

Council executives explain grant to Law students

Editor's Note: The following is a statement issued by the Students Representative Council Executive as an explanation for its recent change in heart over the issue of granting funds to the Law Society.

The past philosophy by the

Student Representative Council at UNB has been to deal with the student body as a whole, as a body that all students should benefit from all undertakings.

Due to recent difficulties that the student body has run into such as the loss of the use of McConnell

Hall as a place for student social activities, the Council has found it necessary to deal with pressing student needs on an ad hoc basis for the interim period until we are able to fully implement our new campus-wide student social activities program.

The new program that is being proposed will begin to allow for the satisfaction of student needs. Three definite areas that are now being looked into are: 1) a "coffee-house-atmosphere" lounge; 2) a discotheque; and 3) the student use of the Aitken University Center.

At present the only facility available can satisfy no more than 350 students at any one time. With this definite lack on campus it is hoped that the recent motion and agreement will act as a catalyst for student groups to take the initiative to formulate ideas that will be of benefit to UNB Students. The terms of the proposal that was presented to Council on December 8th were not the same terms as finally agreed upon by the executive. The December 8th proposal implied a grant to a

limited group of students. The final agreement that the executive consented to involved the development of a facility open to the whole university community. That essential difference obviously allowed the executive to reconsider the matter.

The question which has legitimately been asked is that why did the SRC executive decide to approve three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) when in fact the law students society (LSS) initially requested a grant of \$1,000.00. The justification for this lies in the fact that the circumstances and conditions changed dramatically in the course of discussion that went on between the LSS and the SRC executive after Monday, 8th, December, 1975.

The original project structure took on a new face which necessitated a different financial structure which in turn resulted in a change in the executive outlook of the whole matter for the benefit of the entire student body. The capital structure the SRC executive deemed appropriate was the one that allowed SRC interest in

the project. Such capital participation would enable an addition of a unique facility that would benefit the students as a body not certain students as a class (as originally planned by GSA and LSS).

We believe most students will realize the importance of a different type of facility which would be like a cross-breed between the social club and staff club. This will cater for students who prefer that kind of atmosphere.

But to answer the question why the executive decided on the \$3,000, we would like the students to appreciate the fact that the lounge (project) was originally the GSA-LSS idea. In other words they did-they are continuing to do, they will continue to do, the dirty work. That is why we felt it was worthwhile to buy the participation interest in the project for \$1,000 and make a secured investment in the project for \$2,000. This was not easy.

Much thought and time was given to this matter by the executive. And we sincerely believe that his arrangement has in total interest of the students.

Brooks raps tactics

By BURT FOLKINS

Most students at this time should be aware of the likelihood of a demonstration against the New Brunswick government concerning student aid. However if they do not, they are not alone - apparently members of the government are in the same boat.

Acting premier Stuart Brooks admitted in a telephone interview that he was not aware of any impending student demonstrations. He said that he had heard on Tuesday very little concerning what had taken place at the Monday night meeting of the student councils from UNB and STU. Brooks said he had gotten in touch with the education department and could gather very little as to what had taken place.

He indicated however that he did at one time catch a small portion of a newscast on the radio as he was coming "out of the bathroom".

This seems to indicate that the New Brunswick government does not take seriously the students of this province.

Asked whether he had gotten the chance to read a copy of the last edition of the Brunswickan, Brooks

said "no" and indicated in the interview that he had no previous knowledge of the demands which will be presented in a brief to the government by the New Brunswick caucus of AFS on behalf of university students from this province.

He indicated he had no knowledge of whether any briefs or proposals had been put forth by the students of this province or various universities as to student aid. He did say that he knew what was going on in this province concerning students.

There are two sides to every story, said Brooks. He did not feel that the students had clearly presented their case.

The government contributed 50 million dollars to education this year and there are other obligations besides students in this province, he said.

Commenting on the possibilities that a demonstration may be held, Brooks said that it is "the wrong thing to do but to go ahead". He indicated that students will only hurt themselves and that this is not the first time the government has been through this type of thing and survived.

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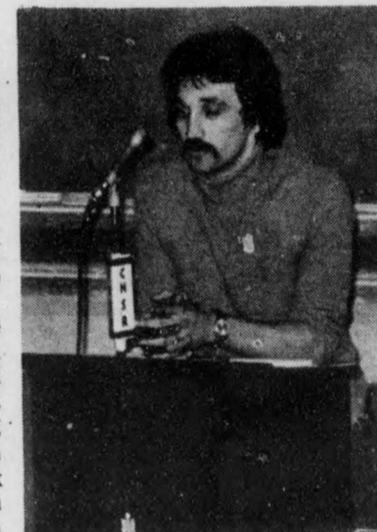
Federation sparks demonstration

By BURT FOLKINS and
PETER KRAUTLE

Last Monday's Atlantic Federation of Students, New Brunswick caucus has served as a catalyst for a demonstration of solidarity amongst students in New Brunswick.

