

# editorial

## Tuition hikes: who pays?

Amid the furor caused by tuition hikes and cutbacks the central issue appears to be to what extent should the individual student and the government be responsible for university costs? Does the government have the moral right to limit education by limiting funds? Should students have to pay increasingly higher tuition, at rates which will inevitably mean only the richest and the scholarship winners are able to attend?

Obviously the latter seems a trifle unfair. We, as Canadians, particularly younger Canadians, seem to be born with the expectations that every kid has the right to become Joe College.

The benefits of a university education are undeniable. Beyond gaining expertise in one area of interest and the

more ephemeral goal of knowledge, a university degree is generally advantageous in the monetary sense. Graduates are paid more than their less formally educated counterparts and there is still status attached to having a degree.

So it is not just the top two per cent of the population that can benefit. The average student can and should. How do we ensure that this happens?

I don't think we should expect the government to foot the entire bill. Those countries which have free post-secondary education also have extremely competitive and rigorous entrance systems. In other words, the average student doesn't get in.

The government must have a serious commitment to university. In light of the EPF

cutbacks and other similar instances of straightened financial circumstances, it is the place of the government to step in and help out. Because if they don't, who will?

This, of course, is a stop-page measure. A long term course of action is needed. Both the university and the students need new funding.

One answer for the student's needs is an increase in scholarships. These would be funded by the government and private donations. An increase would mean more students would benefit.

This is one reason why, UNB President James Downey's proposed funding campaign is vital to the university. Many of the more established universities in the United States have a lengthy history of benefactors which has resulted in

their having money to invest and receive returns on. We could do with a few more Beaverbrooks.

An increase in scholarships will not solve every student's problems. There is always a line between the rich and those that are not; a line difficult to erase. But it would help.

If the university needs a 21% in government money to meet costs, the government has an obligation to meet that sum. We, as students, are valuable future members of our community. This is not

to mention all the other valuable things universities do - research, etc. As the commercial says: the waste of a mind is a terrible thing.

Dawg's life



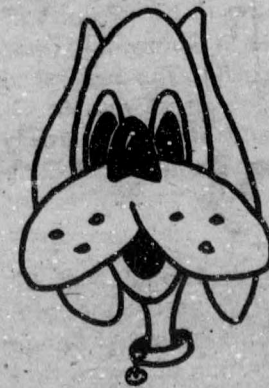
The people have spoken!



Well, that's democracy...



And, as you said, there's not much you can say about that!



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