

LETTER TO THE EDITOR COLUMN

Dear Sir:

In April of this year the present Intern class filled out registration forms following completion of Council examinations.

Registration for students of Dalhousie was on September 7, 1965. As we are Interns and subject to rules of hospitals most of us found it very difficult to go to the upper campus and pay our tuition. Also, a number of students were in other provinces at that time. Apart from that most of us did not have enough money to pay tuition from our fabulous salary. In fact, married interns hardly have enough to buy bread with. I myself applied for the Federal loan and this was payable on September 15, 1965 so I went to pay my tuition on September 16th. There I was told I had to pay a fine of \$35 for late registration - yet I registered in April. I was further told that the University would have provided the money until my loan came through. Now I ask you through what stroke of inspiration was I supposed to get that information. I received a Calendar from Dalhousie in my first year and hardly received a notice since. I was further told that the hospitals should have let the interns off to register on September 7, 1965. Now I don't say we are indispensable but the hospitals

need our services even at 40c - 60c an hour. It seems to me that there was very little thought on the part of some authorities as regards the interns or pardon me - fifth year students except for the tuition, and that seems to have been well thought out. With an average take home pay of \$140 a month and with tuition of \$435 and a fine of \$35 late registration fee (that still doesn't seem right as we registered in April) the married interns and those with families are left hardly enough to subsist on.

The point of my letter is this - we at Dalhousie do not get an M.D. until after internship is completed and we must pay tuition even while interning. Most students are single in the early years and would find it easier to pay a larger tuition in the 4 pre-intern years rather than one in the fifth year. We are treated as ordinary undergraduates yet most of us have been going to University for eight to nine years. Also, we have no choice but go where Dalhousie says as regards interning and therefore are subject to salaries below minimum standards. Even the minimum wage act does not reach the lowly intern - pardon me, the fifth year student.

Neil G. Harvey, Jr.,
Fifth Year Student (Intern)

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1966 Dalhousie graduate is interested in working short term locum tenens in the Maritimes for physicians desiring vacations at any time of year.

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TO OUR READERS

All articles and advertisements for the 1965-1966 issues for the Dalhousie Medical Journal have been submitted for publication. We have succeeded in this endeavor as was the organizations goal. However, if any of our readers would so desire to publish an article, use our classified ad column, write letters to the editor, or submit other material of interest, we welcome your submissions.

All material must be type written and submitted for the 1966 February and March publications before January 15, 1966. Reply to:

The Editor
Dalhousie Medical Journal
c/o Dalhousie Medical Library
College St.
Halifax, N. S.