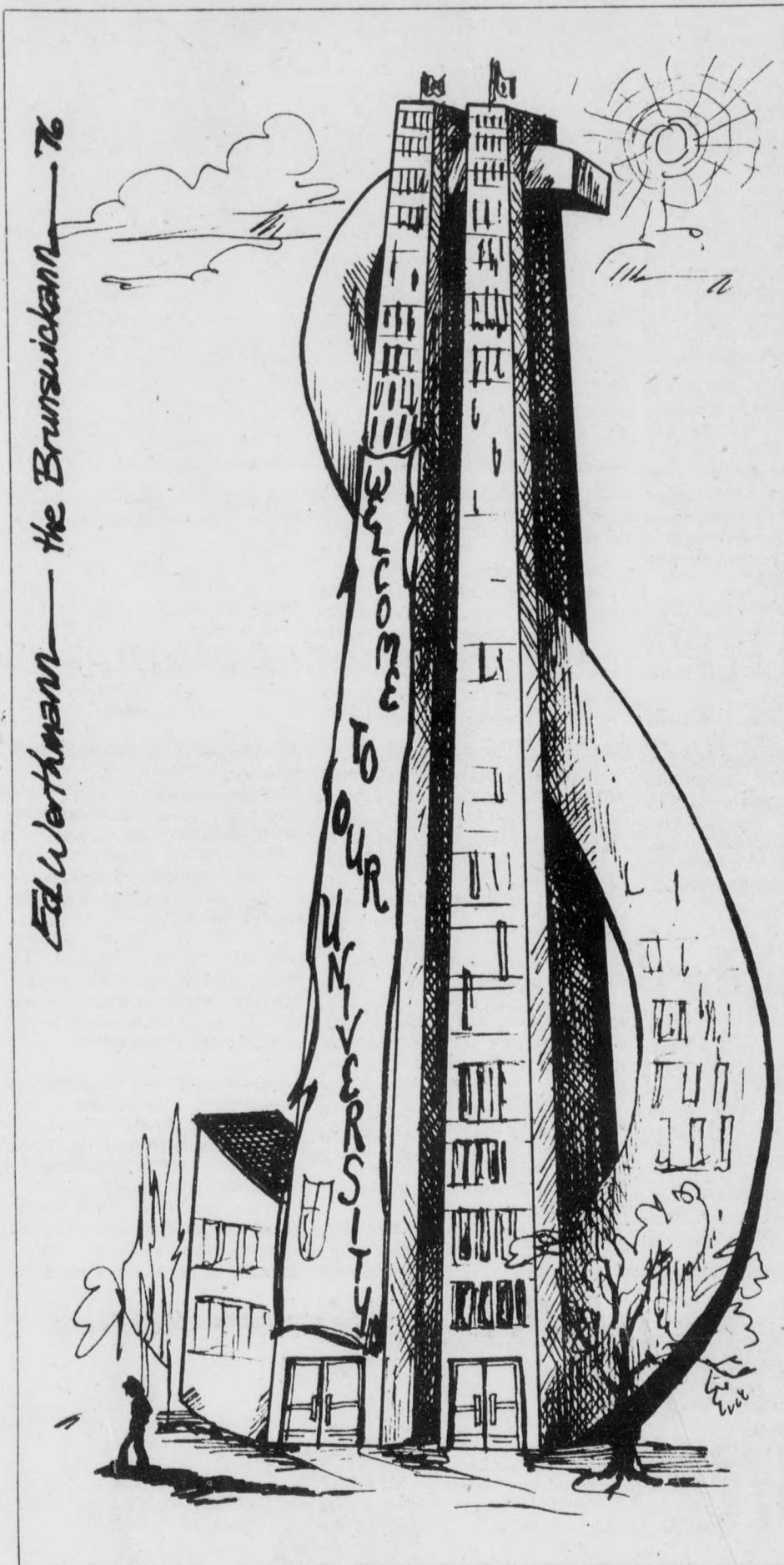


Elitist aid plan needs revision-- Now



The time has come for university students of this province to band together in an attempt to alleviate the oppressive and elitist student loan plan.

Under the leadership of the provincial caucus of the Atlantic Federation of Students a method is being prepared through which all New Brunswick university students can attempt to change the present system.

The plan, at present, is for a province-wide student demonstration.

However, the demonstration is contingent on the passing of a province-wide referendum in support of the campaign.

It cannot be over-emphasized that the demonstration will not be against this or any other university's administration. The quarrel is with the government, and the government only.

Support has already been received from the administration of this university. Both Senate and university president John Anderson have agreed that students will not be penalized in any way for taking part in the demonstration.

Support from other institutions is flowing in daily, with universities, other educational institutions and labor groups indicating their support.

The plan for a demonstration parallels almost exactly an action planned for university students in Ontario. With luck simultaneous demonstrations in the two provinces will succeed in bringing the problem to the attention of the federal government, as well as the provincial governments concerned.

But it can't happen without you.

Some students are remaining aloof from the demonstration plans because they are financing their education through student loans. That attitude parallels the economically elitist attitudes of the provincial government.

It is becoming more and more difficult for lower - and middle - class families to send their

children to university - even with student aid.

Sitting back and ignoring the problem because you are lucky enough to be able to attend university without student loans shows a disgusting lack of social awareness - and social responsibility.

We need all students to support the demonstration - not just those with student loans. If you're not worried about your own student loan, worry about that person who sits next to you in class - the person who might not be there next year if improvements are not made.

New Brunswick AFS caucus chairperson Mark Giberson argues the case this way:

"First," says Giberson, "it is in the best interest of the future of New Brunswick that the youth of this province be given ample opportunity to obtain post-secondary education."

"Secondly, the government should consider student aid as an investment in the future and as the province is the principal shareholder in that investment, it should be willing to bear the bulk of the costs for educating its students."

"Thirdly, a university, or post-secondary educational system, which both serves and promotes economic elitism is unacceptable to the students and taxpayers of the province of New Brunswick."

"Fourthly, a student aid system should be instituted which minimizes the costs incurred to the individual and that maximizes the return to the province by providing opportunities of education to a greater number of potential students."

"Fifthly, it is because of these beliefs, and because of their merits to a truly democratic system that the collective student leadership made the demands and with the support of the students of the province we are willing to lobby, through all peaceful means, to secure their enactment."

THE BRUNSWICKAN

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