

Students get shafted from all sides

The rumours of across the board student fee increases have finally become true. The Board of Governors of the University of New Brunswick has increased student fees in all areas.

Students who paid \$672 for this year's tuition can expect to pay \$785 for next year's tuition. This 10 percent increase also applies to graduate students who will be paying \$605 next year.

Hardest hit by the increases will be the residence students, who will be paying \$1,550 for the cheapest accommodation, a

double room, next year. This \$250 increase applies to all of the UNB residences. The exception to the rule is the Fred MaGee House. Because it is classed as an apartment building, MaGee House comes under the protection of the Landlord and Tenants Act. Rent for MaGee House will only increase 8 percent.

Certainly when the residents of Fred MaGee House hear of their good fortune compared with other students, they will be quite content. However, how can it be justified for one group of students to receive preferential treatment

over another group. Surely it would only be fair to have the Tenants Act apply to all facets of rental situations. There is no justification for a nineteen percent increase in residence fees, when other tenants are protected.

The root of students problems seems to lie with the provincial government. Its first move was its blatant refusal of any proposals offered towards the existing student aid program by concerned students.

Governments second move has been to allot the University a system of grants which can only lead to a budget termed by President Anderson, "Disasterous."

Governments third, though not so direct a move has been to reduce the number of summer jobs which will be available to students this year.

The ultimate end to the equation is that students will be

forced to pay more to remain in classes next year and pay more to live in a residence which only slightly alleviates the housing problem facing students on this campus.

To continue the trend, students are faced with an almost impossible loan situation. Those able to receive funds will be very deeply in debt after graduation or as is the case for some, funds are simply not available. Of course, the answer is to work in one of the numerous provincially sponsored summer jobs, but government has fixed that also.

It is understandable that the tightening of the Provincial budget should include cuts in the education budget, but it seems that university students, because of their vulnerable position are being used as a government scapegoat.

The line should have been drawn long before this. Changes are called for now.

Media or Council ?

Though it has been discussed in the past, perhaps a new light can be brought to bear on the question of the validity of the SRC.

Presently, at least ten members of the media sit on the Student's Representative Council. The basis of any media body is that it exists to inform the public, in this case the students, of the events which effect them.

There is an unwritten law which implies that all such reporting be unbiased and complete.

The details of SRC meetings are covered by that same media in which various councillors hold responsible positions. Although there is no open indication of biased reporting by either The Brunswickan or CHSR, there are rumours circulating that people feel they have been biased against in SRC coverage.

How is it possible for one to report objectively on one's own actions. Surely if we are to have responsible, unbiased reporting on student government it must come from uninvolved sources.

Another question on the point of the SRC's validity is whether it is acceptable for someone to vote on an issue which directly concerns them.

Honoraria has been the topic of major debate over the past three weeks. Unfortunately this has not been constructive debate but rather the usual childish performances put on by council over the past year.

Honoraria is becoming too personal a matter to be handled by those receiving it. This is evident from various members of council voting themselves more money and in turn attempting to lower the honoraria of others.

The point is that responsible government is responsible to the wishes of the student body they represent, something which seems to have been forgotten by our present council.

It all boils down to the fact that until council begins acting as a unified body without the petty attempts at self advancement and reward, it will never become a responsible governing body.



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