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Brunsbits

Hallowe'en Safety.

- Don't forget that Hallowe'en is just around the corner. Here are some safety tips for the kids.

Never eat apples with visible signs of razor blades protruding. They hurt.

Never cross a busy intersection without the direct supervision of an adult. Cars hurt.

Never glue your mask to your face. Losing a layer of skin trying to peel the mask off hurts.

Federal Proposals Get Low Marks

By Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

A position paper, to be released next week by the New Brunswick Student Alliance, denounces a federal plan to cut \$2.3 billion in annual funding to the provinces for post secondary education.

The Alliance is also giving low marks to the voucher system that might replace the current funding arrangement, saying it will destroy small universities, create a debt crisis, cause stagnation, and lead to a two-tiered U.S. style educational system.

The remarks are contained in "No More Smoke and Mirrors: Why the Voucher System Won't Work and Some Common Sense Reforms That Will", a copy of which has been obtained by the

Opposition responds:

PC's, CoR and reforms

by Charlene Deyarmond
Brunswickan News

While Premier Frank McKenna has shown enthusiastic support for the social policy reform proposals put forth by Federal Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy, provincial opposition politicians have expressed concern about the possible effects on post-secondary education.

Progressive Conservative leader Dennis Cochrane feels that the proposal is going to cause a greater division between those who have money and those who do not.

"You cannot shift the financial burden to the student," he said in response to suggestions that the federal government will reduce support to post-secondary education.

"There have to be changes within the funding system, but the changes the federal government is proposing seem detrimental to their objectives," Cochrane remarked, referring to past government references that Canadians require retraining and further education for the economy to improve.

According to Confederation of Regions Party Income Assistance Critic, Greg Hargrove, the idea of giving \$2.6-billion directly to student loans is ridiculous. He wonders what will stop a student from declaring bankruptcy once receiving a degree, then walking into a good paying job.

He stated in an earlier press release that "the Federal government may want to revamp old social programs, but, until they put their economy on track and get people employed, any changes are going to create hardships."

Cochrane stressed that the provincial Liberal party's position on the proposed reforms seem to be side stepping the education issue.

"Average Canadians don't have a problem seeing a portion of their tax dollar going for higher education. They look at it as an investment in their children and country's future," Cochrane concluded.

Provincial NDP leader Elizabeth Weir was out of town and unavailable for comment.

Brunswickan.

"A voucher system will rob universities of any base of funding and make long-term planning impossible", the Student Alliance fears.

Student debts could be expected to soar, the students believe.

"A four year Bachelor's Degree could leave a student with a debt of \$58,000".

"A two year Teacher's Degree would leave a student with as much as \$73,000 in loans, the paper admits.

"A Law Degree might leave a student with loans totalling \$87,500, while a Medical Student might be up to \$102,000 in debt.

The Student Alliance believes the annual cost of a university education could at least double under a voucher system.

"The voucher system is sold as a way to save money and make schools better".

"The fact is, this system is not about education, it's about politicians and administrators passing the buck on education reform because they can't put aside jurisdictional turf wars to

actually solve problems", the student leaders believe.

"It doesn't save money, it gives an elaborate smoke and mirrors show to let politicians pass the buck to the next generation without being honest about where the debt is".

Instead of changing the funding system, the student leaders believe that cost savings can be found in the university system. The report outlines 24 steps that could be taken to accomplish the task.

"Universities should hold a public review of administrative expenses and ensure money goes into programmes and teaching, not bureaucracy.

A review of programme lengths and costs should be undertaken and universities put on a year round system.

University administrators should study possible mergers and provinces need to demonstrate that federal money transferred for post secondary education is actually spent as allocated.

The students are calling on universities to introduce more co-op programs and promote more accountability through reforming Boards of Governors and

making budgets public.

Student Aid reforms are needed. Proposals include offering a venture capital component, and introducing merit awards as a part of Student Aid.

A national Job Corps which could ease the transition from university to the workplace needs to be established.

