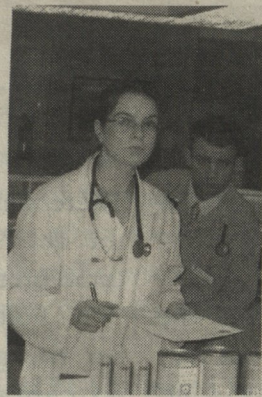


## The Hard Road to Becoming a Vet

Will Cooper  
News Editor

The Atlantic Veterinary College is one of only three English language veterinary schools in all of Canada. Each year, there are 60 places open to new students at the AVC. According to Timothy H. Ogilvie, Dean of Veterinary Medicine, 3-4 times as many qualified students typically apply.



Canada. It's that the governments of Atlantic Provinces are unwilling or unable to pay for them. The AVC, you see, like most vet schools, is a not-for-profit institution. Students are charged only a fraction of what it actually costs to educate them. The governments of this region are expected to

By "qualified students", explains Ogilvie, he means students who have received exceptionally high marks in the required Science, Math, and English courses (generally in the high 80s), as well as exhibit strong people skills.

One student, Jennifer Lussing, with a degree in Biology, feels the requirements are too much. "I got good marks in most of the required courses," says Lussing, "but the AVC requires that all your courses be taken in a full five-out-of-five course load. So if I want to have a chance of getting in, I have to go back and do another two years of school."

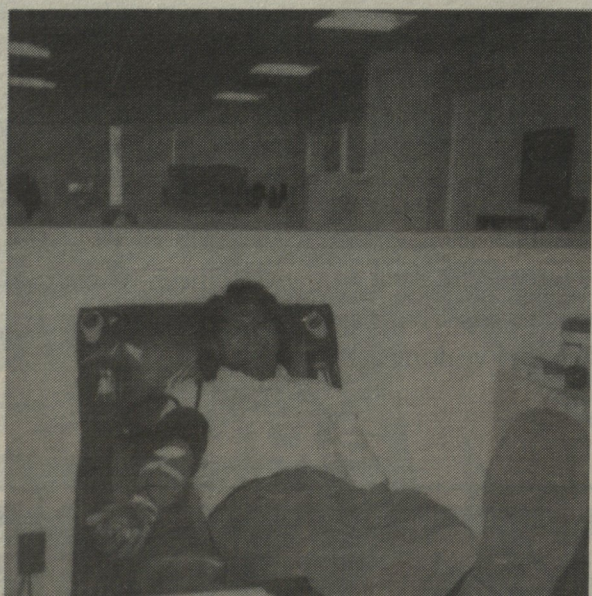
Yet, even with the entry requirements being as demanding as they are, it is likely that every year more than 200 qualified students will compete for the mere 60 prized places. Despite this, Ogilvie does not foresee the College expanding to meet the demands of students any time soon. Why not?

The problem is not that we can't use more veterinarians in Atlantic

foot the rest of the bill. In return for their contributions, the provinces receive a number of places for their students at the AVC proportional to the amount of money they contribute. Nova Scotia pays for 16 places for students from its region. New Brunswick pays for 13, Prince Edward Island 10, and Newfoundland and Labrador 2. In addition, 19 seats are marketed annually to international students.

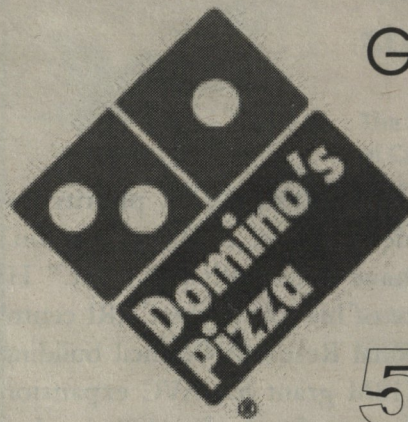
However, there is a light at the end of the tunnel for all of the vet school hopefuls out there. Ogilvie predicts that, if the current trend of supply versus demand for veterinarians continues, by the year 2015 there will be a significant enough shortage of vets in Atlantic Canada that the provinces will likely have to do something about it. Like build a bigger AVC. Meanwhile, the 75% of students who devote countless years, tears, and dollars into preparing for vet school only to be denied entrance will just have to keep waiting, working, and hoping...

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