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Idiotic drivers and the Trans-Canada Highway:

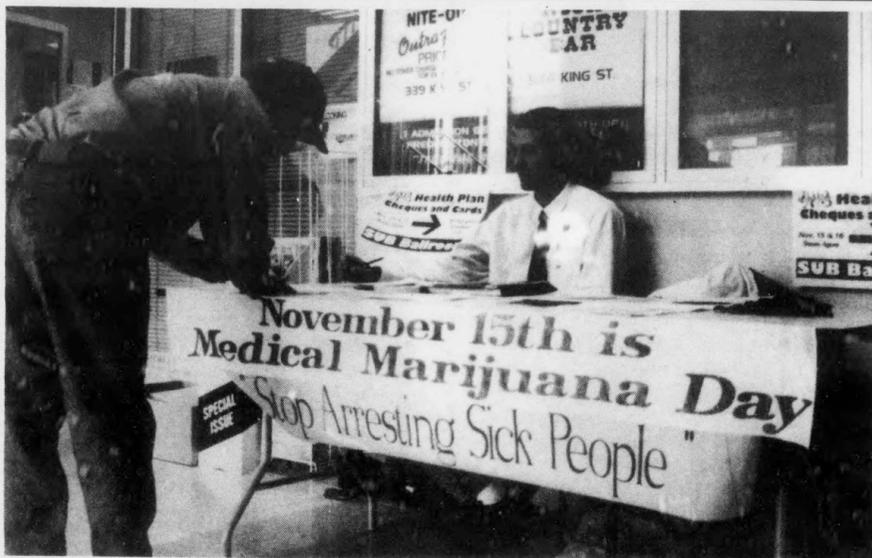
The Trans Canada Highway is our nation's thoroughfare.

As such, it has been designed for heavy traffic. It is used on a daily basis by tourists, people commuting to and from work, and 18-wheelers transporting goods from sea to shining sea.

If you want to drive a leisurely 70 km/h or less in search of the elusive deer grazing in a far-off field, holding up at least six other vehicles in the process, then get the f--- off the Trans Canada Highway.

Perhaps a secondary road is more suitable for your simple pursuits.

You people really annoy the hell out of me.



A student signs a petition for the legalization of cannabis. Photo by Kent Rainville

Group advocates marijuana as medication

by Jonathan Stone
Brunswickan News

They're not promoting the use of drugs to get high, blistered, or ozoned.

Instead Hemp-NB, a newly-created organization that hopes to raise awareness of positive uses of cannabis, is interested in the legalization of marijuana for medical and practical purposes.

"The uses we're promoting are ones like the combat of the 'wasting syndrome' of AIDS," said Mike Aubé, one of the founders of Hemp-

NB, who set up an information booth in the SUB lobby Tuesday, marking Medical Marijuana Day.

Aubé said marijuana curbs nausea and vomiting and stimulates appetite, which combats the weight loss incurred by AIDS sufferers.

"It acts as a mild pain killer as well," he added, stating that he gains his information from scientific and medical research, and from a newsgroup for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) on the Internet.

At the booth, those interested

could sign a petition supporting the legalization of cannabis. Green ribbons, the international symbol of support for the movement, were distributed to those wishing to show their support.

Aubé said to date he has obtained 170 signatures, and copies of the petition will be sent to the Prime Minister, the federal health minister, and local MP Andy Scott.

When asked if anybody complained to him at the booth, Aubé replied, "People were really receptive. I was kind of surprised."

Students meet Axworthy

by Janice McConnell
Brunswickan News

Tuition increases were discussed as UNB Student Union President Paul Estabrooks met with federal Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy last week.

Estabrooks, and student union presidents from the Maritime provinces, met with Axworthy and administrators from Nova Scotia on November 9 to discuss the effect proposed social policy reforms will have on post-secondary education.

"Axworthy seemed receptive to our ideas and is interested in pursuing them further," Estabrooks said, claiming that the meeting was both productive and beneficial for the student representatives and the government to discuss the proposed changes.

He said Axworthy quoted several times from the document *No More Smoke and Mirrors*, a paper written by UNB Law student Kelly Lamrock which suggests alternatives to the federal government's proposals.

The federal government is projecting a \$1,500 increase in tuition if these social policy reforms

take effect, Estabrooks said. But he believes that the increase would actually be much higher, in the range of \$3,000.

He explained that at the moment, almost half of the \$6.1-billion educational institution budget comes from cash transfers to the provinces. Under the new plan, these cash transfers will be completely eliminated.

The other source of funding, called 'tax points' is on a gradual 10-year increase plan. It will take a decade for tax points to reach the 1994 funding level that will make up the funding lost from canceling cash transfers. Because of these increasing tax points, the government proposes that eventually more money is being put into the system, not less, explained Estabrooks.

Estabrooks had questions for Axworthy about where the money was going to come from to maintain the present level of funding in the meantime.

Axworthy responded that this kind of mathematics is faulty and called it "voodoo economics."

Axworthy did not have time to answer Estabrooks' question but

indicated that his office would give a reply. They have not replied as of last Tuesday.

Estabrooks met with the Fredericton York-South MP Andy Scott shortly after the Halifax meeting, but Scott also did not know where this funding would come from.

Estabrooks said that Axworthy gained a greater appreciation for the regional diversity that exists in educational funding and tuition across Canada.

Universities in the Atlantic provinces already pay a higher percentage of the total cost of tuition as compared to the national average. Nationally, students pay around 20 per cent of total costs. In comparison, STU students pay around 40 per cent.

"No university in the Maritimes would have tuition less than 20 per cent," said Estabrooks.

The government's new policy could be implemented as early as September, 1996. Estabrooks said UNB students should expect a tuition increase of between 10 to 20 per cent next year as the UNB administration tackles increasing operational costs.

Thousands of students protest on Parliament Hill

by Pam Easton
and Jonathan Stone
Brunswickan News

Representatives from UNB did not join thousands of fellow university students in a protest on Parliament Hill Wednesday afternoon against the federal government's proposed social policy reforms.

The UNB Student Union decided not to get involved in the rally. Instead, it is backing *No More Smoke and Mirrors*, a paper penned by UNB Law student Kelly Lamrock, which offers alternatives to federal human resources minister Lloyd's Axworthy's green paper on social reform.

"We've tried to avoid protest and have instead worked on offering alternatives," said UNB Student Union President Paul Estabrooks, who said that the Prime Minister has read Lamrock's paper and has asked the standing Committee on the Development of Human Resources to take it into consideration.

The demonstration, co-ordinated by the Student's Federation of the University of Ottawa, was touted by the organizers to be the most historical moment in Canadian university student history.

According to University of Ottawa student David Talbot, who helped to co-ordinate the demonstration, between 12,000 and 15,000 students flocked to Parliament Hill Wednesday.

"We were following the CFS' [Canadian Federation of Students] initiative," said Talbot, referring to the recent decision by the CFS to organize a nation-wide student walk-out in January.

Speakers invited to the event were federal PC leader Jean Charest, the education critics from both the federal NDP and the Bloc Québécois, CFS chair Guy Caron, and Council of Canadians spokesperson Maude Barlow.

Talbot said Lloyd Axworthy requested to be present, and when he spoke, the crowd became loud and ugly as students hurled eggs, tomatoes and Kraft Dinner in his direction.

"Students in this country are seen as being apathetic. Fifteen thousand students say that's not true," said Talbot. "This is the beginning of many battles to come."

A press release from Jean-Francois Venne, President of the SFUO, dozens of universities across Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes confirmed their intention to attend the protest.

However, Talbot said not one Atlantic-based university was represented at the rally.