

Will Liberals honour promises?

By MELYNDA JARRATT
 With the Liberal government of Frank McKenna firmly entrenched in power for the next four or five years, students of this province have begun what may be a controversial process to have the New Brunswick government fulfill their election promises.

Primary among them is the pledge to lower the minimum amount borrowed by University students in order to be eligible for bursaries from the current \$3,300 to \$2,700. According to Jane Arnold, President of the UNB Student Union, the bursary issue is only one of many which will be coming up for discussion when the NB Student Alliance meets with the Liberals for talks on post-secondary education. Promises ranging from employment to financing to

student representation on the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) are some of the topics which she, along with the other members of the NB Student Alliance will be pressing the Liberal government for commitment.

"First of all, Mr. McKenna promised that he would put all student summer employment through the Canada Manpower Office. This is a vital and important issue of concern to all students, for if it is implemented it will mean that students will be getting jobs according to merit and ability rather than party affiliations."

"Second, the Liberals promised to publicize the Rebate program so that students will know when they graduate that they are eligible for rebates on their Canada Student Loans."

As it stands now, most people are unaware that upon graduation their student loan debt could be significantly lowered with the rebate program.

"Thirdly, Mr. McKenna stated that there should be student representation on the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission and that he would encourage its implementation with the agreement of other provinces"

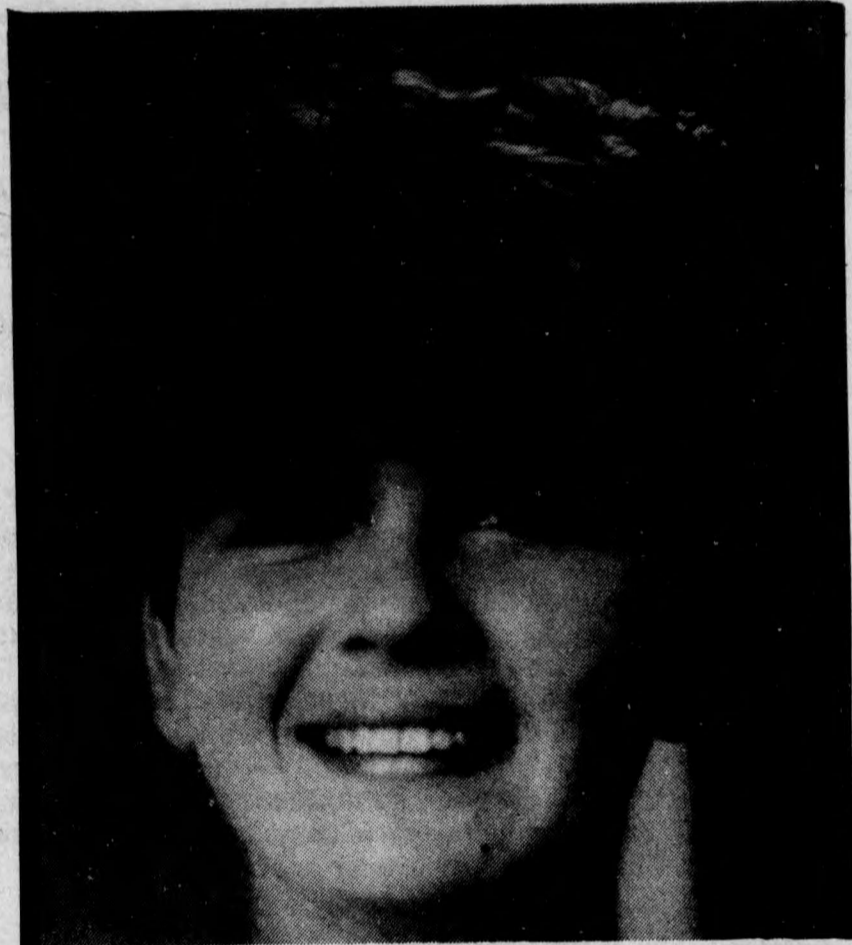
Ms. Arnold is expecting to meet with the leader of the Liberal party at a future date to discuss some of these very important student issues. She has received a letter to the effect that once the Cabinet is made public and the Liberals begin with the business of government that they will begin to negotiate.

"I will be meeting Mr.

McKenna along with other members of the NB Student Alliance to establish rapport. I hope that at the very least we can obtain firm commitment on the \$2,700 student loan minimum by the next school year and to have the student employment situation functioning by the summer of 88.

her meeting with McKenna with optimism. If the rate at which the Liberals replied to her letter of two weeks ago is any indication then it is possible that students may see action on some of these issues very soon.

Dr. Russ King, MLA for



Jane Arnold, UNB Student Union President, hopes that Frank McKenna will honour campaign promises to students.

Soul force for peace

By MARK STEVENS
 An Ottawa based group is planning an Irish peace initiative for the summer of 1988.

Comprised mainly of students and senior citizens, Soul Force volunteers intend to fan out over the width and breadth of Northern Ireland promoting peace.

Barry Randall, a spokesman for the group, said that Soul Force is accepting names of volunteers to work in Northern

Ireland for the designated two week periods. He added that volunteers would have their travel and living expenses paid.

... comprised mainly of students and senior citizens ...

Although Randall has not established any contacts in Northern Ireland to date, he is hopeful that his group's initiative will be greeted with enthusiasm. Following the formula set out by Mahatma Gandhi, Soul Force believes in the principle of non-violent expression.

"I hope that our initiative will be successful", said Randall. "Originally, we were thinking of going to Nicaragua

or South Africa, but we decided that we would be of most use in Northern Ireland."

Randall said that they plan to hand out leaflets at community events to help promote their peace initiative. "It mightn't be a very spectacular idea, but at least it's a beginning", he added.

Though a little vague about the political situation, Randall stressed that Soul Force will not take sides in the conflict. "We've got a lot of work to do", he admitted. "I plan on flying out to Ireland in a few months to establish some contacts. As yet, I haven't spoken to anyone from Ulster, and the only feedback I've had so far has been from Irish expatriots living in North America."

As well, we want to see the rebate publicity campaign in gear for the graduating class of 1988." In regards to the MPHEC, Ms. Arnold simply says that "I will be pleased if he brings the issue up for discussion among the other provinces and makes a recommendation for student representation on the board."

Arnold is looking forward to

Fredericton South, holds the Advanced Education portfolio, so the decisions for post-secondary education in New Brunswick ultimately rest with him. However, King has expressed a personal interest in the students of this province, and in meetings prior to the election he made it quite clear that he would do his best to help them.

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