

Student apathy National Student Day

National Student Day was held last Tuesday.

Student leaders hoped that hundreds of students would gather in the Student Union Building for workshops, lectures, and a debate with the Minister of Education.

But students did not attend the events; barely one hundred students were in attendance for any of the events.

It seems appropriate now to examine the events preceding National Student Day to determine what was done wrongly.

The first big mistake was Student Council's decision to appoint a National Student Day Co-ordinator and then not give him any support. When he sought the support of council, Bernie MacDonnel found that Council was unwilling to offer anything more than token financial and physical help. It is evident that the first responsibility for organizing an event such as NSD is council's. Their failure to accept the responsibility they sought last spring shows their real intentions.

There was even talk at one council meeting of cancelling NSD. The reasons were largely those given by a group of people who hadn't done a job and wanted someone else to do it for them. Then, if that couldn't be done, they didn't want to do anything.

When council was asked to attend an information meeting, only a handful appeared. These members offered MacDonnel some support, but only Student Union President Gord Neal made any real effort to generate enthusiasm about the importance of National Student Day.

Among the students themselves there is a general reluctance to become concerned. They might be concerned about rising tuition fees and cutbacks in student aid, but they did nothing to change the situation.

Student apathy is more widespread in the 70's than student activism was in the 60's. If students do not help themselves, no one is going to do their job for them: certainly not the Minister of Education.

At a time when the provincial government is arguing fiscal restraint, it is unlikely that they would offer post-secondary education more money. In fact they have been consistently cutting back.

In short then, the students left the work of organizing National Student Day to a handful of people. The same attitudes are reflected in other student struggles, including representing student interests to the provincial government. The average student is not doing a damn bit of work and is expecting others to do his/her share of the work.

The few people that are doing the work can not be faulted if events do not meet expectations. They have done their part, but where are the other students?

Until now students suffered from a leadership vacuum, but President Gord Neal and Arts Representative Bernie MacDonnel finally stepped in to lead the students. But where are the students, and the student's council members? They did not have the excuse of a leadership vacuum this time, yet still they faltered.

It is time students got off their asses and realized that unless they do something now the walls of their "Ivory Tower" will come crashing down around their heads.



While it might be fun to pretend that nothing is happening to affect access to post secondary education, big things are happening. And the news is bad news.

The provincial government has consistently attempted to reduce its responsibility to financing education; a good example is the cutback in school teachers. The same thing is happening in post-secondary education; the government took 1 1/2 million dollars from the Student Aid budget last spring, and made other changes over the summer to save an additional million dollars.

Every cutback in student aid or attempt to restrict access to post-secondary education will not affect the children of the rich, but it will affect the lower and middle income students.

University will be a privilege of the rich unless something is done now. The government is implementing the Graham Commission through the back door, and the results will be disastrous.

Do you want your brothers and sisters, or children to have the opportunity to attend university? If you do then you better start either lending a hand in the fight with the government, or looking for a high paying job so you can lend them the money.

Think about it.
You may be the last member of your family to attend university. That may not be the sort of honor you would want.

Pay Gordie Neal a call, tell him the Gazette sent you.
Gord Neal, 424-2146, or Second Floor SUB.

Letters To the Gazette must be typed if over 100 words. Letters must be less than 600 words. They will not be edited for brevity, coherency, or other reasons. Letters will be published as soon as possible.

Persons submitting letters must provide their name and a telephone number or some other method of reaching them, should there be some question about their identity. Anonymous letters and those with false signatures will not be printed. The use of pseudonyms will be considered in some cases. Deadline for letters is Monday noon.

Letters

Enough doctors

To the Gazette:

A recent issue of the **Gazette** included an advertisement "Medical Schools Interior Mexico Now Accepting Applicants". The **Gazette** will provide an important service to any of its readers contemplating responding to this advertisement if it makes available to them the following information:

Current federal government policy is that Canada has enough doctors and can meet its future requirements from among the graduates of its sixteen medical schools.

Graduates of foreign medical schools, including Canadian citizens must pass a screening examination in order to measure objectively the comparability of their medical education with that provided in Canadian medical schools. Only after success in this examination is the graduate eligible to commence pre-registration training in Canada leading to a licence to practise.

Approved pre-registration training posts in Canada are filled largely by the graduates of Canadian medical schools. The graduate

of foreign medical schools, as a result of an education which is less relevant to the Canadian scene than that of a graduate of a Canadian medical school, often has difficulty in obtaining the required pre-registration clinical training.

In brief, at present a Canadian is probably best advised to avoid undergraduate training in medicine outside Canada.

Yours very truly,
Lea C. Steeves, M.D.
Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

After class!

To the Gazette:

Fellow students as National Student Day has sparked interest in the improvement of campus life I feel it is time we fought for a campus massage parlour. There is nothing like a good massage after a class that rubs you the wrong way. Space is readily available in the SUB psychological counselling service
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