The meeting was to inform UNB and STU students of the failure of the New Brunswick government to act on AFS's proposals.

Mark Giberson, chairman of the AFS and STU student union president, stated that the point had come where the government just isn't listening and that something must be done to make them listen. He said the students must seek peaceful means to enact changes in the student aid programme, and a student demonstration is one way to achieve those changes. Giberson believed that the AFS had done its best to negotiate with the government and referred to the



Gerard Blanchard

student demonstration as an act of desperation. "The AFS had very little recourse in the matter and so student involvement at this point is crucial."

SRC president Jim Smith said students from New Brunswick are getting a very raw deal and that the province has one of the poorest student aid programmes in the country. "Housing is becoming more and more difficult to find in Fredericton, tuition keeps rising, but nothing is being done to balance the increased student expenses in the student aid programme."

Smith was in support of a student demonstration to back demands for changes in the student aid programme and presented the students that attended the meeting with an SRC motion which had just been passed and supported the demonstration.

Universite de Moncton student leader Gerard Clavette said the students at U de M had very little success in forcing changes in the student aid programme and realized that all students in the province must join together to deal with the programme. "The last chance for students to force changes is to get everybody together in a move of solidarity for our demands." Over 80 per cent of the students at the Moncton university are on the student loans programme.

Lise Ouellette, student leader at St. Louis Maillat College in Edmundston, said the student aid

problem is serious and requires a long term solution.

The student government there had submitted two documents to the government on the problem, and is the only educational institution presently negotiating with Jean-Pierre Ouellette, the minister responsible for student aid. Students there are against a demonstration, says Ouellette, for it would undo the advancements their college has presently made with the government. St. Louis Maillat held a demonstration in Fredericton over student aid last November, and claimed it was very successful.

St. Louis Maillat College is in the provincial riding that minister of education Jean-Pierre Ouellette represents.

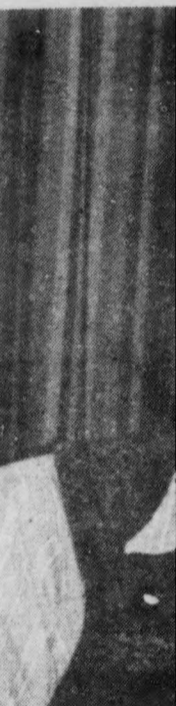
National Union of Students general secretary Dan O'Connor said that with the federal anti-inflation programme in effect, one should expect loans to increase and bursary grants to decrease, though it is difficult to tell for governments in Canada remain quiet when it concerns student aid issues. Other provinces are also experiencing problems with student aid, and O'Connor referred to Ontario as an example. In that province, students are holding a province wide strike on January 21 to protest student aid and the government handling of money towards educational institutions.

After the meeting, STU president Mark Giberson stated that every effort will be made to inform students of the implications of the demonstration through actions such as meetings, flyers, and posters. He felt the terms strike and demonstration were ambiguous in nature and that the main purpose of the media campaign was to make students aware of the certain set of objectives on student aid and a specific plan of action is needed to fulfill those objectives.

Referendums to support student solidarity in forcing changes in the student aid programme will be held on all AFS campuses on Monday January 19. If students vote in favor of the referendum, student demonstrations will begin Wednesday.

About 100 people attended the Monday AF's meeting and many of those in attendance joined the student aid demonstration committee.

Tea



Mark Giberson, SRC Caucus is confident demonstration is h

By PETER K

A 60-person team massive information campus to publicize demonstration in changes in the pro loan plan.

The campaign be meeting of the stu UNB and STU with the provincial c Atlantic Federation Representatives from Louis Maillat in the Universite de

Kenne

By BURT F

A representative student council has there has been a support shown for demonstration on

SRC vice pre Kennedy said variations within the outside have already support for the st

Considerable support shown from a campus including of STU and UN ministry team, an

UNB President son has publicly support of the indicated that th academic penalty assignments which in on Wednesday next week if a d called.

Support from outside for the student been given by the

Pace

The late Dr. Des be remembered by Branch of the Hun tion of Canada at a be held in de memory.

Pacey was one of the Humanities A national level in founding chairm ericton Branch tw Known on camp chairman of the