

Student aid situation complicated by fee increases

Events in the last two weeks since the publication of the last Brunswickan have done much to bring the issue of student aid to the foreground.

French and English letter campaigns recommending lower loan ceilings for the existing student aid program in New Brunswick yielded replies for those who supplied their addresses. Respondents said the matter was being handled by youth minister Jean-Pierre Ouellette and that definite changes were planned for the act.

The Throne Speech marking the beginning of the 1975 spring legislature made no mention of any proposed legislation.

The Brunswickan has increased coverage of the issue with news stories and features dealing with the problems of accessibility, fairness for low-income students and establishment of criteria forcing students to budget more effectively and allow the most equitable arrangement for each individual.

University of New Brunswick President John Anderson conferred with UNB Students' Representative Council President Warren McKenzie and The Brunswickan March 7 on the Board of Governors' increase in tuition and residence fees. The Brunswickan supports the increases—undesirable as they may be—as necessary steps by the administration to maintain educational standards and residence maintenance. It should be acknowledged, however, that while off-campus rates may be higher and inflation has represented an upward pressure on costs in several sectors, the changes have been sudden and drastic.

More important to the issue is the need for changes in the student loan program and the

funding schemes of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Department for universities. The inflexibility of the MPHEC grant has in part been responsible for the need to make the increases, according to the university.

The Board of Governors have also seen that existing students aid schemes need change and have agreed to prepare and submit to the province in cooperation with student govern-

nors a brief outlining where adjustments should be made.

The Brunswickan feels it is important students become concerned with learning as much as possible about the act and such grievances as outlined by the Atlantic Federation of Students. Continue to write your government so that they must act with your very real presence in mind.

Rumors about aid program changes have been flying left, right and centre but one consistent whisper predicts the government will up the ceiling to \$1,400 this year and future hikes may have it soar as high as \$1,800. If you think you're hurt by a \$300 residence increase now, you're really going to sting if you have to graduate with a debt ranging from \$5-11,000.



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