

EDITORIAL

Students



shafted again?

The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) always stressing the importance of post-secondary education for social and economic development in the Maritime region. But they released their Financial Plan 1987-88 only calling for a measly 6.5 % increase in education funding in the Atlantic Provinces.

While this is only a report, it is still submitted for serious consideration to the Council of Maritime Premiers and to the provincial governments. And we all know that in recent years the provincial governments are in the habit of either accepting the MPHEC's recommendations or adopting lower ones. A little pressure in the right place could change that.

Already, UNB President Dr. James Downey has flatly stated that he doesn't think much of the "increase". And he is right to be concerned...students have a right to be concerned. In their report the MPHEC says that it is attempting to...restore some of the erosion that has occurred in support levels over the past several years. Nothing like making up for lost time. It seems like a futile effort to make up for a loss that should not have occurred in the first place and that was a result of an inaccurate funding level right from the start. The logic just isn't there.

As well, according to the MPHEC, it is clear that their proposed funding "increase" won't affect all Atlantic post secondary institutions the same way. Does this mean another tuition hike?

There is an upcoming election. Politicians should be falling over themselves to please the public these days. And in a university town such as this the student population comprises a sizable portion of the public. You can be sure that if the MPHEC's report is accepted (as is) by the Atlantic provinces then there are going to be a lot of irate students. For that matter university communities across the Atlantic will be asking some crucial questions right around election time. Ought to be an interesting...all things considered.



Mugwump

By

VALERIE WHITE
Managing Editor

Journal

I'm sitting here in front of the woodstove to thaw out my fingers long enough to write this column. These below-normal temperatures are ridiculous. At least there is no fear of all the snow melting away before Winter Carnival. And speaking of Winter Carnival, things are shaping up quite nicely. Tim Judah has been working hard promoting the event -- almost as hard as those of us at the Brunswickan. And, Tim, if you're reading this (and I know you are); don't forget to include a sleigh ride somewhere on the schedule.

I can't believe all of the good news I'm hearing from the Student Union these days. Not only will there be a Winter Carnival and a Red 'n' Black (supposedly) - they even claim to be putting out a yearbook this year. Now don't get me wrong guys, it's not that I'm being overly critical or anything but I couldn't help but laugh when I read Larry Hansen's statement concerning this year's upcoming yearbook. "We have a commitment to publish the best yearbook that has been published in recent years." boasts Larry. That's great Larry, and I'll try to overlook the fact that there hasn't been a yearbook in recent years! Oh, well best of luck to the editor Perrin Mills, and make sure you do a good job because my picture goes in this year.

How many folks caught the comedy contest at the Social Club last weekend? Well I didn't, but I hear it was a good time. Congratulations to Erik Gingles who walked away with the \$500 first prize for his successful defense from the heckler in the front row. And congratulations to Allyson Woodside for bringing in that great comedy band from Halifax. Good Time! I hope to see them back here sometime soon.

Weedless Wednesday seems to have been a success in Fredericton, since we were the city where the most smokers called it quits on Wednesday. However, things were smokin' down in Head Hall that day when a burning mop in a janitor's closet drew 5 fire trucks to the campus. Somebody was careless. It's bad enough to have a fire anywhere, but in Head Hall it could be disastrous. Besides the millions of dollars worth of equipment, there are too many engineers milling around down there. Any someone could easily have gotten hurt. We were going to run an article on fire safety this week in the Brunswickan, however; due to no fault of our own, it did not materialize. I think we are all mature enough to take precautions to prevent fires. But I guess we all need reminding once in a while.

The CHSR Barry Awards are being held Saturday night. It's nice to see that those hard working individuals at CHSR have an evening when they receive the praise they deserve. I know sometimes I complain about the sometimes raunchy, head-banging music that you guys play up there, but I know someone out there must appreciate it. Should I dare ask what award you are going to give André Faust?

For once I guess I can't complain about student apathy. It seems that fan support at UNB games is on the uprise. That's good to see. There's nothing better to increase school spirit and loyalty than cheering on your favorite team, (This is beginning to sound like a pep rally!) Anyway, at least something is on the upswing. We may actually be on the way to getting UNB back on its feet.

Lastly, I'd like to say that I'm pleased with the turnout we've had here at the Bruns lately. I guess our warped and demented recruitment ads must be working. Did you catch the threatening one in the news section this week? I might add that I can claim no responsibility for any of them.