

# March 30th will see 'Show of Protest'

By ROGDER DONCASTER  
The Argosy  
Mt. Allison U.

The New Brunswick Coalition of Students (N.B.C.S.) is setting aside March 30 as an information day for students. On the same day most Nova Scotian institutions will be holding a day of protest. In N.B. campuses will be holding meetings with the students to inform them what the Council of Maritime Premiers decision means to them.

At the recent N.B.C.S. meeting

discussion centered around how much the N.B.C.S. could motivate the students this close to the end of classes. It was felt that demonstrations were fine for N.S. but not in N.B. The date of March 30 was decided upon so the solidarity of the students could be shown.

Fraser Seely of Mount Allison questioned if all the demonstrators in N.S. would really know what they were going out for. Tony Kelly, of A.F.S., said "we cannot insure that they know all the problems, but they do

understand the basic concept."

Approximately two other people attended the meeting hosted by Mount A. They represented UNB Fredericton, UNB St. John, St. Thomas, while U de Moncton, U de L'Acadie, and Gene Long of N.U.S. looked on.

David LeBlanc of St. Thomas felt a day of protest was necessary, stating "if we don't take a day off now, we may not be back". The bad press coverage received at the Edmunston protest was suggested as a reason for not holding a protest.

Three protests will be happening in Halifax, Sydney, and Yarmouth on March 30. Kelly said "other means have failed and it is now time to be visible". In Alberta 3,000 students joined a drive across the province, while in Toronto 6,000 - 8,000 students demonstrated. The Toronto Globe and Mail is calling it the "new student activism".

One of the differences between N.B.C.S. and A.F.S., according to Sue Shalala, chairperson of N.B.C.S. is the style of approach. For example, none of the N.B. people felt that A.F.S. goal of free tuition was a realistic one. Kelly felt that it was the level of awareness which counted. He felt the question should have been "should tuition be a barrier to education as it is now?"

He further stated that N.B.C.S. had been critical of some AFS policies, yet had none of its own. Gene Long felt that policies needed to be established, so they could be worked toward, and all activities could be rationalized. Michand of Moncton reminded people that this was only the second meeting, and organization time was necessary. This is still a loose knit group, and are concerned with handling the immediate problems.

Kelly explained that the N.B. caucus of AFS (St. Thomas, Mt. Allison) could meet with the other institutions and decide policy this way. These two institutions should be the ones to decide who should sit on the AFS executive to decide policy. He questioned why Shalala, who is critical of AFS, should have this position. "What happens" he explained "is that you are trying to influence AFS policies, yet you have no obligation to explain the policies to the N.B.C.S."

Mount Allison and St. Thomas

met for 15 minutes and decided their feelings toward AFS could best be handled thru the N.B.C.S. They wondered if they could find a person in N.B. who was not critical of AFS. Shalala said she would only sit on the AFS executive as the N.B.C.S. rep., never as the NB caucus of AFS rep. Mt. A. and STU plan to circulate a position paper to the AFS membership as to why they are using the N.B.C.S. The AFS members are voting to decide if the executive position should be given to N.B.C.S.

N.B.C.S. and AFS agree that differential fees are discriminatory, and should not be implemented. Both groups see equal tuition as a means of foreign aid.

N.B.C.S. reaffirmed its main position, by continuing to petition the government for the funding necessary to maintain the current quality of education and having no tuition increases. The only unfinished business was to find a student candidate to nominate for a seat on the MPHEC.

N.B.C.S. joined other student organizations across the country in rejecting the proposed federal increase in the ceiling on student loans. If the size of the loan is increased it is an incentive for provincial governments to cut back in the size of the bursary. This would be a further burden to low income students.

The francophones were questioned as to what they wanted from N.B.C.S. They were hesitant and felt their interests would be lost in a large organization. Michand said "we don't give permission if a person wants to help us, they simply do it, we don't ask for support from anybody." They did agree that communication lines needed to be reopened.

## ...other universities also

It's not like the 1960's, they say, but some of the tactics are similar.

Several universities have responded to student requests and in some cases student occupation of administrative office, by declaring Thursday a day off so that people can attend the demonstration in Toronto.

At last count three universities — Trent, Carleton, and York had cancelled classes on Thursday so that students would be free to attend the rally against funding cutbacks and inequities in the new student aid plan.

