

# editorial

## Student travel not easy

It strikes most of us at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Mid-term break, and while getting home at the end of the year. Sooner or later, students are affected by the hassles of travelling.

Travelling, whether it be going home or for a holiday, is something to look forward to. Or at least until you face the problem of how to get to where you want to go. This is where the headaches start, unless you know the tricks of the trade.

If you are flying, no problem; leave it up to the airlines. Air Canada offers their Youth Fare, "stand-by" rate for students. Provided you are under 22 and you may not fly on Friday or Sunday. One consolation for those fortunate enough to qualify for the age restriction, is that as of October first, the fare has been reduced. From Montreal to Fredericton, one way, is \$51.00, down from \$56.00. Toronto to Fredericton was \$79.00, and is now \$72.00.

If you would rather fly other than by the seat of your pants, with something more definite than "stand-by", the regular fare structure breaks down seasonally, into peak and basic seasons, which in turn are divided into long and short hauls. Peak season is from December 17 - January 10, before exams are over and after the time you would want to be back at university. During peak season, it will cost you an arm and a leg for the full fare.

The basic season runs from October 22 - December 16 and January 11 - March 18, during which time period you can fly for half price. A short haul, for example Fredericton to Montreal or Toronto, must be booked seven days in advance. Long haul would be to destinations such as Calgary and Vancouver and must be booked 21 days ahead.

It also is cheaper to fly

mid-week as opposed to a weekend. The catch is that there is a pre-determined number of seats per aircraft to which the basic fare applies and once they are all taken, even before the booking deadlines, you are stuck paying the full fare. For example these reduced rates are almost all gone for the period around the end of Christmas exams.

The regular fare one-way, Fredericton to Montreal for Eastern Provincial Airways is \$91.00 and for Air Canada is \$93.00.

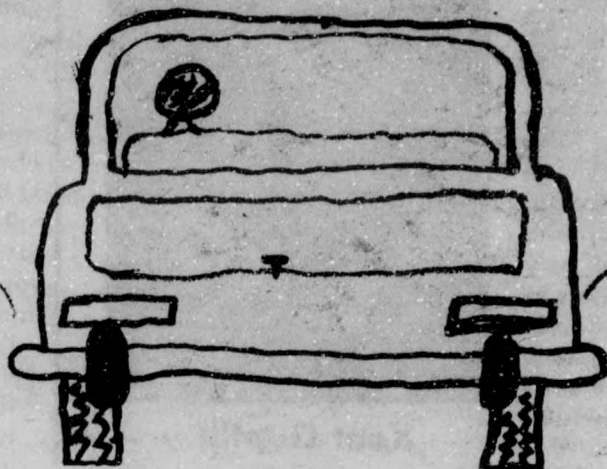
C.P. Air's Sky Bus is one possible alternative. Going to destinations such as Montreal, Toronto and the West

these "bargain basement" flights can be booked right up to flight time. The downfall - these are no "frill" flights; you are allowed only one bag, no meals are served, and they are non-refundable. Have fun starving on your flight to Vancouver!

And then of course there is the rail service, or at least what is left of it. The situation is subject to change but it has been proposed that Via will run a train leaving Fredericton's York Street station at 2:15 p.m. arriving in Moncton at 6 p.m. for a half-hour stopover and finally arrive in Montreal at 9:18 a.m. the next morning. This en-

tails a 17-hour ride, where as the old route through Maine took 12 hours. It is not surprising that there are no special student rates! A general discount is available if you book 14 days in advance, however in the past the discount was not valid between December 18 and January 4, and during Easter.

In the final analysis, there is very little to accommodate the student who must travel any distance to and from school. If the Air and Rail companies were perceptive, they would realize the potential of the student market. From what they presently offer, it seems as if they just do not want our business.



Bummer!