

# Students screwed in latest cuts

HALIFAX (CUP) — Students in the Atlantic provinces may face increased tuition fees and decreased quality, thanks to the latest Michael Wilson budget.

The Feb. 20 federal budget cut \$70 million from Atlantic Canada's post-secondary education system — equivalent to four times

the operating grant given to Saint Mary's University last year.

Lara Morris, chair of Nova Scotia's student federation, said the budget will directly affect students in her province, because the provincial government may raise tuition to help offset the lost funding.

"(Nova Scotia) students are already paying the highest tuition fees in the country," she said. "There will be students eliminated from the system if they go up again."

The budget freezes the growth of federal transfer payments — used by the provinces to subsidized health service and post-secondary education — to the population growth rate.

Newfoundland's finance minister, Hubert Kitchen, said the payments have been steadily declining for the past 20 years, but Wilson's recent budget will produce the worst cuts ever.

"Since 1981, the federal government has capped the amount of

money it gives to the provinces through transfer payments and (the amount) has declined steadily since then," he said.

Although he wouldn't rule out a tuition hike, Kitchen said his government isn't considering it yet.

"Raising of tuition is conceivable, but (it) has not been proposed," he said. "We don't want to raise (them)."

Paul Connolly, Prince Edward Island's education minister, said his province's options are limited.

"The bottom line is that islanders — through taxes, tuition fees or user-pay fees — will

have to shoulder the costs for compensating this reduction," he said.

The budget was not well received by the Canadian Federation of Students either.

Irene Tremblay, a CFS representative, said the effects will be severe, and called on provincial governments not to raise tuition to make up for the cuts.

The cuts in federal payments "will result in fewer courses being offered, increased student/teacher ratios and higher loads for students."

But, she said, an increase in fees would make universities "accessible only for the rich."

## FIRST AID COURSES OFFERED

St. John Ambulance Emergency First Aid Courses will be held at Dalhousie over the next few months. There is a \$25.00 charge which covers the cost of workbooks and pamphlets. The one-day sessions are scheduled for:

**March 9                      March 23**

from 8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Registration and payment must be made prior to the day of the course and a confirmation will follow.

**For more information, or to register, contact the Safety Office at 424-2495.**

# Strike to stop cuts

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — Canadian students should walk out of their classes and strike to protest recent federal government education cutbacks, says the president of Memorial University's student council.

"If the federal government is planning to get re-elected next time, they better smarten up," said Robin Russell.

Russell is calling for a coast-to-

coast student rally.

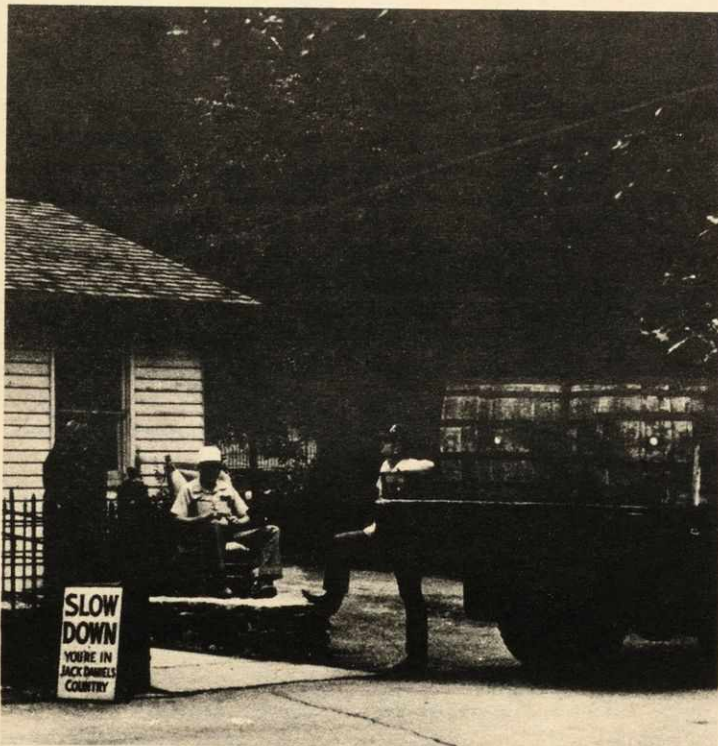
"Students always seem to be the last on the list. The federal government must think (we) can't do anything because we're so diverse."

"If students realized other students across Canada were marching at the same time, it would create an atmosphere of 'yes, we can do something'."

The call for action is in response

to two recent federal cutbacks. The budget for Challenge '90, the program that helps fund jobs for college and university students, will be slashed by 35 per cent.

Federal transfer payments — which go towards funding health care and post-secondary education — were cut by \$2.5 billion over two years in the Feb. 20 federal budget.



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