Occupations of administrative offices had been staged at Trent, Carleton and McMaster University last week. The demonstrations were all peaceful and at Trent and Carleton have resulted in a senate decision to cancel classes Thursday.

A McMaster student told the Ontario last week that he thought there were about 20 students involved in the occupa-

tion of financial aid planning offices. He said that the occupation had been very peaceful and that security had been invited into the occupied area to make sure all was in order.

Fourteen students who occupied the office of the acting president at Carleton were also very orderly a representative of the Carleton newspaper *The Charlton* said. She said that the students demanded that classes be

cancelled on Thursday. Senate reversed its original stand in a special meeting Friday and classes will be cancelled. A rally in support of the sit in had 'the best turnout Carleton has had for anything in years,' she added. About 300 students from Carleton are expected to attend the rally Thursday.

Officials at the University of Toronto refused last week to cancel classes on the 16th. The University has, however, asked

faculty not to schedule tests etc., on Thursday.

Ryerson had not cancelled classes either but has said that if students can make arrangements with faculty they need not go to classes on Thursday. Cutbacks have hit Ryerson hard and students there have organized against them.

The rally Thursday at Queen's Park is intended as a show of student support for the Ontario Federation of Students who have been lobbying the government on the new student aid plan and cutbacks in spending on post-secondary education. The grants from the provincial governments to the universities for the next year have not increased enough to cover inflation and OFS says that reduced quality of education is inevitable.

(The Ontarian)

## University financing

Continued from page 4

Each million trees represents 1,000 acres of reforestation and costs \$100,000.

If the planting is not carried out properly, there is an immediate loss of the \$100,000, he said, with the second part of the loss being the 40,000 cords of wood which would have been ready for harvest in 40 years.

But at present, he said the school is only assuming "partial crisis alleviation" of the demand for trained forest technicians.

When questioned about training of francophones, he said plans call for the establishment of a "parallel program" in French in Bathurst.

Universite de Moncton rector Jean Cadieux complained that the special nature of the three campuses of his institution — and the extra costs involved — were not taken into account for the university's upcoming budget.

The university has to compete for professors with institutions outside the Maritimes, he said, and should be able to offer job candidates more money.

Tuition fees faced by Maritime students should not increase, he said, and the proportion of education costs paid by the students should be allowed to decrease.

He also questioned the amount of francophone representation on the commission, and was told legislation permitted any groups to be represented there.

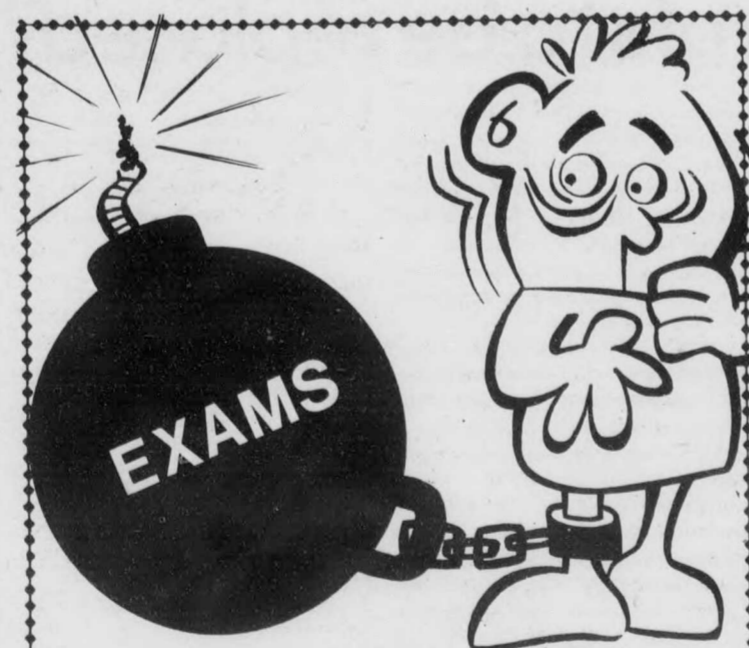
Two francophone student representatives called for the establishment of another commis-

sion that would deal with all aspects of francophone post-secondary education.

Centre Universitaire Saint-Louis-Maillet student association president Jean Blanchetter and Universite de Moncton student federation secretary-general Ghis-

lain Michaud presented the commission with a report on student aid and university financing prepared for circulation to students.

The commission also heard a presentation from Mount Allison University administrators.



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### Comments

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