

NEWS

Deadline: Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon. Newsdesk: 453-4983

"Twelve Homeless Hours" fundraiser held

by Jeffery Czopor

Sleeping bags, heavy duty thermal underwear (even with the trap door in back), mittens, thick blankets, thermoses of piping hot coffee, and various munchies.

These were just a few of the items deemed necessary to survive by those who participated in a recent charity drive for Fredericton's homeless.

On Sat. Oct. 19 "AISECERS," members of various houses on campus, individual UNB faculty and students, and others from the community became homeless for one evening.

"Twelve Homeless Hours" sponsored by Youth in Transition, Fredericton, Inc., provided an environment where homelessness could easily be simulated.

Set up in the field aside of FHS, from 7 pm Sat. to 7am Sunday morning, 600 intrepid volunteers set up camp to

experience the feeling of having "stone pillows" under their heads.

When the rain came (and somehow it was expected for sure), the troops headed for tents provided by the militia.

Despite the knowledge that their state was only temporary, many stated that they "never associated sleepiness with being so cold before." Compared to their relatively comfortable lives, many volunteers stated that priorities change, such as keeping cold, depending what position one is put in.

The drive raised over \$25,000 for the immediate needs of the homeless. AIESEC, an international organization helping students work their way into the business world, raised \$2500 themselves.

Many might be shocked that there are actually homeless people in Fredericton. Many are young people who have left home for personal and family-related reasons.



12 Hours for the Homeless

On Saturday night students braved the cold and rain to raise money for the homeless of Fredericton.

Michael David Smith photo

CFS holds National Students' Day at UNB

By Melanie Jane O'Hara

Last Thursday, Oct. 17 marked National Student Day in Canada. It's a day in which close to 450,000 students united all across Canada to lobby the federal governments over education concerns in this country.

The Canadian Federation of Students New Brunswick met and held a press conference at the SUB, to honour this day and express concerns of New Brunswick students and faculty.

"We have to question the government's commitment to education, considering the cuts it's made over the past few years," stated Tony Norrad, CFSNB's chairperson.

The CFSNB is a representative body of some 16,000 post-secondary education students in the province. It's focus is to raise students concerns about post-secondary education to the federal and provincial governments.

"The CFSNB would like to see a quality, affordable and rationally planned out post-secondary education system, available to all who can benefit from it," stated Norrad.

Other CFSNB members present included student representatives from UNB Fredericton, UNBSJ, STU, University of Moncton and its Edmundston and Shippegan satellites feeds, and Mount Allison University.

Norrad, speaking on their behalf said, "federally over the past five years the government has cut back 3.2 billion dollars in federal transfer payments for education to provincial governments. This resulted in a loss of 24 billion dollars in New

Brunswick."

New legislation introduced by the federal government for the 1992-93 fiscal year will see a further reduction of 20.8 million dollars for transfers to the New Brunswick government for education.

The CFSNB believes that students are heading "for an accessibility crunch in N.B., should the necessary amendments not take place to the current student aid programs. The result of this would be the unnecessary creation of an elite student population. If the government doesn't do something then first-class education that's supposed to be provided to all students who are qualified candidates, will only be supplied to those with an upper class education."

The federation also expressed concerns over enrollment increases in the last five years.

"There's been a student increase of 900 at STU," stated Pat McDermott, V.P. of External Affairs at STU. The University of Moncton's student enrollment went up by one thousand.

Inadequately provided courses is another concern to students.

"Sabbatical professors are not being replaced. Therefore, certain courses are not being offered," said Norrad. He used himself as an example. He told members of the press that when he registered with his faculty advisor for his final courses, he found out that the course he needed in order to graduate was not being offered. The department had to provide other means to enable him to graduate.

Norrad also pinpointed that stu-

dents are thinking twice before they apply for student aid.

"The prospect of higher debt loads are scaring off students from taking out loans. There's fear of racking up staggering debts and it's affecting less affluent students who are the ones that students loans were intended for."

Norrad made reference to the 1987 Liberal platform that stated, "the liberal party maintains that up-to-date and adequate funded universities and community colleges are essential for economic advancement and prosperity or our province."

The CFSNB said that after seeing the results over the next four years, the Liberal government proved itself unable to obtain this goal.

"It has been totally contradictory to its terms," stated Norrad. "That document said the front end of the student aid package would be decreased to 2700 from the current 3300 dollars. Action taken in 1990 saw the front end hiked up by 60 dollars to 360 dollars, meaning that fewer bursaries were going to be available and higher debts would be felt by students."

The meeting also focused on the 1991 April budget and its affect on student aid.

"It resulted in a 1.9 million dollar cut for student aid. We have to wonder if the government actually is putting its money where its voice is?"

Norrad also spoke of Frank McKenna's selection platform which promised to improve financial aid programs to bring about reforms in

a number of areas.

They've contradicted everyone of their promises to the students of this province. It doesn't make sense. All this activity is coming at a time when the federal and provincial governments are recognizing that all regions in the country must have more graduates from post-secondary institutions."

The CFSNB also touched on lack of student summer employment, cutbacks on teacher assistance, and drastic cuts in student services.

During a questions and answers period, the members were asked why taxpayers should care about educational issues?

"The taxpayers benefit from an educated populace. There are a number of jobs out there that benefit everybody," stated Bill Walker, SRC President of Mount Allison University.

National Student Day festivities were also honoured at St. Thomas University. Norrad and McDermott were at the STU forum concerning educational issues held at the Ted Daigle Auditorium. Also in attendance were Dr. Daniel O'Brien STU President, Bud Bird Fredericton York-Sunbury PC. M.P., Vaughn Blaney, NB Minister of Advanced Education and Labour, Max White Oromocto COR MP, and Dr. Alan Sharpe Atlantic VP of the Federal NDP.

Among the comments made by these guests;

"The time has come for a national consensus about learning," stated York Sunbury PC MP Bud Bird. By the year 2000 the federal government wants to cut illiteracy in half.

It wants to ensure that 90 per cent of Canadians obtain high school diplomas by the time they reach the age of twenty-five. It wants to double the number of university graduates in mathematics, sciences, and engineering and to achieve improvement in training provided by Canadian employers to their employees."

Bird said there will be a federal government discussion paper about the challenges of building the learning culture in Canada put out within the next year.

"Its premise will be 'learning well is living well' and will outline that the values of education must be prized for impact on our individual and prosperity. It will also emphasize the cultural benefits that learning contributes to the very quality of our lives."

Car-pedestrian accident at STU

by Murray Carew

A woman was rushed to the hospital after being struck by a car near Marshall D'Avray Hall on Tuesday morning.

According to the Fredericton City Police the car involved in the accident had been driving quite slow but the pedestrian suffered injuries, including a broken leg.

The accident is under further investigation.

Correction

In the October 18 edition it was mistakenly reported that the new health plan provides coverage for oral contraceptives. See story on page 8.