

Students approached for funds

by Marc Allain

Not only are university administrators threatening students with substantial tuition fee increases in the wake of reduced government funding but they are also requesting that students make other more direct forms of financial contributions to the university budgets.

It appears as though the incident at Memorial University (see story p. 1) was not an isolated case as in the past week student representatives at both Dalhousie and University of King's College were also asked to donate sizeable amounts of student monies to university fund raising projects.

The first request was by the Dal alumni association to members of the Dal student council executive for a formal student contribution to the university's Dalplex fund raising scheme. Although the form of this contribution was not finalized, it was suggested that the money could be raised by increasing student union fees. The proposal was brought to council at last Sunday's meeting and a committee was struck to study the question.

While the Dal student council was dealing with Dalplex, University of King's College president John Godfrey asked King's student council to pledge \$35,000 to his "King's

Tomorrow 200" fund raising campaign. Godfrey, who attended Sunday's council meeting, asked that the student union increase its fees by \$20 and that this increase be pledged to his fund raising project. Godfrey also proposed that the King's student union begin contributing to the campaign immediately through the disbursement of the \$3,000 that council recently received from accumulated drug plan fees. He further suggested this amount be supplemented by a \$40 per student gift from this year's graduating class. "It's a tradition here at King's that the graduating class present a tree or something as a gift to the university," Godfrey said. "This year the gift could come in the form of a financial contribution."

According to Godfrey, the \$20 increase is the "more equitable and less inconvenient" method for student contribution. Student Council vice president external Trent Thompson stated however that it would be difficult for King's students to absorb such an increase. The present fees are \$41, and council is considering a \$10 hike to pay for the use of the Dal SUB facilities, Thompson said.

According to the King's student union constitution, council can unilaterally increase student fees. Thompson said however that a proposal as drastic as Godfrey's would have to be decided by referendum. Council members are presently discussing the proposal with their constituents and a decision on whether to put the question to referendum will be taken at the next council meeting.

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Students' funds for library?

ST. JOHN'S (CUP)—Students at Memorial University will vote February 22 and 23 whether to transfer a \$750,000 fund to the university Board of Regents for construction of a new library.

The vote was to be taken February 7 and 8 but a combination of procedural problems and student opposition forced the two week postponement of the referendum. The fund consists from a fee collected from each student between 1960 and 1970 that was meant for the construction of a student union building.

When the project was canned in 1970 because the administration and the provincial government would not promise additional funding, the money was put in trust. George Wyatt, President of the Council of the Students Union (CSU) feels if students show their willingness to help fund the new library, other sources will be obliged to contribute as well.

Wyatt says University President M.O. Morgan has received assurances for funding from business and other interests should students provide the initial start-up costs. In return for the SUB fund the administration has agreed to some concessions, including an equal say in the operation of the university bookstore, and greater control of the administration-owned existing student centre.

The fund is presently worth \$750,000 and will have a value of just over a million dollars, when the debenture matures in 1981. Under the proposed terms of the agreement, the union will turn the money over to the university for a three year period. If construction does not begin before 1981 the fund will revert to its original intention.

John Maloney, Committee of Concern for the Sub Fund spokes-



Dal Photo / Simkins

Will there be results?

Govt's. to take 'vigorous action'

by Valerie Mansour

The Nova Scotia Government said in Tuesday's throne speech that they will "take vigorous action to ensure that university tuition fees will not be increased for the coming year."

The announcement came just ten days after the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) said that low funding levels for Maritime post-secondary institutions would probably result in tuition increases geared to the cost of living for next year. According to the Council of Maritime Premiers the basic operating grant will be increased 6.7% with the Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island governments boosting grants to institutions in their provinces an extra 1%.

The MPHEC has asked the Council of Maritime Premiers for a basic increase in operating grants of 11% and two allotments of 1.5% each for funding equalization within the region and with the rest of the country.

Father Malcolm MacDonnel President of Saint Francis Xavier University and chairperson of the Association of Atlantic Universities said yesterday he can only presume

the throne speech to be an indication of attitudes and he is skeptical that it implies anything special. "We will all be taking 'vigorous action,' MacDonnel said, "but that doesn't necessarily mean the action will have positive results." Asked whether the additional non-space and alterations grants might be given to offset tuition, MacDonnel said it is not the usual procedure but nothing is impossible. He expects that within the next few weeks universities will have the full picture.

George Mitchell, Nova Scotia Education Minister said that the government does hope to keep tuition down. "Although the decisions rest with the university administrations, we will be encouraging them not to raise tuition. All the universities have received substantial increases and I would hope that within their budgets they can keep tuition down."

Mitchell said the grants not yet announced will not directly offset tuition but every additional amount the universities receive will help.

In a discussion Monday with the Dal Student Union President and vice-president, Mitchell commented on the present procedures regard-

ing university funding. He feels the existence of the MPHEC is important although the government has not followed their recommendations for the last two years. Mitchell said they no longer provide a central purpose but do make guidelines.

Dalhousie President Henry Hicks Tuesday expressed regret that the Nova Scotia government was not able to support universities to the extent recommended by the MPHEC but does expect them to be in existence a while longer.

Hicks would not say whether tuition at Dalhousie is to rise this year, but said they are doing their best to keep it down. Dalhousie is presently working on its budget and, Hicks says, more cutbacks will be made. Like last year, when professors leave, their positions will remain vacant, Hicks said.

The Atlantic Federation of Students is planning a campaign to fight educational cutbacks. Posters and pamphlets encouraging students to protest the present situation are being distributed about the Halifax campuses. A meeting with education Minister Mitchell which was to be held Monday was cancelled.