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p. 7

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Thursday, February 18, 1999.

Federal budget insensitive to students, critics say

New money for research, but rising tuition rates ignored

BY ALEX BUSTOS

OTTAWA (CUP) — Finance Minister Paul Martin had barely begun his budget speech when student leaders were already declaring it a failure.

The heads of Canada's two largest student groups arrived on Parliament Hill to say the Liberals had neglected post-secondary education.

"This budget has absolutely nothing in it to reduce student debt," said Elizabeth Carlyle, national chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students. "It does nothing to stem the tide of rising tuition across the country."

The Liberals' economic program contained \$19-billion in new spending — the vast majority directed towards health care.

But the government's monetary plan didn't please Hoops Harrison, national director of the

met," he said.

"The only thing that is going to save our post-secondary institutions is a core funding increase."

Both Harrison and Carlyle criticized the Liberals for failing to

address key student concerns.

Between 1993 and 1997 tuition fees rose by 45 percent, while the average student debt load reached \$25,000.

And since 1993, the federal government cut \$7-billion to

post-secondary education and training.

But Robert Giroux, president of the Association of Universities and Colleges, says the budget was

continued on page 3

"This budget...does nothing to stem the tide of rising tuition across the country."

Canadian Alliance of Student Associations.

"There are hundreds of millions of dollars in deferred maintenance alone in universities across this country that are not being

Mount Allison strike ends

BY ANDREW SIMPSON

SACKVILLE NB (CUP) — Students at Mount Allison University returned to school Tuesday after professors and librarians reached a contract with administrators over the weekend, ending a 24-day-old strike.

"We're satisfied with the outcome overall, and we're happy to be back on the job," said faculty association vice-president Roger Wehrell.

Student leaders were also pleased with the agreement.

"I'm very relieved," said student association president Sam Millar. "We were getting near the point where the term might have had to be cancelled."

The agreement was reached with the help of a private-sector conciliator appointed by the

provincial government last week.

Under the terms of the settlement, faculty will receive a five-percent pay raise in the first year of a three-year contract — the same amount the university offered before the strike began in January.

Pay for the following two years will be negotiated this June. If an agreement can't be reached at that point, a third-party arbitrator will be appointed to choose either the faculty or administration's offer.

The striking professors and librarians were asking for a 26-percent salary increase over three years. The university has said it's only prepared to agree to a 16-percent increase.

Millar said the government

"It kind of leaves a bad taste in my mouth for my last term."

continued on page 4



YEAR OF THE RABBIT: Chinese New Year rung in at the Gardenview in Dartmouth.

Dal balked at funded Internet courses

Other Atlantic universities profit from Industry Canada initiative

BY SALLY THOMAS

It's not everyday the government hands out funds for universities.

In 1997, the Canadian government through Industry Canada helped six Atlantic Canadian universities start teaching courses over the Internet. And Dalhousie did not take a piece of the government pie.

In the fall of 1997, Industry Canada introduced a \$100,000

program designed to start web courses at six schools in the region.

who aren't physically at a university to take classes for credit.

At a North America Web Conference held at the University of New Brunswick two years ago, Industry Canada's initiative was announced and any interested participants were asked to meet for a discussion. Dal was in attendance at the conference, but no one from the university attended the initial meetings. Thus, Dal was

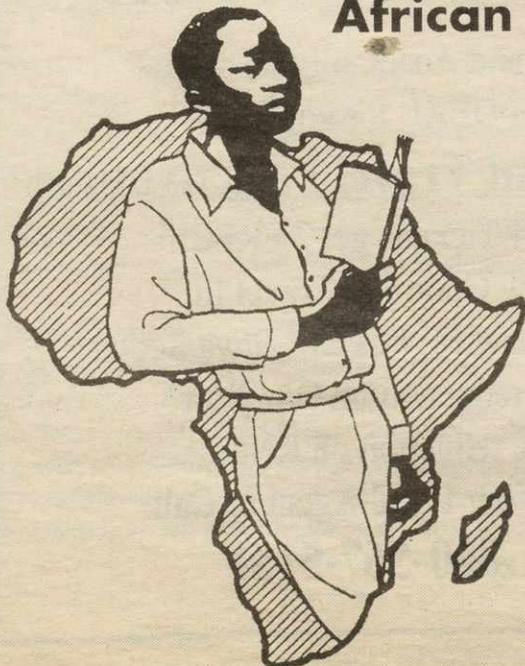
"This is a way to serve those who can't be served in the traditional manner."

The schools included Memorial, UPEI, UNB, Mount Saint Vincent and Saint Mary's.

The courses allow students

continued on page 4

African Heritage Month Events



"African Heritage Month is a period dedicated to the recognition, learning and celebration of Black history in North America.

The month-long celebration emerged from Negro History Week, which was started in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a Black historian, educator and publisher from New Canton, Virginia.

February was initially chosen because the birthdays of US President Abraham Lincoln and the emancipator and orator Frederick Douglass fell on Feb. 12 and 14.

In recent years the name has been changed from Black History Month to African Heritage Month. But even with the change of name the focus will always be to celebrate the richness and diversity of the African culture in North America."

—the Black History Month Association

Schedule of Events:

Thursday, Feb. 18
Race and Inequality in Institutional Development — Halifax North Memorial Public Library, 7pm.

Saturday, Feb. 20
Community Day: Access to Equality and Justice — Location TBA, 10:45am.
8th Annual Black Women Who Made a Difference — East Preston Recreation Centre, 7pm. Admission is \$15.

Wednesday, Feb. 24
Songwriter's Circle — Halifax North Memorial Public Library, 7pm.

Reflections on the Canadian Forces from a Black service Person's perspective — Black Cultural Centre, 7pm.

Taking the Helm: Black Film-makers from three continents — Looking for Langston and Black Girl. Dal Art Gallery, 8pm.

Thursday, Feb. 25
Author Reading with Lawrence Hill — Halifax North Memorial Public Library, 7pm.

Friday, Feb. 26
The Gambia: a Presentation — Alderney Gate Public Library, 10am.

Saturday, Feb. 27
Blacks in the Trade Union Movement: Then and Now — Halifax North Memorial Public Library, 10am.
African Heritage Month Gala Dinner — World Trade and Convention Centre, 6pm. Admission is \$35.

Sunday, Feb. 28
Celebration of Praise — All Nations Christian Reformed Church, 6:30pm.