Downey receives a gift

(hopefully)

The University of New Brunswick is in the midst of a financial crisis. Vice President Finance and Administration, James O'Sullivan has admitted that the operating deficit of this university may reach two million dollars in this current fiscal year. The university must pay the bill for the wage increase recently granted to faculty members. In addition, UNB faces several other financial problems in the next fiscal year.

The first major problem is the negotiation of collective agreements with faculty and staff. Two major collective agreements expire within the next six months. The collective agreement with faculty expires June 30th, 1981. The agreement with the general labour and trade unions expires next July 3rd. No matter what takes place in these negotiations, one thing is certain - employees represented by these unions will be seeking a pay increase. Who can blame both these unions for wanting a pay increase to at least keep up with inflation!

The problem for the university is that it must pay the bills. Wages are the largest component of the university's operating budget. UNB receives money to pay its bills from two basic sources - the New Brunswick government and through tuition fees paid by students.

Tuition fees are already high enough and the students' ability to pay further increases is a real question. Students at the University of British Columbia have been hit with 13 per cent increase in tuition fees across the board and students are concerned that UNB may follow suit. The only source of revenue left to UNB to prevent such a hugh increase from taking place is the New Brunswick government.

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enormous.

The effect of inadequate fund-

ing by the provincial government

will be a real disaster. Tuition

fees may rise beyond a level

where students can afford to

attend university. The university

will be forced to cut back both

jobs and services. The spin-off

effect could be quite serious for a

city like Fredericton. UNB's

effect on this community is

For years the Hatfield government has claimed that they are supporting higher education in this province. This is the year in which all members of the university community will be watching to see whether this is indeed true. The Hatfield government had better realize that UNB's financial situation is a serious one. It is high time that this provincial government should start putting its money where its

> for increased money for higher education. We believe the faculty association is right on target.

Dr. Downey should have the support of all members of the university community when he appraoches the MPHEC and the Hatfield government for more money for UNB. The faculty association has already called

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