

University closure govt. error? - AIE !!!

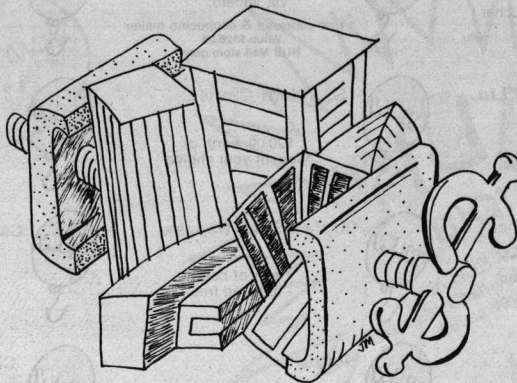
HALIFAX (CUP) - The Nova Scotia Government did not know what it was doing when it closed the Atlantic Institute of Education (AIE) in August, according to a spokesperson for the provincial student organization.

Peter Kavanagh, executive officer of the Students Union of Nova Scotia, said the government's decision to eliminate the Halifax-based institute's \$945,000 budget show it had little understanding of the institute's function.

AIE was established in 1971 to permit students to obtain a PhD or Masters degree in education while remaining employed as teachers. It was the first post-secondary institution in the Atlantic to be closed by cutbacks, leaving the fate of 25 staff and 69 students uncertain.

Kavanagh said the provincial Cabinet had only a vague idea of what the AIE did and some of the minister's assumptions were wrong.

"One cabinet minister said we don't need any more unemployed PhD's walking around. He didn't realize those students are employed," said Kavanagh.



He added that the cabinet did not realize that the AIE had students attending it. He said they made the announcement first and then realized that they had eliminated a degree-granting institution. He said since then they have been "scrambling around" to

find places for the students.

Peter Butler, an assistant to education minister Terry Donahoe, said the province was forced to make the cut after the New York banks lowered Nova Scotia's credit rating this summer. "It was entirely understand-

able that we had to get it somewhere," said Butler. "The New York bankers made it crystal clear."

He added that "there wasn't any malicious intent. We didn't sit down and look at what universities we could shut down."

Butler said the cabinet looked at other options, but he refused to specify which ones.

Education minister Donahoe is "looking at arrangements so that the students who are part-way through Masters or Doctorate programs could be taken in by other institutions in Nova Scotia" he said.

But Dalhousie University, the only other Maritime university that offers a PhD in education, requires Doctorate students to take courses full-time there for two years before they can be admitted in the program. This would force students in the middle of a PhD to take other courses for two years and quit their current jobs.

AIE professors are threatening to sue the institute's Board of Governors for breach of contract. The Students Union of Nova Scotia is also considering launching a suit against the provincial government on behalf of the displaced students.

At the Institute no one is sure when it will close. The withdrawal of funding came five months into the operating year, but the students and staff are still awaiting details about the Institute's closure.

Students' Union Presents:

Freshman Introduction Week 82



Wednesday, 15th

BEER GARDENS
11:00 - 4:00
Quad

Featuring:
The Dragnetts Warrior

Eckankar
"A Way of Life"
7:30 p.m.
142 SUB



HOT AIR BALLOON Rides
Sound by ALL STAR

FEATURING over 20 Booths
from U of A clubs
GAMES - FOOD - BEVERAGES

Thursday, 16th

BEER GARDENS
11:00 - 4:00
Quad

Featuring:
Troc '59
Explore The Floor

Sub Theatre
"Ragtime"
8:00 p.m.

RATT Presents:
The Tribe
8:00 p.m. - Midnight

Friday, 17th

BEER GARDENS
11:00 - 4:00
Quad

Featuring:
Reform School
Connie Kaldor

RATT Presents:
The Tribe

The Agriculture Club Sponsors
1st Year Mixer
Wed. Sept. 15 3 p.m.
Rm. 345 - Old Agriculture Bldg.

WANT MORE INFORMATION?

call 432-4236
Students' Union Office