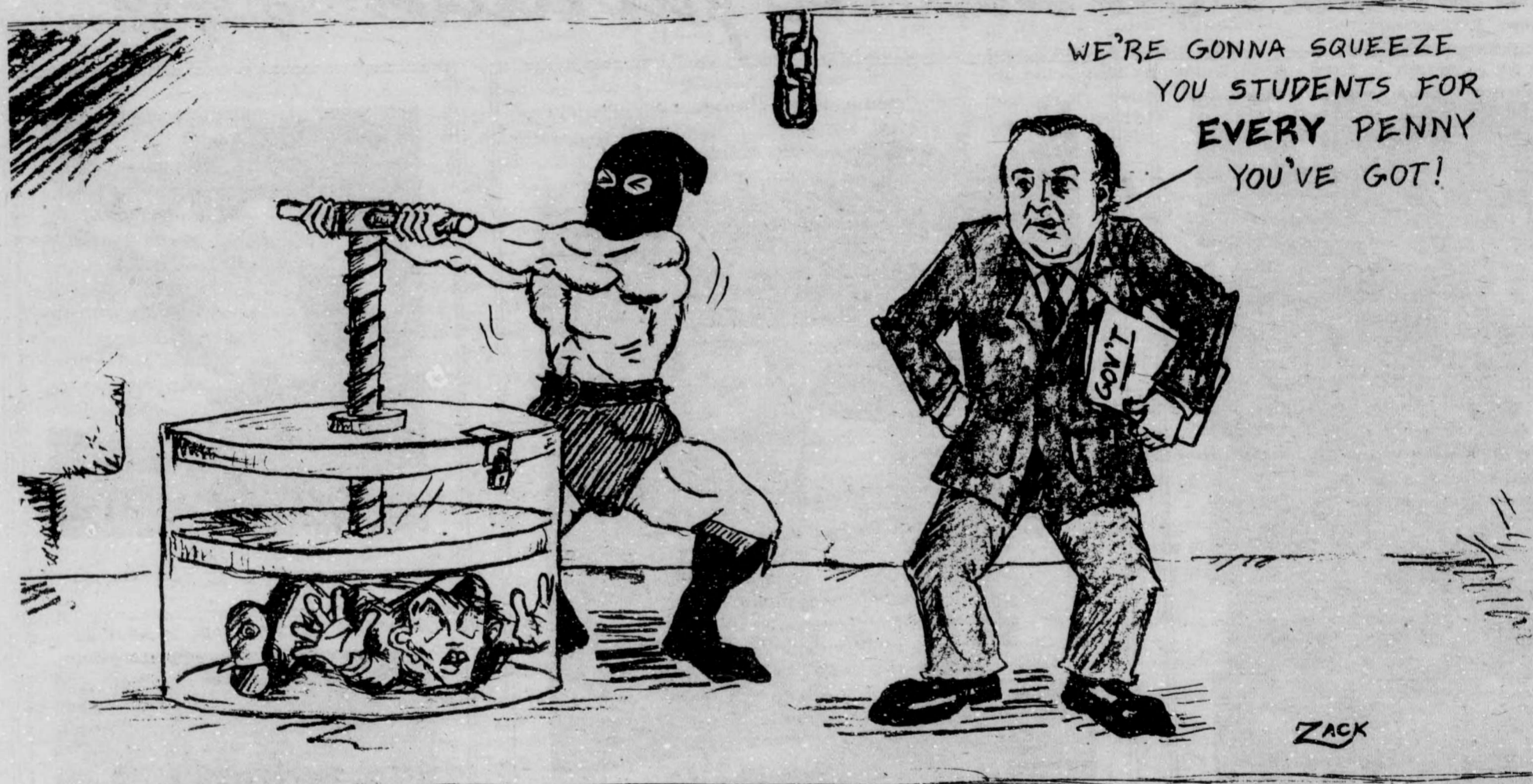


editorial

Students get squeezed as New Brunswick comes out on short end of the MPHEC's stick.



The Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission has released its 1982 report. The commission recommends a general 14.75% increase in operating grants for Maritime universities for next year. Translated into specifics, universities in New Brunswick will receive a 12.6% increase, while our counter-parts in Nova Scotia receive a 16% increase, and Prince Edward Island receives a 15% increase.

New Brunswick comes out on the short end of the stick. Should the New Brunswick government choose to ac-

cept the MPHEC report, we will receive the smallest operating grant increase at New Brunswick universities.

Our worst fears have been confirmed. UNB President Dr. James Downey has said the increase is simply not enough to balance UNB's budget. In fact, there will be an expected three million dollar deficit at UNB. The university will have to find or cut three million dollars to break even.

In fact, the president says the level of funding recommended by the MPHEC would be "insufficient to

maintain university services at their current level." Cutbacks at UNB are imminent and the predictions made by the chairman of UNB's board of governors last November could become reality.

Where does this place the UNB student? Quite simply, left out in the cold. President Downey is already predicting

substantial tuition fee increases, perhaps an increase that will be unprecedented at UNB. In fact, the president says UNB tuition increases will be significantly about the 12.6% increase recommended by the MPHEC.

So where does one place the blame? This is an election year in New Brunswick. If significant levels of funding for this university are not forthcoming, and we certainly are not optimistic, let's all show the current provincial government our concern in the only language the Hatfield government knows.

Let's register our dissatisfaction at the ballot box in the next election campaign.

Let's face it, the provincial government won't listen to the needs of this university and post-secondary education in New Brunswick in any other way.