Maybe if they did cut my particular area of study, I would be the first one to start howling my protests. The fact is that they rarely cut science or math-oriented programs. This is because right now our society is oriented towards the sciences because they at least give a student a fighting chance for getting employment. To the students who protest these proposed cuts, I applaud your effort and determination, but I must question your logic and your math skills.

Colin Mac Donald

Walk home times

It's only six o'clock as I pick up the phone to dial Tiger Patrol (494-6400).

Security: "Hello, Dal Security!"

Victim: "Hi, can I have Tiger Patrol?"

Security: "No, I'm sorry Tiger Patrol starts at 7:30 pm."

Victim: "But I need Tiger Patrol now?"

Security: "I'm sorry."

There is no one in sight as I look through the windows of frightful darkness. I am scared walking alone in the night. I know I am not alone. I walk out of the building into the darkness. I feel like prey on the loose. Suddenly, I hear someone's footsteps slushing in the snow. Heavy footsteps moving behind me faster. And faster. My hands tremble. I quickly move. The footsteps follow. Someone is following me. My heart races to a rapid beat. I feel dizzy while my head spins. I feel weak as I gasp for air. I gather all the energy left in my body to make a mad dash to my destination, but I slip on a piece of ice and I fall down on a pile of snow. I silently scream as I recognize the face of the shadow. I calm myself as I breathlessly say, "Hi Kelly, you frightened me!"

This is a happy ending, like a lucky roll on a pair of dice or the winning side on a flipped coin, but unfortunately this is not always reality.

This is why I am proposing the following statement: Tiger Patrol please help us!!!

Let's define the terms:

Tiger Patrol — an excellent system where two Dal students escort other students starting at 7:30 pm. Many people feel that Tiger Patrol should start earlier at 6:00 pm during the winter months due to the "darkness in the night" and switch during the spring and fall months when the darkness begins closer to 7:30 pm.

Please — meaning 'if possible', or if not, to indicate why this is not a reasonable request.

Help — to be of use for the benefit of the one in need.

And Us — meaning all the victims who walk into the darkness of the winter nights between 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm until Tiger Patrol can be called upon to come to the rescue.

Selina Tejani
Concerned Dalhousie student

Education needs co-operation

Is the quality of our education rising with the costs? Friends and fellow students, I am afraid not. How can the quality of our education system increase when it is the clear intention of the university administration to cut programs? Students, I contend, are wounded. The immediate effect is students leaving school because costs are much too high. The predicted effects for the future include a decrease in the quality of our education.

True, Dalhousie, like most Canadian universities, is struggling to survive this, at best sluggish, and otherwise tight economy. It is not the intention of the university to decrease the quality of education. However, the fact that students have not been consulted in an appropriate manner to deal with the decisions facing the University community, must not be divorced from the Administration's decisions, including Dalhousie's President Dr. Howard Clark's recommendation to close such vital programs as Music, Theatre, and Costume Studies, which play an integral role at Dalhousie. It is the intention of the university to sustain itself upon a course of economic sufficiency. This intention has grueling consequences for students and faculty as the net effect could be an elimination of programs, and a decrease in the quality of education.

As the university continues on a zero-deficit spending course over the next few years, as in the years past, the quality of our education is decreasing. The university must be prepared to work with us, and not against us. The university consults with the different levels of government, but

seems to dismiss our concerns. We, the students who fund Dalhousie's operations, must not be considered as mere dollars and cents. My friends, fellow students, faculty members and university administrators and governors, I demand accountability and I am confident that I share this opinion with many other students.

So what happens now? We must work with the university to ensure

that our programs and our classes are preserved. If the university is committed to its community as it so claims, then I challenge the university to work with us and not seemingly against us. We must work together and cooperatively, if nothing else, then out of necessity, to ensure the survival of Dalhousie University.

Adam Block
Arts Rep, Dalhousie Student Union



CAMP WAHANOWIN
IN ORILLIA ONTARIO

REQUIRES
SPRING/ SUMMER STAFF
IN
PROGRAM & SUPPORT POSITIONS

JOBS RUN APRIL 25TH TO SEPT. 5TH
WITH OPTION TO EXTEND TO MID OCTOBER

VIDEO BRIEFING ON THURSDAY FEB. 3, NOON
AT ST. MARY'S STUDENT UNION BUILDING
INTERVIEWS ON FEB. 3RD & FEB. 4TH

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CONTACT MS. KRISTA DEWEY AT THE
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT CENTRE

SKI MARBLE MOUNTAIN ^{from} \$379
SPRING BREAK! _{p.p. quad occupancy}



SPACE IS
LIMITED!
BOOK
NOW!

Break Away
VACATIONS

- * Deluxe motorcoach from Halifax-Corner Brook
- * Return fare on Marine Atlantic
- * Five nights accommodation
- * Transfers to and from the ski hill
- * Five day ski pass
- * Nightly ski storage
- * Two Complimentary drinks at Kathy's Place
- * Taxes and service charges
- * Full payment at time of booking!

TRAVEL CUTS
494-2054



DOUBLE DEUCE

1560 hollis around the corner
from maritime mall

Thur Jan 20

Fri Jan 21

Weasle-faced Judge
+ The Hollow

Black Pool, Purple
Groove Monsters,
Two Foot Fall

Sat 22 & Sun 23



from
Providence
R.I.
Scarce
with
Bubaikull

Sat 29th Hoopla + Hardship Post

CKDU 97.5 FM