

# Mature students organize

by Danièle Gauvin

What are mature students and why should they unite to work out their common academic and social problems in coping with life as Dalhousie students? According to Macha MacKay, counsellor at the counselling and psychological services centre, mature students are those returning to school after a leave of absence in the work force, people starting a degree who are not teens or in their early twenties, married students, students with children at home, and senior citizens.

"These people are no longer familiar with the campus environment or they are at an age where adjusting to such a different lifestyle is too demanding. There is no need for them to cope by themselves.

People with similar problems should be able to get together just like any other group or society on campus," MacKay explained.

In order to provide such an opportunity for mature students to exchange information and relax together, MacKay and Jeanette Garrison, a mature student herself, have organized a drop-in center in the counselling centre offices. The first drop-in will be on March 6, and will serve to gauge interest in the project. Coffee will be provided from 11:30 to 2:30 and interested students are urged to bring their lunch and stay a while.

Part-time students often feel alienated by the lack of attention they get on campus, Garrison said. She added that although age is a factor in

separating the average student population from 'mature' students, simply being a part-time student or returning for a second degree after a few years away from school can produce the same kinds of problems and concerns which face older students.

The centre hopes to help students with communication skills, decision-making, study skills (reading, writing papers, note taking, concentration), using 'mature-skills' and applying life experiences to school. In addition, the centre will provide counselling for special concerns, such as family, divorce, returning to work, self-concept problems and assertiveness.

Career and career-change information will be available as well as workshops on time limitation-organization, dealing with new social situations (for those new to campus activity) and problems in rearranging family life to suit the studying parent.

"We hope to act as more than an information retrieval centre. We plan to organize frequent lunch-time drop-ins, have daycare available and give everyone a chance to meet and to share experiences," MacKay said. All questions and ideas should be directed to the counselling and psychological services centre on the 4th floor of the SUB.

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inatory fees," he said.

A general meeting has been called for next Monday in the Green Room in the SUB to discuss and map out strategy against the imminent tuition increase and reduction of grants for foreign students.

Denise Soucy Roberge, chairperson of the Anti-Cutbacks Committee, said the meeting will be used as "a source of direction for council" and that future decisions taken by council will be determined by this meeting. She added possible con-

tingency plans that could be taken include a boycott of the proposed fee increase, petitions, protests and a march on Province House. "Such a march in 1978 was responsible for tuition not increasing", Roberge added.

Representatives from the Université de Moncton have been invited to discuss their struggle against tuition increases in New Brunswick. Members of the Dal International Students Association will also be in attendance to comment on differential fees.

# CUP briefs

## Federal loan budget frozen

OTTAWA (CUP)—The budget for the Canada Student Loans Plan (CSLP) will not be increased next year, even though the federal government said it will raise the ceiling for student loans.

According to federal budget estimates for 1979-80 released February 19, \$97,796,000 will be allocated for student aid, the same as this year. Earlier this month, however, the government introduced a bill to raise the current loan ceiling from \$1,800 to \$2,400 per year.

If the new loan ceiling is approved, it may mean fewer students will be able to get loans, according to National Union of Students spokesperson Len Taylor.

## Poor graduates don't apply

MONTREAL (CUP)—Fewer students from economically deprived backgrounds and rural areas are applying to CEGEPs, according to a study by the Ministry of Education.

The study found that while 100 per cent of high school graduates from economically-advantaged, urban areas applied for CEGEP admission, only 35 per cent of those graduates from rural and economically-deprived backgrounds submitted applications.

In an effort to counter this trend, the government is planning a vast advertising and information campaign, according to an article in February's issue of the ministry's official publication.

## Counterbalance for differential fees

MONTREAL (CUP)—The Quebec National Student Organization has called on the Quebec government to establish a permanent bursary fund for international students to counterbalance the effect of that province's differential fees, introduced this fall.

At its tenth congress in Rimouski February 10-11, l'Association Nationale des Etudiants du Quebec (ANEQ) decided to pressure the provincial government for funds as a new tactic in its protest against differential fees.

## Ryerson cuts 52 profs

TORONTO (CUP)—At least 52 full-time teaching positions will be cut next year at Ryerson Polytechnical because the institute cannot afford to keep them.

Academic vice-president Jim Packham, who helped prepare the budget proposal, said that for the second consecutive year Ryerson's revenue will be less than the rate of inflation while enrolment rises.

"Basically we are attempting to serve one and a half per cent more students with 3.8 per cent more dollars," he said.

Part-time instructors might even be hit harder, however, according to Debby Littman, president of the Graduate Assistance Association. She said teaching assistants, members of GAA, could also lose "52 members or three times that."

Also, up to 13 support staff could find themselves out of work next year, said Packham.

Even with those massive cuts Ryerson will see its deficit jump \$400,000 to \$1.5 million next year, Packham said. Another deficit next year would push Ryerson over the "danger point".

## Body Politic acquitted

TORONTO (CUP)—The Body Politic, a gay newsmagazine, was acquitted of transmitting obscene materials through the mail in what the magazine's lawyer called a "legal milestone".

Ontario Provincial Court Judge Sydney Harris ruled the Crown had failed to prove the Pink Triangle Press, publishers of the Body Politic, had breached community standards in publishing an article, entitled Men Loving Boys Loving Men, describing sexual acts between men and young boys, also known as pedophilia. The public has a right to know and be informed about things they might find appalling, the judge said.

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