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N.B. students to march on legislature

by Cate Young and Sara Gordon

In Fredericton, New Brunswick, there is to be a march on the New Brunswick Legislature protesting insufficient and unjust Student Aid procedures. A referendum concerning Student Aid was held at all New Brunswick universities; 48% of all students voted. 71.4% of these were for decisive action concerning Student Aid, 27.3% were against action, and 1.3% abstained. The Students are demanding (1) a longer waiting period before repayment of Student Loan money, (2) suspension of reduction of bursaries from 1400 to 900 dollars. The students are also demanding student representation on the Student Aid Commission. The New Brunswick students are demanding the presence of two students (one French and one English) on the Student Aid Committee. These two students would be chosen by the New Brunswick sector of the Atlantic

Federation of Students. The Students are also demanding a 25% increase in the student living allowance.

The UNB Senate has given its support to this demonstration, as have such diverse sources as the New Brunswick Federation of Labour and the Anglican bishop of Fredericton. This Wednesday, there was also a drive for the people of Fredericton to sign a petition concerning Student Aid.

On Thursday at 10:30 a.m., students from all over the Province of New Brunswick will meet at the campus of the University of New Brunswick. At 11:00, the students will march to the Centennial Building to present their demands to Premier Hatfield and Education Minister Ouellette. This march is sponsored by the New Brunswick section of the Atlantic Federation of Students.



Government to cause strike at Dal on 28th

by Ron Norman

Barring any unforeseen developments the Dalhousie maintenance workers (CUPE local 1392) will be on strike Jan. 28. In a telephone interview with the Gazette, Minister of Consumer Services Dr. M.C. MacAskill said that an anti-inflation agreement between the Federal and Nova Scotian governments is not expected to be ratified before February 1. A strike, then, seems inevitable.

Though Dr. MacAskill did hope that an agreement would be reached earlier than Feb. 1, he thought that it was unlikely. He said that "details" had still to be "hammered out" and that this necessitated the time consuming exchange of letters with the Federal government.

Concerning the strike itself and its purpose Bill Kelly, president of CUPE local 1392, informed the Gazette that the union would not "interfere with students going to classes". Mr. Kelly inferred that the picket lines were for the purpose of keeping garbage in and not students out.

Mr. Kelly also mentioned that their union have gained the support of all Dal unions with the exception of the operating engineers, the one union they have yet to meet with.

The vice-president of Major Vending's operations, C.J. Conrod dispelled the rumour that Major Vending may ignore the picket lines. Mr. Conrod said that though there was a responsibility on their part to feed the students, Major Vending would "follow the Student Union position."

Any opposition from Major Vending seems unlikely.

The Faculty Association has yet to formalize their position with regard to a strike. Head of the Association, Prof. T. Ghose, did

say, however, that a meeting has been scheduled for Monday, January 26. At that meeting will be Vice-president Andrew MacKay from the administration and Bill

Kelly from the union. They will clarify the situation up to that date.

For students wondering about the Winter Carnival activities which commerce on Jan. 27, entertain-

ment chairman Richard Coughlan has assured the Gazette that events will take place as scheduled. According to Coughlan, the only possible exception would be the beer bash.

Dal policy will cut faculty contracts

by Michael Greenfield

The university administration has a new policy concerning faculty contract renewals, and not all of the faculty know about it.

Every year contracts come up for renewal; in a series of recommendations going from the Department to the Dean to the President and for final approval to the Board of Governors the fates of non-tenured faculty members are decided.

Usually it is a routine and simple procedure. However, this year problems have arisen, specifically in relation to the Sociology Department which has five contract renewals under consideration. The cause of the problems lies in a failure in communication which saw the implementation of a new university contract policy without the faculty members involved being made aware of it.

The new policy comes from President Hicks who has recommended that the terms of contract renewals should be kept to 1 or 2 years. According to previous policy the usual term of renewal is outlined as "normally for three years".

The reasoning behind this new policy is one of economic practicality. The shortening of contracts allows for greater flexibility. This is

especially valuable if the economic constraints become so tight that faculty size has to decrease. And shorter contracts will not affect tenure considerations as the faculty members involved have already served three years and they can be considered for tenure after four.

This new policy particularly affects the Sociology Department which has four contracts that come under the new rules. Still it is evident that Sociology was not aware of the policy change when they recommended the contract renewals. The Department asked that the normal three year contract be granted the faculty members.

When the three year recommendations were overturned by the Dean of Arts, James Gray, the faculty members whose contracts were reduced to 1 year were puzzled, to say the least.

There was an article in the University News just before the vacation pointing, but not specifically mentioning, to the new policy of contract restraint. In the letter sent to the professors informing them of the 1 year length of the contract no mention was made as to why only a year.

This breakdown in communication has resulted in an uneasy situation, particularly among the

faculty members whose contracts were involved. They should have been the last ones to be left in the dark.

This situation is also somewhat connected with the controversy surrounding Anthropology. There has over the past seven years been a group that believe there should be a separate Anthropology Department. (At present Anthropology is part of Sociology.)

Dean Gray has appointed a Faculty Council Executive Committee of Faculty to review the structure of the Department. Dean Gray told the Gazette that this Committee will also look into any other problems the Sociology Department might be having.

Thus it is especially important to keep things "flexible" in the Department as structural and size changes may be recommended.

This lack of communication between the Administration and faculty is perhaps just one example of a problem of communication with the administration in general. Just recently the administration neglected to inform the students of a change in student loan policy. Perhaps the Administration should try harder to keep in mind those its policies are affecting.