

NEWS

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DEADLINE: Noon Wednesday

Politicians eager to impress

By KAREN MAIR

Concerned students and eager politicians packed McLaggan Hall Auditorium on Wednesday night to enter into a forum on student issues and education.

Six New Brunswick student union presidents, in turn, grilled Premier Richard Hatfield, Liberal Leader Frank McKenna, and NDP Leader George Little on their respective education policies and intentions.

Of primary concern to students was student employment, student aid and government funding of post secondary institutions. Currently, the unemployment rate among returning New Brunswick students is the second highest in Canada at 22%. Under the present system, a student must attain the front end limit in loans (3300 dollars) before being eligible for a bursary. The problem lies in that while the amount of bursary available has remained fixed for the last five years, the front end limited has been increased by 1500 dollars.

The forum, sponsored by the

New Brunswick Students' Alliance and the Canadian Federation of Students (two apolitical lobby groups) was moderated by Kevin Ryan, host of CBC's Information Morning. Ryan contained comments from both students and political leaders to under three minutes.

Jane Arnold, President of the University of New Brunswick Students' Union opened the forum with comments from a brief prepared by the NBSA on student issues. That brief makes recommendations on student employment, student aid and government funding of universities.

McKenna opened the round of policy talks by the three party leaders by outlining his concerns with student unemployment and federal provincial transfer payments. McKenna announced that if the Liberals were to come into power, we would like to see a piece of legislation that would make sure that money allocated at the federal level makes it to the educational institutions at the provincial levels.

Premier Hatfield responded that the PC government exceeded last years Maritime Premiers Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) minimum recommendation and a new program will be implemented to encourage private sector employment for students in career oriented jobs.

Hatfield also cited New Brunswick Student Aid as one of the best programs, saying it will continue.

In his opening comments, NDP Leader George Little cited years of experience in the education system in New Brunswick as his major asset as a political leader on education issues. Particularly a freeze on tuition fees, an extension of bursary allocation by one million dollars and an increase in taxation farmers that would encourage higher education.

All three political leaders agreed that university funding must be improved but when pointedly questioned on such issues as student unemployment and the minimum wage, there was disagreement. On the issue of student employ-



Left to right: Kevin Ryan, Frank McKenna, Richard Hatfield, and George Little.

Brunswick Department of Labour, the average wage of \$4.49, seven weeks of work translates into about \$1,361.63. That figure falls short of required tuition fees by several hundred dollars. McKenna, more realistically, proposed three months for an average student summer job. McKenna also cited this as "a good summer to get a job."

In response to questions about minimum wages, all three political leaders comment, Hatfield cited two months employment as adequate. According to the New cured that an increase in the wage would lead to a decrease in the total number of jobs on the market. McKenna feels a remedy would be to increase the number of public sector jobs and to balance the level of minimum wage and the total number of jobs available. Hatfield's only comment was "an increase in the minimum wage would have a negative effect on the jobs currently on the market."

The last major topic was that of transfer payments. When questioned as to whether the political leaders would support a new drafting of the federal-provincial fiscal agreement (transfer payments), McKenna responded in the affirmative. . . currently, he feels money is

being misdirected. The Liberal party wants a piece of legislation that would ensure that monies allocated to education at the federal level makes it to the educational institution at the provincial level.

UNB SU President Jane Arnold tells the Brunswickan that "I am extremely happy that post secondary issues have been put on the political agenda and that political leaders were forced to take a stand."

Appeal

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ment on various submissions made by counsel, the court of appeal were prepared to "note" that the main grievance claimed by Bennett, Brown and English was that the procedure adopted to remove them from office was contrary to the by-laws of the Student Union.

Mr. Larry Hansen, former student governing council president, told the *Brunswickan* that the granting of an appeal hearing can hardly be described as a significant victory on behalf of the deposed student union executive but merely represents an expected formality of standard judicial procedure.

In a press release from Student Union Inc. however the ruling was hailed as being an important win in the continuing "courtroom battle".

At the time of going to press Dr. Downey was not able to make a statement.

Date: 10 September 1987
To: All Clubs and societies
From: Armand Vaillancourt, Treasurer
Re: 1987-88 BUDGET

The following is a description of the procedure that must be followed when items are to be purchased.

First, the Treasurer of your organization must submit to the Student Administrator a letter stating the organization's name, the date the items to be purchased, and must be signed by an executive member of that organization. Then the Student Administrator will give to you a Purchase Order which will be signed by you and the Student Union Treasurer and which will have placed on it the names of the items to be purchased and their amounts. This P.O. will then be taken to the supplier which will enable him to bill the Student Union directly.

The period from September 1st, 1987 to December 31, 1987 will be considered a grace period, to give organizations time to familiarize themselves with this procedure. Starting January 1st, 1988, all purchases made without a Purchase Order from the Student Union will not be recognized as a Student Union purchase. Exceptions will be made where it is not possible to purchase items in the manner previously described - providing previous arrangements were made.

If you have any questions concerning this or any other related matter, please feel free to call or drop in to the Student Union office.

Sincerely,
Armand Vaillancourt
Treasurer