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## Liberals flunk economics Student loan changes cause grief

by Sean Sweet

Students and the NDP give 'liberal' government an "F" for their stand on Nova Scotia Student Loans.

NDP Education Critic, John Holm, said the Liberals are not fulfilling promises made about student financial assistance during their 1993 election campaign.

"They campaigned on a platform that said a fixed and constant \$3 million annual dedication to the Extra Assistance Fund for student aid to ensure wider access," said Holm. "This fund does not exist."

Holm added that the government actually cut the student aid budget by 80 per cent.

Allison Young, Chair of the Student Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS), said her office has been flooded with calls from students and parents experiencing financial hardship.

"No one knew about the changes to the loans formula. One mother said that if she'd known about it [her child's ineligibility for a student loan] ten years ago, maybe she'd have some money saved."

The cause of all this grief is a reduction in the Moderate Standard of Living, by which parents' contribution towards their children's education is judged. The Moderate Standard of Living used to be just

over \$29 thousand and is now set at \$25 thousand and change. It is assumed that parents who earn more than the MSL can contribute to the cost of schooling their offspring. The effect of the drop in the MSL is that students have access to lower loan amounts. The fact that many parents don't have 'disposable' income to

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contribute to their kids' tuition does not play into the new formula.

Over the course of his 10 years as Education Critic, Holm who is the MLA for Sackville/Cobequid, has seen the issue of post-secondary education funding an ongoing problem.

"It's unfortunate that a number of students may have to drop out, this

year, because they and their families can't afford it."

Holm is not optimistic that these grave realities can be corrected any time soon. "Given the past record of government, I can't foresee a solution in time to save a student's year, or degree," Holm told *the Gazette* last Friday.

There is good news, however, from the Department of Education. Young has heard that the situation could improve in the next few weeks. Students facing problems with financial aid should go to the SUNS office located on the third floor of the Student Union Building with their student loan file number or call them at 494-6655. SUNS will fax it to the Director of Student Aid, and it may be possible to get an additional loan to supplement the initial notification amount.

"It's important for students to come forward," said Young. "Nova Scotia is the first province to harmonize their student loan program with Canada Student Loans. The whole country will look at the problems we are facing."

So while there may be light at the end of the tunnel, the harmonization, which may be music to Premier Savage's ears, sounds more like a record played backwards to students with loans.



PHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

## Fox's dream lives on

by Katrina F. Hurley

With only one leg, Terry Fox attempted to run across Canada. He ran in snow, hail, rain and blistering heat for 143 days displaying incredible courage and the attitude that "anything is possible if we try". Thus began the first "Marathon of Hope". Fourteen years later, Terry's dream is still alive as hundreds of people made the annual run for cancer research in his honour this past Sunday.

A ten-year veteran of the run was "disappointed that some runners let the bad weather stand in their way. Compared to what Terry Fox suffered through, running through the rain is nothing."

Although participation was down from last year, Lori Scott, provincial director of the Terry Fox Foundation, feels that "the money will come despite the weather."

Last year, Nova Scotia raised the most per capita across Canada. But the goal of the Terry Fox Foundation is not just a financial one.

Scott says that increasing participation and awareness is equally important. "There were young kids who participated who weren't alive when Terry Fox ran. So there's an educational process too."

Some runners expressed concern that the dwindling crowds were an indication that Terry's dream is beginning to be forgotten.

Lyn Mills and John Gillies, organisers of the Cole Harbour Place site, hope to change that. Mills believes that Terry's cause is still touching people. Participation in that site tripled and Mills says "it will only get bigger and better."

Although Terry died at age 22, thirteen years ago, he still acts as a role model for many. What began as a dream has materialized into more than just a run. The Terry Fox Foundation now spans 35 countries and includes such fundraisers as fashion shows, auctions and car washes. The Scotia Bank Ball Tournament hopes to raise a million dollars this year.

## Haiti—What happens next?

by Sean Rooney

A Haitian deal last Sunday night avoided a full American invasion of Haiti. The deal struck between U.S. officials, namely former U.S. president Jimmy Carter and Haiti's ruling military junta led by General Raoul Cédras put an end to this three-year standoff between General Cédras and Washington officials.

American president Bill Clinton announced the agreement saying, "It is time for them to get out of there. And they're going to leave."

The deal was only agreed to by Haiti's military junta when they heard the news that American forces were on their way to invade this tiny Caribbean island nation. In fact, over 61 American planes, several battleships, and thousands of troops were poised waiting for the final O.K. from Bill Clinton to invade.

The agreement itself demands that General Cédras and the other coup leaders give up power by October 15 and allow ousted president Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return to power. However, the deal hinges on the condition that Haiti's parliament pass amnesty laws prior to the Oct. 15 deadline. This in effect would free General Cédras and the other coup leaders who were responsible for the coup as well as the terror inflicted on many Haitians.

Aristide is reported to have concerns over the deal. The reason being the fact that the coup leaders will

not be punished for their crimes and that they will remain in control for the next month.

To ensure that the agreement is upheld, 15,000 American troops will arrive in the next few days. The occupation of Haiti is expected to last 4 to 5 months. After this point, assuming Aristide is reimposed as Haiti's president and stability returns, U.S. officials will remove most

*"It is time for them to get out of there."*

American troops from Haiti. After an American pull-out the U.S. will hand power over to the United Nations. The U.N. will place peacekeepers in Haiti to guarantee a continued peace.

Canadian officials last week reported that Canada would not join the U.S. in a joint military invasion. However, Canadian officials have promised to send peacekeepers.

The current problem in Haiti began in September of 1991 when Haiti's military illegally and brutally took over Haiti's government. Haiti's president Aristide fled to the U.S. while U.S. officials and the U.N. imposed economic sanctions against

Haiti. However, the embargo only deepened the misery of most Haitians' lives and strengthened anti-American sentiment among people there who blamed the U.S. for the trade embargo.

Last October a deal between the U.S. and Haiti's coup leaders almost resulted in a successful peace agreement. However, the coup leaders failed to allow Aristide back to power and gridlock between the U.S. and General Cédras resulted.

Indeed, U.S. president Bill Clinton has received the brunt of criticism for not having acted more aggressively against the coup leaders. He was also criticised for his policy of refusing to give refugee status to Haitian boat people.

But after three years of brutality in Haiti, most people are happy to see an end to the terror. Under the rule of General Cédras, it is estimated that over 3,000 people have been killed. Another 50,000 Haitians have fled and over 300,000 people are in hiding.

With this agreement and the placement of American troops in Haiti, it seems that the guarantee of peace and democracy after Oct. 15 are secured, at least for now. What remains to be seen is whether or not General Cédras and the other coup leaders will give the power back to Jean-Bertrand Aristide by the Oct. 15 deadline and whether or not force will be used if this date is not met.

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