

# news

## Over 1,000 students take part in march

BY TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE  
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Over 1,000 students took part in the march on Wednesday to oppose proposed Federal cutbacks. Two busloads from l'Universite de Moncton, about 100 students in all, supplemented those from UNB and St. Thomas Universities.

The placard-bearing students filed away from the lawn in front of the SUB shortly after 1 p.m. They marched along the sidewalk towards Lady Dunn residence and then down College Hill Road to University Avenue.

Two police cruisers and a police van escorted the march, and campus police ensured the marchers stayed in one lane. At the head of the marchers was motorcyclist and a coffin representing the death of post-secondary education; it bore the epitaph, "R.I.P. UNB".

Groups of students started chanting as they marched, such slogans as: "No way, we won't pay", "Glory, glory that's a hell of a price to pay, and the fees are going up next year", and "you say cut back, we say fight back". The chanting, however, was not co-ordinated and small groups would start, out of step with others.

The march made three left turns down Queen, Regent and King Streets, and ended up at the Legislature Building. On the way, the Government of Canada and Centennial Buildings were booed; and the march was recorded by scores of photographers, TV cameramen, and journalists.

As the crowd filed into the square in front of the Legislature, the coffin was raised in the air and cheers rose. The speeches that followed were punctuated by cheers and heckling. There was no sound system, so most students found it impossible to hear the speakers.

Kevin Ratcliff, UNB student council president, was the first to speak. He said: "We want the recommendations of the parliamentary Task Force adopted....accountability from the

province on the use of Established Programs Financing allocated to post-secondary education...and a Royal Commission."

Following this was a relatively long speech by Civil Engineering graduate student Felix Rebolledo who personally volunteered, and did not represent the Student Union. He said the group was there to, "...make a statement about something we feel is unjust. About something we believe in." He stressed that the issue was more fundamental than that of the cutbacks, but was, "a breakdown of democracy."

Ratcliff then read a press release from Joe Daigle, New Brunswick opposition leader. Daigle said that as of yet, the cutbacks were not definite, and that he opposed any cutback to post-secondary education.

The Honorable Charles Gallagher, minister of education was then introduced. He had a megaphone, but it did not work. Gallagher denied rumors that Federal money allocated for post-secondary education was being used for other purposes. He was repeatedly shouted down and finally ended by voicing opposition to Federal cutbacks.

The final speaker was fourth-year student John Bosnitch who stood up and denounced all the other speeches.

Subsequently, the crowd disbanded and was escorted back to UNB by police. Ratcliff said he was pleased by the excellent turnout. He said he felt the march had fulfilled its purpose and he was optimistic for the future.

Media coverage of the event was extensive with television coverage on ATV, CHSJ and CBC. CHSR radio broadcast live. As the final decisions will be made in Ottawa, media coverage was felt to be particularly important.

The Canadian Federation of Students hope a concurrent march in Halifax and subsequent ones across the country will supplement the Fredericton demonstration, and convince the politicians. The campaign will culminate with a march on Parliament Hill.

## ... PC youth express concern

The New Brunswick Progressive Conservative Youth Federation expressed its concern today over the Federal Government's proposed \$1.5 billion in spending cut aimed largely at funding for Post-Secondary Education under the Established Programs Financing Act.

In a joint press release, Brian Forbes, president and Don MacLeod, university director, stated that the N.B. P.C. Youth Federation shares the concern of university students in New Brunswick over how these cutbacks will affect the quality and accessibility of university education in Canada. Mr. Forbes noted that

the National P.C. Youth Federation is presently mounting a nation-wide campaign to draw the attention of students and other young people to the potentially severe impact such cutbacks would have.

"I can't believe that the Federal Government wants to make it even more difficult for young Canadians to get a university education. These cutbacks could mean a tripling of students' tuition fees," said Mr. Forbes.

University Director Don MacLeod commented that the Federal Government should follow the lead of the Provincial Government in New Brunswick by alleviating the

financial burden of students through a more generous student loan program. Last year the Government of New Brunswick increased the maximum bursary available to students from \$1,000 to \$1,700.

The N.B.P.C. Youth Federation will be discussing this issue in depth at a major Policy Session on November 20 in Fredericton. Entitled 'The

future of Post-Secondary Education in Canada', the Session will feature numerous guest speakers and a panel debate. Further details will be announced shortly.

## Orientation deemed a success

By RICK WIGHTMAN  
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Although the Orientation Committee may not ever be sure of exactly how much money was spent on this year's orientation week, one thing is sure, it has been accepted as a great success by organizers and new students alike. From the first dance in McConnell Hall to Shinerama the following Saturday the week ran with nary a hitch, with the exception of the "outdoor concert with Redeye held in the SUB ballroom due to rain.

The line-up of events was changed this year in order to achieve the committees goal -to give the best orientation ever. "Sports Day" was deleted from the schedule due to a lack of interest in previous years, while "Folk on the Gras" was cancelled because of the postal strike and replaced by

all-night movies. "Casino Night", which was "fairly successful" for its first time around was run instead of the "Barn Dance." "Ache 'n Wake" with Finnigan, although not necessarily for frosh was a success from the organizing end, with an attendance of 900.

Funds for the week were supplied by the sales of frosh paks. In the words of Nancy Forbes, vice-chairman, "For the retail value, they (frosh) got their money's worth". The paks included a beer mug, UNB pennant, beanie, orientation pin (all of which were additions to the usual student handbook) coupons and literature.

"The frosh were really keen this year", Orientation week comptroller Wayne Schreuer said and should be congratulated along with the entire Orientation Committee.