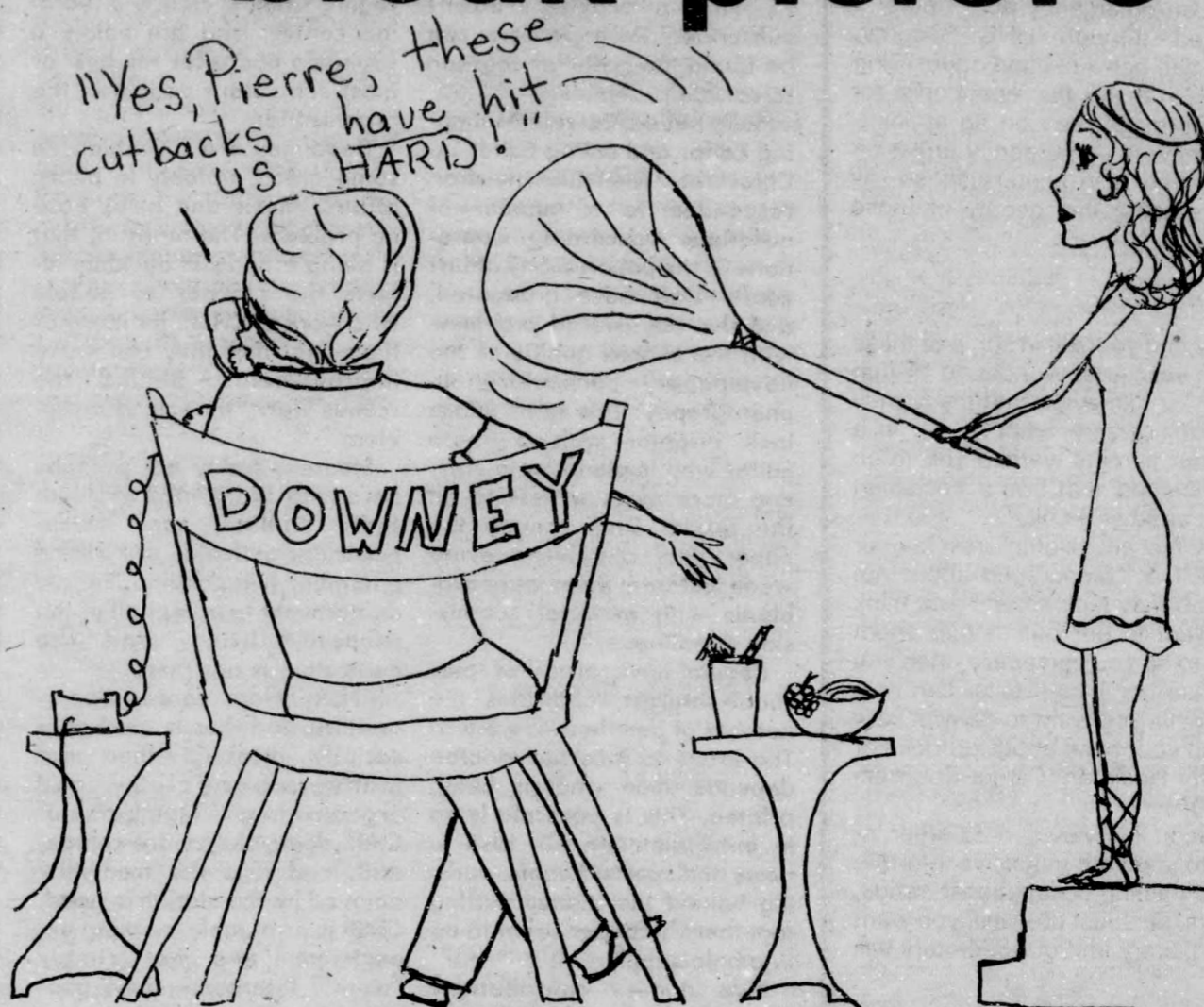


Cutbacks present bleak picture



A bleak picture. A financial crisis. These words best describe the state of affairs at the University of New Brunswick as 1982 begins. Later this month, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission will recommend the level of support expected from the New Brunswick

government. While the level of support is difficult to predict, if not impossible at this stage, let's assume the provincial government's operating grant to UNB will increase

by 11 per cent. That should solve UNB's financial problems one might assume. The 11 per cent increase will help, but it will not avert a serious financial crisis.

Last November the chairman of UNB's board of governors predicted next year's deficit could reach 3.9 million dollars. "Vigorous corrective action is needed," the chairman said, "if UNB is to achieve a balanced budget." Three

quarters of UNB's general operating revenue comes from the provincial government. There is only so much the university can be expected to do before serious cuts in programs are necessary.

The serious cutbacks have taken place. The list can go on and on but let's just name a few of them:

- over 1700 standing journal orders have been cancelled in the last three years at the Harriet Irving Library.
- over 1400 journals having a value of over \$105,000 were cancelled at the library in September 1981.
- 56 jobs were terminated up to July of 1981 at UNB. The university may be forced to lay off an additional 100 employees this year and cut a further one million dollars operating expenses to balance the budget.

- loss of 19 teaching positions at UNB up to July 1, 1981.

- faculty salaries that are

nearly \$6,000 lower than the Canadian average, a gap of nearly 20% according to the Federation of Faculty Associations of New Brunswick.

- keypunches that are in total disrepair - with little money to repair or replace them at this time.

- cleaning services that have been sharply reduced with operational layoffs at UNB Physical Plant.

- UNB's varsity football program eliminated - perhaps for good.

- UNB's resident artist and resident musicians program to be phased out with no assurance of any further level of support after nearly 20 years at UNB.

The cutbacks will continue in 1982. Without substantial financial support from the provincial government, the situation will become even more critical. The cuts have struck the bone, to the point where academic programs are now being seriously affected.

But where does the current financial crisis leave the UNB student? One could say - caught in the middle. Caught between the provincial government that won't support higher education adequately and the UNB administration that has to balance the budget. In other words, tuition and residence fee increases that will be substantial this year.

A 1977 economic impact study on the Fredericton area concluded that UNB and Saint Thomas University accounted for between 15 and 20 per cent of Fredericton's effective income. The decisions of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission and the provincial government will be watched with interest in the weeks ahead. There is little doubt the provincial government's decision to fund New Brunswick's largest university will have a serious affect on students, faculty, staff and the business community.