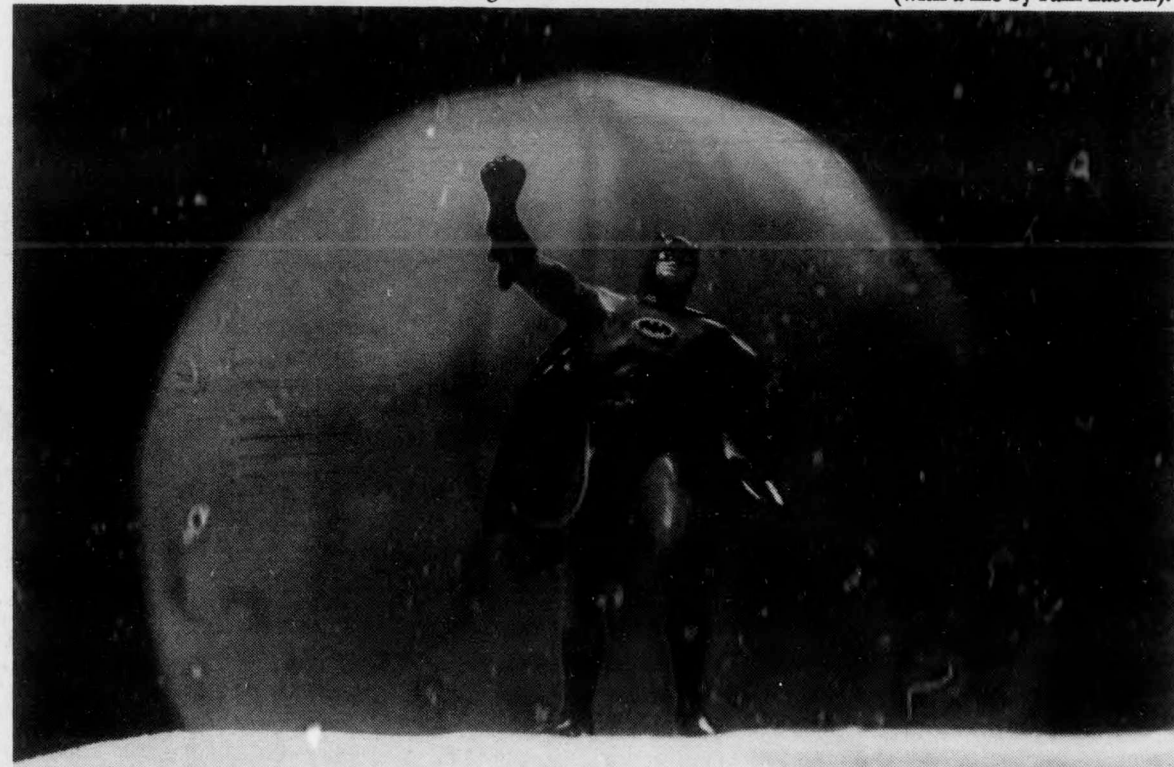
The document, written by UNB first year law student and Chair of the Canadian Federation of Students for the province has been endorsed by 27 Student Unions across the country. Kelly Lamrock hopes to line up 40 Student Unions by next Tuesday, November 1st, the day the position paper is formally released.

Fredericton York Sunbury MP, Andy Scott thinks he and the NB Student Alliance have a lot in common.

"Many of their suggestions are quite consistent with some of the possibilities I've put forward", said Scott, visiting the UNB Campus last week as a guest of the Political Science Student Association and the UNB Student Liberals.

"What I would really like to do is sit down with the students and their paper and ... figure out how we'd propose to implement reforms", he concluded.

(with a file by Pam Easton).



Holy sacrificial squash Batman

Photo by Bones

'Smashing Pumpkin' guest at Harrison

by Cheryl McLean
Brunswickan News

What started off 21 years ago as a test of gravity by two Harrison House residents has grown into a bizarre religious ceremony.

In 1973, little did Earl Parrish and Marc Milner know that their exploits would flourish into the now infamous Great Pumpkin Sacrifice, an event hosted every Halloween by the residents of Harrison.

Residents of the House scour the countryside to discover the largest pumpkin around. In past years it has weighed over 300 pounds.

On Halloween, Harrisonians attire themselves in religious robes, and bearing candles, proceed to the roof where a ceremony takes place. Then the large pumpkin is pushed to its fate on the ground below.

Stacey Henwood, a frosh from

Harrison spoke for the majority of her peers by saying she is "excited."

Many may wonder why this event has become such a tradition for Harrison House. Depending on who you ask, the answer will vary.

Stories linger from the disturbances other houses have created over the years, making the whole event curious for a first-time witness of such a spectacle.

"Who wouldn't want to throw a 400-pound fruit off the roof?!" said Dugald

McLaren, a second-year student.

Tim Travis and Bev Dunfield, this year's Loyal Guardians, will tell a different story.

"The sacrifice celebrates the academic harvest and residence unity."

The 22nd annual Great Pumpkin Sacrifice is hitting UNB this Halloween Monday at 11:30 p.m.

This is an event no UNB student should miss!

Assaults said to be false reports

by Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

Charges are pending against a female student after a report of two assaults on the UNB campus turned out to be false.

Both assaults were alleged to have taken place outside the main entrance of Bridges House during the third week of September.

Campus Security and Fredericton Police were notified and an immediate investigation began.

"The investigation revealed that the incidents were false," said Superintendent Bob Haines of the Fredericton City Police.

Haines could give no date when a court appearance is expected