



# Students walk out on March

"We want to give the new government a chance," stated Jane Arnold, Chairperson of the New Brunswick Student Alliance.

The students' march, which had been tentatively planned for next Wednesday, has been postponed indefinitely.

Originally planned as an information session, Arnold felt that there was too much potential for the march to be seen as 'hostile' by the

government, the media and the public.

"As soon as certain people hear about a student march on the Legislature, they think of a protest," she commented in an interview with the Brunswickan.

In its place, Arnold proposes an "Underfunding Tour". To be held on the National Day of Mourning, the tour would highlight such sights as the Harriet Irving Library and over-

crowded classrooms.

Premier McKenna and Russ King, Minister for Advanced Education and Training, would be treated to the tour to help reflect one of the main themes of the nation-wide Week of Action.

Focussing on the accountability of transfer payments, Premier McKenna and Dr. King could also visit inadequately equipped laboratories and the computing centre. They would

also look at the number of professors on campus.

Although the purposes of the march and the tour are the same, Arnold feels that the tour may be more effective. "The march wasn't properly thought out and it's too cold in January," she said.

At press time, Arnold was still waiting for confirmation from Premier McKenna's office. If the Tour is confirmed, it will take place on Wednesday,

January 20, starting at 2 pm. Following this will be a press conference at 3:30.

Arnold also commented that since the march was never "officially" planned, the march is not really cancelled.

"We were jumping the gun, perhaps," Arnold speculated. "After all, McKenna's government has only been in power for three months and they haven't had a chance to show their position on many issues."

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## Less Bucks - More Hands

By STEPHANE COMEAU

A 4 - 8% decrease in funds and an increase in applications are making it more difficult for some students to get University loans this year.

University loans are low in-

terest loans of up to \$800 that the awards office grants to students who, in their opinion, need money to complete the academic year. Applicants are not only judged on financial need but also on whether or not they have maintained a satisfactory G.P.A.

In a recent interview with the Brunswickan, U.N.B. comptroller John O'Brien discussed the funding of University loans. He told us that at least 90% of the money for these loans comes from the interest of a fund set up by the late Fred Magee in his will.

The Fred Magee Endowment Loaning Fund, as it is called, is constantly being invested and reinvested by the university in a manner that guarantees a return such as bonds.

In addition to this, loan repayments are returned to the fund. The fund also has a unique feature whereby any capital in the fund in excess of one million dollars market value is divided equally between the N.B. Dept. of Education and U.N.B.. These funds are normally used by the university to endow additional scholarships.

In the '85-86 session \$126,038 was lent to students by the Magee fund, this declined slightly to \$125,268 in '86-'87. Mr. O'Brien expects \$115,000 to \$125,000 to be available this year.

He blames declining interest rates for the expected 4 to 8% decrease in available funds

this year and stated that the university will provide additional funding 'only if there is real need.' He stressed that the fund was to help students who need money to complete their academic year and not to pay for a spring break trip or a down payment on a new car.

As for demand for University loans, you only have to ask Mrs. Sue Wiesner who interviews the applicants for University loans, if her busy schedule allows her the time. She is currently interviewing 20-30 students a day and she feels that there has been a definite increase in the number of students in need of loans and that each individual student is usually in need of more money than in past years.

She feels that an important reason for the increased number of applications is that Canada Student Loans aren't adequate to fund a year of study at UNB. Her concerns are echoed by Richard Papenhausen who conducts the interviews at U.N.B.S.J.

He estimates a 25-50% increase in the number of students needing loans there and he also feels that Canada Student Loans aren't ade-

quate: "You can prove this by comparing the costs for residence at U.N.B. for 1 year to the money allowed under the Canada Student Loan Program. We charge \$3250 for room and board (19 meal plan) in residence but Canada Student loans only allow \$2700 for this."

He believes the Canada student loan program is being tougher on students because their budget isn't keeping up with the increasing costs of attending university; this results in more students needing University loans.

Even though the amount of money available for student loans has declined slightly and demand is increasing significantly, there is a bright side to the story: according to Mr. O'Brien U.N.B. probably has one of the better loan funds amongst Canadian universities thanks to the "Fred Magee Endowment Loaning fund". Even though it is getting harder to get a University loan from U.N.B., it is probably still easier to get one here than from other universities.

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