

McGill students lose \$900,000

MONTREAL (CUP) - A \$900,000 student aid plan was derailed recently after a council president withdrew her support for it.

The plan - set up to help McGill University students cope with a tuition fee hike - needed the unanimous approval of a university committee.

"By accepting the [money] we would be saying that the tuition fee hikes make no difference," said McGill University undergraduate student council president Kate Morisset, who voted against the plan.

According to Morisset, the \$900,000 figure took into account returning students, failing to consider those entering school who might need financial aid.

GST rebate

by Maylin Scott

TORONTO (CUP) - Universities will be getting a 67 per cent rebate on the Goods and Services Tax from the federal government, but students might still be getting the short end of the stick.

"Sixty-seven per cent of the seven per cent GST will be refunded, which means we only have to pay 2.3 per cent," said Neil Bishop, co-chair of the University of Toronto's GST tax force.

"It's as good as we can get at this point in time but we're still negotiating."

The rebate is a result of negotiations between the federal government, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and the Canadian Association of Business Officers.

Zero tuition under NDP?

by Clive Thompson

TORONTO (CUP) - Ontario's university community isn't sure what to expect from the province's new NDP government.

Tim Jackson, president of the Ontario Federation of Students, said although the NDP has traditionally supported OFS' goals, there's no indication how Bob Rae's government will deal with post-secondary education.

The NDP's short-term policy has advocated raising students' weekly living allowance and providing more student grants rather than loans. Zero tuition is the party's long-term goal.

"But we're still a little disappointed with the NDP in that they didn't talk much about post-secondary education during their campaign," Jackson said.

"Some of their policies are consistent with what we've been asking for, although the question now is to see if they do it."

Conciliation talks fail

continued from page 1

mechanism for a strike vote, which would be held only after a report was issued."

Ralph Cochrane, president of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU), said the DFA and the administration have been keeping him informed. The DSU is "working in cooperation with Students Opposed to a Strike." Cochrane said that a lot of work is being done into paths that were taken last year and the way the strike was handled. "We're hoping they can stay at work and provide the services we're paying for."

Williams said the DFA's biggest bargaining tool was information about faculty opinions. "We've been visiting major departments, talking to our members. DFA representatives have interviewed each member of the faculty ... based on this contact, we have an accurate knowledge of faculty mood." The DFA represents 700 workers, including teaching faculty, librarians and counsellors.

After this poll, Williams said "the vast majority [of faculty] are willing to take strike action if it becomes necessary". Williams dismissed the idea of bluffing, saying that "bluffing is not a weapon open to us — failure to follow through on a bluff means every future negotiation would wind up in a dare to strike."

Mason said the administration "hopes it doesn't come to the point where the faculty will have to make that sort of a decision. Everybody is concerned about the effect of a possible strike or even the current uncertainty. It's not a good idea at the start of a year."

Talks over the new collective agreement, which Mason feels will probably last three years, resume September 24th and 25th. After that, it will be up to the federal conciliator to decide whether more talks are worthwhile.

The Gazette

Natives lose their voice... Micmac News is dead

by Jeff Harrington

HALIFAX (CUP) - The deadline has passed for the only native newspaper east of Ontario, leaving Micmac communities in an information vacuum.

The farewell issue of the Micmac News, which lost three-quarters of its budget because of federal cuts to native communication programs, should reach subscribers this week. The English-language monthly, founded in 1969, provided social and political news to far-flung Micmac communities in the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Boston and Toronto.

Lillian Marshall, an education counsellor on the Chapel Island reserve in Cape Breton, said the loss of the paper means the loss of the native point of view.

"It was our means of expression. Now we feel...I can't explain it to you. I could express what it means to a native reporter, in my own language," she said.

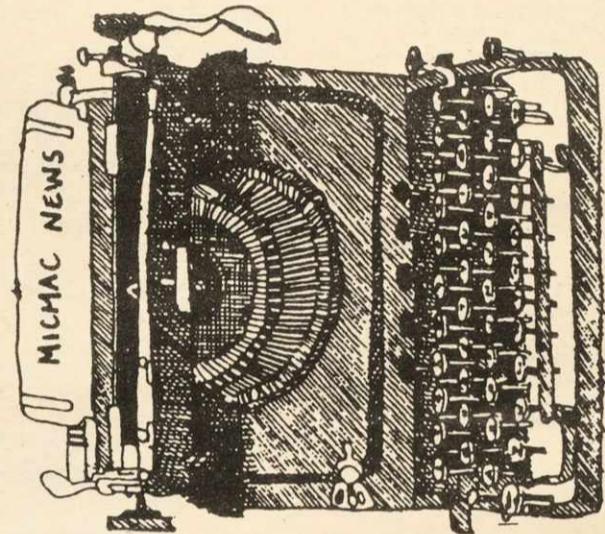
"we're still waiting for that miracle to happen"

The Micmac News told natives about things the mainstream media could or would not: success stories, native sports events, anniversaries and how many children had graduated from primary to grade two. In a country where native history is usually taught from the colonial point of view, if at all, it provided a bit of an antidote.

Counsellor Jean Knockwood of Henson College in Halifax said students read the paper for more than news of home.

"It was a valuable resource for papers they had to write on things like health issues or different economic development projects," she said.

Micmac News publisher Roy Gould said he won't know for several weeks what will come of funding requests made to several federal and provincial departments.



"We're still waiting for that miracle to happen so we can continue operations," Gould said.

Many natives feel that cutbacks in the communication budget and in assistance to native university students prove they are not a priority for the federal government.

"They spend more on Canada Day than the native media get all year," said Pat Brascoupe, national economic advisor to the Assembly of First Nations.

Secretary of State spokesperson Len Westerberg said a task force has finished studying ways the federal and provincial government might cooperate on funding native media. He did not know when Secretary of State Gerry Weiner would have time to review the report. Weiner was out of the country.

"One of the [task force's] areas of concern is that the native papers become more business-oriented," Westerberg said.

Publisher Gould said the Micmac News' board of directors will look at everything from "higher caliber" advertising to a quarterly magazine format to try to keep natives informed.

But not everyone is sad to lose the Micmac News. Rick Simon, a former reporter for the paper who now sits on its board of directors, said the loss is "more a beginning than an end."

"On one hand, it is still a very important vehicle for communication. On the other, the Micmac News moved away from covering the communities to the point where it became nothing more than a political rag," he said.

Simon said the board of directors, composed of representatives of eight native associations, was "calling the shots about how in-depth I could go on a story."

But Gould denied the allegation, and noted that with a staff of three journalists, the paper often only had time to cover those events that were "major in content."

"I feel guilty about ignoring who had the birthday, the anniversary or the babies. I'm sure they were just as important as the political stories. But the issues of the day are what the staff covered," he said.

Gould said that, just as in the mainstream media, "politics is everybody's lifestyle."

"Unfortunately, there are those who don't care about their future,

"the Micmac News... became nothing more than a political rag"

or having their rights entrenched in the constitution. They'll always be left behind."

Joan Marshall, a former editor of the paper, also felt there was too much emphasis on the political copy, but said it was an essential part of every community.

"Even though they didn't get out to the community as much as they should have, it was still our paper," she said.

"It made people feel good to read about themselves."