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U de M occupies Centennial building

"We're not budging until we have some positive answers", said Pierre LeBlanc, an executive of the Federation des Etudiants de l'Universite de Moncton.

This seems to be the prevailing attitude of the approximate 500 U de M students who took up residence in the lobby of the Centennial building Wednesday.

Universite de Moncton student representatives have given Premier Hatfield and government officials their assurance that they will continue to occupy the lobby until their demands are met or they are physically removed. However, it looks like they are in for a long stay because the government is refusing to give any leeway.

The fight for improved student aid in this province seems to be taking a new turn of events after the failure of last Thursday's demonstration. The results of that demonstration brought to the surface much of the discontent in the student bodies.

Despite the 700 or so students at the demonstration UNB showed a clear lack of concern over student aid. SRC president Jim Smith expressed disappointment at the lack of support from the largest university in the province.

The situation does not seem to have improved because yesterday's rally held in the SUB ballroom was a disaster. Smith said 15 persons were at the rally and this will form the nucleus for a new campaign.

"They don't understand, don't know what to do", said Smith. The students here have been referred to as a band of 'apathetic assholes'.

Smith said that he will not give up hope and will keep trying to encourage students to get out and show support.

There does appear to be some hope because Smith was able to talk to a number of students as they stood in line for tickets to extravaganza. "I had a captive audience" he said and he even got a cheer from one section of the lineup.

Whereas last week seemed to be the downfall for UNB, it inspired students of U de M to take more serious action.

Gerard Blanchard, Secretary General of U de M student council, said earlier this week that "buses are going up and they're coming back empty". "People here decided to go Wednesday to Fredericton, determined stay until they get something."

U de M representative Gilles



Photo by Steve Patrique

Students settle in for a long stay in the glass palace

Arseneault said that at present the students have received support from the University of Quebec. Quebec has offered financial support as well as sending representatives down Monday if there has been no positive response from the government.

Representatives from College Shippigan have arrived in Fredericton but there is still no positive word as to whether St. Louis Maillet will be coming, said Arseneault.

Classes at U de M have not been officially cancelled but a student spokesman said the 99.9 percent of students did not attend classes Wednesday. There has been some support given the students by various professors at the university.

Support from other sources may be forthcoming if a general meeting at St. Thomas scheduled for 12:30 today is successful. STU student council President Mark Giberson said he will know this afternoon if STU students will join the sit in. They will not be staying overnight if they do go down.

Asked if STU's council would give financial support, Giberson said it would be impossible because of their present financial situation.

Bernadette Landry said that the FEUM will pick up the tab for transportation and communications as well as help to provide food. In addition to this, Wilfruit is supplying food as well as Saga Foods, the catering service at U de M cafeteria.

More recently, Smith has said that he has contacted churches in the city and they will supply shelter if needed. St. Andrews, St. Dunstan and the Cathedral have been contacted.

Students are presently enjoying themselves to the full in the lobby of the Centennial building. They have been able to spend the night in the building without a hassle by the security.

U de M officials said they welcome any and all students to come and join them but that they are not expecting many from UNB and will not be disappointed if they don't show. It seems they are well aware of the attitude of UNB students.



Photo by Steve Patrique

How could anyone refuse these Universite de Moncton students?

Hatfield rejects demands

Government and students clash

By BURT FOLKINS

Wednesday's meeting with the provincial government has proven no more fruitful than last week's demonstration, according to some student officials. The government continued to tell students that their hands are tied with regard to student aid.

Premier Hatfield in a speech before the students began with "My dear friends", and was immediately shouted down. "The government can't change until everything is talked over with the federal government".

Hatfield indicated that the government will try to find additional funds to permit more students to attend university, even if at the expense of the other ministers.

Youth Minister Jean-Pierre Ouellette said that it was impossible at the moment to meet the demands of the students. We are willing, however, to negotiate with the students and discuss these demands but it is up to the federal government to approve it, he said.

The demands pertaining to the federal government were presented and rejected because the new

agreement will be signed in 1977 to deal with student aid.

Hatfield suggested that a committee be formed consisting of students and administration to present an annual report to the government on financial needs. These would be presented at the federal-provincial conference on student aid in 1977.

It is not a question of money but one of priorities as to where the money should go, said Ouellette. Student aid is a long-term investment, meant to benefit everybody.

Throughout the speeches Hatfield and Ouellette were interrupted by students demanding answers to their questions.

There were complaints from one student that inflation was killing them, why did the government raise the loan from \$1100 to \$1400 dollars.

One student said he had proof that \$200,000 in New Brunswick bursary was not given out last year.

Shortly after their speech, Hatfield and Ouellette disappeared, and students returned to songs and playing cards, prepared to wait the government out.

City detective John King said

that there was no problems so far and that "we won't fight them". Security personnel and policemen will be on duty during the stay in the Centennial Building.

Student representative, Camille McLaughlin said that some students have considered not paying tuition costs in the coming year. However, there has been no firm policy adopted.

"I think the government will have to do something," he said, especially since the bursary funds have remained the same for the last five years.

"I think the government will have to do something", he said, especially since the bursary funds have remained the same for the last five years.

McLaughlin said 80 per cent of U de M's students borrow, especially those from the economically depressed areas in the northeast and northwest parts of the province living in residence.

Another organizer, Ron Parker, said the demonstration had been backed by two weeks of organization and that "counter elements" had prevented bus drivers from bringing the Moncton students to the demonstration held by students last week in Fredericton.