

## UNB enrollment decreases by 300 for 1972-73

By RICK BASTON

Tentative figures indicate that there is a drop of 300 in The University of New Brunswick's enrollment for this year. Although this is only a small number it is significant because of the provincial government's method of financing University subsidies. Of the three hundred students, two hundred or more are New Brunswick students. As a result of the financial system, the university will lose approximately three quarters of a million dollars.

Dugal Blue, the UNB Registrar, felt that there were a number of reasons for this. The most prevalent seemed to be a fear of debt. Many students drop out in the second year because they realize they will never earn better than a third division degree and as a

consequence will be deep in debt with little change of a job.

Another reason is the job situation itself. Many students obtain good summertime jobs and are afraid to leave them for fear they'll not be able to obtain a job when they graduate.

There is also a sharp decrease in the number of enrollments from Teacher's College. Another reason is that a number of students are now going to intersession and summer school or taking extension courses and working during the day.

This drop in enrollment is not peculiar to UNB only. Many universities are experiencing this trend, many of a much worse scale. In this area only the University of Moncton is experiencing an increase in enrollment. This is primarily due to it being the only French

University in the region.

All signs indicate that this is a general trend for the next several years. It is thought, though, that this might be offset by an increase in extension enrollments. But what does the future hold?

Tuition will probably rise

to meet the costs, said Blue, but he declined to comment further, as the final decision on any raise is up to the Board of Governors. Expansion will likely be curtailed for a number of years until the present situation sorts itself out, and there is a possibility that the Higher

Education Commission will change the formula it uses to subsidize the university.

But things won't change much this year. Any changes - from the Higher Education Commission or otherwise - won't likely come until later, he said.

## Festival basis for student involvement

By MYRNA RUEST

Fall Festival slated for October 30 to November 5, will be set up on the basis that Winter Carnival was last year.

A committee will organize the Festival on the broadest possible base so that any student who wish can be involved. Such groups as Sports Car Club, Coed Club, Foreign Students and the Residences will hopefully be involved in organizing activities.

There will be a football game on Saturday afternoon and there is the possibility that the Parajump Club will perform on College Field during the game. An International Food Night is being considered by the Committee. A German Beer Garden will definitely be held featuring a band.

Fall Festival Week will also share the spotlight with Red and Black Review this year.

SRC President, Roy Neale,

has also suggested having a speaker and a parade. The parade could involve all faculties, residences and organizations, thus, requiring full student support.

It is hoped that heads of student groups will turn out to get Fall Festival organized. Costs will be kept at a minimum but there is still the possibility of having a big name group if one happens to be in the area.

### Future in jeopardy

## Decline in students affects UNB campuses

The future of the University of New Brunswick is in jeopardy because 500 students who were supposed to be here this term failed to register.

Dr. Desmond Pacey, Acting President of the university, said Tuesday that the decline in students affected both the Fredericton and Saint John campuses of the university, and would place the institution in serious financial trouble.

UNB, like other New Brunswick universities, depends heavily on a government subsidization for funds. The government allots money to the universities each year according to the number of New Brunswick students at the institution. Because of the decline, UNB will be short close to \$1 million this year.

"It is now apparent," said Pacey, "that the 1972-73 enrolment at the University of New Brunswick will be some three hundred students short of the 1971-72 enrolment. The decline affects both the Fred-

ericton and the Saint John campuses, but is less dramatic in Saint John because of the addition there this year for the first time of a third year programme in business administration."

"Since a modest increase of some two hundred students, or approximately 4 per cent had been predicted for 1972-73, and the university budget was prepared on that basis, the shortfall below expectations will total approximately five hundred students. The budgetary effect of this shortfall, in terms of government grants and student fees, will be a deficit approaching one million dollars."

"It is clear that the present system of university financing, whereby universities are required to guess at their next year's enrolment and base their budgets upon this guess, is not

adequate or suitable in a period of fluctuating enrolment. Such a system leaves the universities

far too vulnerable to unpredictable changes in student numbers, keeps them in a state of constant financial anxiety, and is very destructive of student and faculty morale.

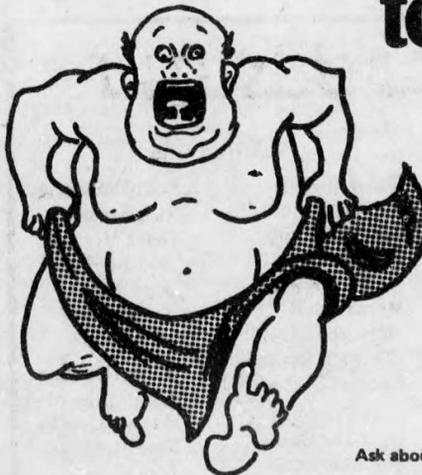
"At the University of New Brunswick, budgeting has, of necessity, always been most scrupulously conducted, and the operating budget for 1972-73 contains no items that could

be eliminated without seriously and adversely affecting the quality of education being offered. The university has maintained in recent years a student-faculty ratio of 15.5:1, well above the national average of 13:1, and its cost per student has consistently been one of the lowest in Canada. Its faculty salaries are well down the list of salaries paid at the

major Canadian universities. The supplies and equipment sections of the budget have been held at a virtually static level over the last three years, and this in spite of rapidly rising costs."

"The University of New Brunswick has served the people of this province for nearly two hundred years, but its present financial crisis puts its future in serious jeopardy."

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