

Government can't finance parents' houses and cars

by Dave Jonah
Brunswickan staff

The Canada student loan plan, has recently come under fire from financially destitute students. The complaints have ranged from lack of funds to poor, unsympathetic, administration.

"The purpose of the Loan Plan is to be a supplement to the student's expenses," said Mr. J.E. Anderson, deputy minister of youth for New Brunswick.

Mr. Anderson is a pleasant change from the faceless, numberless, bureaucrats that plague most government departments. His answers were carefully worded, but sincere and knowledgeable. His modest, inner-office was similar to any senior executive in big business. Student loans are big business.

Asked whether he thought education was a right or a privilege, he carefully considered it a right.

"Provided the student meets the academic qualifications of the institutions, the purpose of the Canada student loan plan is to allow every qualified individual the chance to attend higher-learning institutions."

Many students are complaining about the amount, or lack, of money being distributed to them.

"There are several misconceptions of the plan," he said.

"Everyone should read the first paragraph of the loan manual. It is only a supplement to the needy student. The financing of the student's expenses is the basic responsibility of the parent. The amount of the loan is dependent on the economic level of the parents."

"The greatest hindrance to student finances are parents earning a modest salary but suffering under a \$30,000-\$40,000 mortgage and expensive car payments. No one is criticizing the parents, but with assets like that who can expect a government guaranteed loan?"

In effect the government would be guaranteeing a loan on the house and the car too."

When explaining what determined the amount of a loan he said, "The student supplies a statement of his parents financial condition; their annual income, assets, and the student's own income. The department officials have the tuition, residence, and expenses of all the universities. They compile the estimated cost with the available money of the applicant and compute the amount of the supplementary loan."

He noted that in some cases the student under-estimates his expenses and asks for less than he really needed. They increase his loan to cover his cost.



"It's a great feeling to step out of university not owing a loan," said deputy youth minister J. E. Anderson.
brunswickan photos by Ben Hong

How does a student qualify as independent?

"A student, 21 years old, completed 4 years of college, a married student, and a student who has worked for the last year, (12 months), is considered an independent student." The federal government in 1964, began to guarantee the loans which are administered

by the provincial government. Originally the province started with loans limited to \$500.00 under the youth assistance act in 1960. The program had a budget of only \$30,000. Now, all the provinces are working with the federal government on these loans.

Do all loans work the same across Canada?

"Yes, except in Quebec, where they operate their own plan. Quebec, gets the equivalent in federal grants that Canada would have to pay on interest for Quebec loans if they operated under the federal loan plan." Due to regional disparities, a uniform system has been established across Canada to decide how much parents should contribute towards expenses based on their income. The parental contribution scale program is a simple index scale which is too complex in nature to explain here. According to Mr. Anderson, the department will be

glad to explain it to anyone personally.

New Brunswick officials use this system in determining the amounts of loans to be granted.

How much money has been allotted to this Province by the Federal government for student loan?

"The Federal government allows the Province to issue a sum of loans amounting to two million, fifteen thousand dollars. We are allowed to overspend this amount by 20 percent."

Does the Province supply money for students?

"The N.B. government provided one million dollars in scholarships and bursaries for students this year." Mr. Anderson, stressed through out the interview that students should avoid, if possible using a student loan.

"It's a great feeling to step out of university not owing a loan."

New vice president speaks out

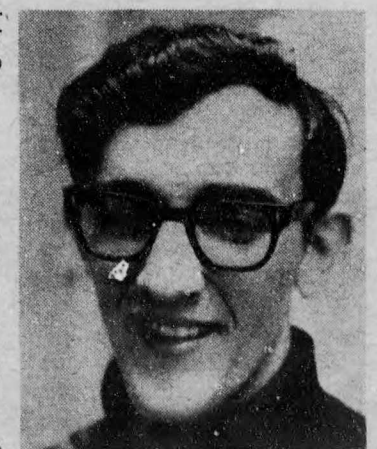
Here are some of the views of acclaimed SRC vicepresident Alistair Robertson, grad English.

"I won't say who I favor for SRC president. It's my job to work with the president. I can work for either. (Geoff Green of Dave Johnson).

"Dave Cox resigned because, he said, the presidency had come to demand a professional approach. He was right. I am interested in a professional approach to political problems, at the campus as well as the national level. I am concerned with finding a serious, efficient solution to any problem."

"I am very much a democrat; a left-wind socialist. I believe the decisions should be made by large bodies. But the action following these decisions should be carried out by small groups and committees of the SRC in conjunction with the president's office.

"The way to gain a large decision-making body is to increase representation. Now it's one rep for every 200 students. If the representation was one rep for every 100 students, the SRC would be doubled in size."



Alistair Robertson
"The SRC has the two functions of any government. To be representative of and perform services for the electorate. But the two must not be confused or chaos results."



"The student loan is only a supplement to the needy student. Financing of education is the basic responsibility of the parent."

One of these men will handle the money

"I'm running because after eight months as comptroller I've encountered most of the financial problems and by staying as comptroller until January



Terry Payan, business 4
I'll be able to deal with these problems more efficiently.

Next spring the SRC should establish the preliminary budget instead of in the fall, this way students fees could be set according to this budget and there would be no surplus each year. Actually the big job of the comptroller is the preliminary budget and its been done.

"The main reason I'm running is to give the electorate a choice. Terry Payan would have won by acclamation. Establishing of financial priorities is one of the most important jobs of the comptroller. Terry hasn't done this.

Since I've held executive positions on most of the larger student organizations, I feel I have the necessary experience for this job. The last SRC seemed to be just wander-

ing in the dark, I'll try to ease the presidents' job if elected and instil a sense of responsibility in the council, keeping people from resigning.



Allen Pressman, Arts 4