



Sharky, our fish on the streets has filed this report concerning the March on the legislature scheduled for March 23. We reprint it here in its entirety without comment.

Sharky: Pardon me sir. I'm from the *Brunswickan* and I'd like to talk to you about the coming protest march on the legislature.

Joe College: The what? . . .

Sharky: The student march on March 23. (Receives a blank look from Joe). The one about government cutbacks and rising tuition. (Sharky tries again). About the money you pay for tuition.

Joe College: (sensing this is something he can grasp) Oh yeah. What about it?

Sharky: Do you intend to participate?

Joe College: Me? I don't have the time. . . I've got classes and labs.

Sharky: I see. And you don't feel the future of post-secondary education in this province is more important than missing a couple of classes?

Joe College: (with withering scorn). You've obviously never been to university. If I miss a lab, I flunk out and I can't afford to do that. You guys really make me sick. You bitch and bitch about student apathy but are you going to give me a job when I

graduate? Just because most students are looking to the future and working their guts out at school, you complain because they don't want to do the same things you do.

Sharky: Ah, looking to the future--an eye to the main chance so to speak?

Joe College: That's right. I'm working to get a good job when I graduate and that's all.

Sharky: What about the students that come after you? Don't you feel any sense of responsibility to them.

Joe College: Frankly, I don't give a fuck. I don't know them. This is my last year here and after that. . . I'm gone. Besides what is this march going to accomplish?

Sharky: It will focus public and government attention on the problem. Hopefully it will introduce new discussions of cutbacks and the problems they cause. It will show Premier Hatfield we don't intend to sit back and let the bureaucrats walk all over us.

Joe College: A bunch of students? Ha.

Sharky: Not a bunch of students. Students from all across Canada, all working together. We have power as a group but not if we stay at home. If we sit back and let

someone else do it, nothing will happen. And there is no excuse for that kind of selfishness.

Joe College: But you haven't mentioned anything concrete.

Sharky: I can't make any promises. We can't guarantee the government will react to student demands as they should. But we can try.

Joe College: Yeah, well that's a crock of first class shit, nothing solid that will benefit anyone.

Sharky: OK let me ask you the same question. How do you know that it won't do something?

Joe College: That's the first point in your favour.

Sharky: Right, that's what we are trying to do. When I first started talking to you you were dead set against doing anything and now you have agreed on a critical point.

Joe College: What?

Sharky: Sorry I got excited. What I was trying to say is that your answer shows some interest.

Joe College: Well, I am sort of interested but I'm tired of seeing people try to fight the government and lose.

Sharky: It is true it will be a tough fight but if we get enough people across Canada to protest these cutbacks I think the government will respond.

Joe College: Yeah, well like I said I'm graduating this year!

Sharky: Have you got any brothers or sisters in or approaching university?

Joe College: Yeah, my sister is in grade 12.

Sharky: She is then looking at major increases to come over the next, say, four years. How will she afford to go?

Joe College: Make her work, she's lazy. Let her apply for Student loans.

Sharky: Well that's fine but it really isn't a lot of fun starting out in life in debt. And if tuition continues to climb, then even the most low key, spend-thrift person couldn't save enough money in the summer and especially with the minimum wage as low as it is, to pay tuition and have some spending money.

Joe College: I never thought of that. Maybe I should do something. When's the march!

Sharky: The students are meeting Tuesday, March 23 in the SUB parking lot at 1:30.

Joe College: Well. . . .

Sharky: Think of your sister.

Joe College: Yeah. Look, I have to go now. I have something important to do.

Sharky: Can't we talk a little while longer? I feel that if you could only see the situation. . .

Joe College: I'm meeting someone in the Social Club. (leaves)

Sharky: Yeah. Right.