

Repaying the student loan

Two perspectives on the issue

by Karen Burgess

With the threat of a recession blooming in the near future, students are becoming more apprehensive about starting their financial careers weighed down by the responsibility of repaying a student loan - a burden which has recently increased by the federal governments newly implemented 3% tax on student financial aid.

Melynda Jarratt, a former full-time student at UNB who is now completing her Masters degree on a part-time basis, has voiced concerns that the provincial and commercial institutions providing financial assistance to students has made student loans increasingly accessible without instilling a sense of responsibility within the loan recipients.

Jarratt, though she emphasizes her gratitude for the improvements that a student loan made possible in her life, feels that students require more guidance pertaining to the financial responsibility they are undertaking than that with which they are presently provided.

She says that students are often naive about financial contracts and continues, "You think you know everything when you're young and you don't always look at the fine print. You figure that if you go through the motions that you'll get the money and there is not too much else to do. I wasn't aware of a lot of my responsibilities. You could call it ignorance, because it is my own fault that I didn't read the fine print, but I feel that there are a lot of people who also don't read the fine print because they aren't given the feeling that they have to."

The process has become so easy, says Jarratt, that at the

beginning of the academic year banks begin to resemble a sort of fast food operation, where students line up at one side and leave on the other carrying with them their new student loan.

Although this is obviously an exaggeration, posters advertising student loans using terms like "instant cash" are indicative of the encouragement students are given to participate in what appears to be a risk free financial benefit.

Although all students are aware that they will have to repay the loan at some point in the future, most are not aware of the amount of commitment involved in the repayment of the loan. The responsibility of instructing students about their obligations with regards to their new loans, says Jarratt, should fall on the shoulders of the provincial government - the institution that provides this financial aid to students.

"I think the province of New Brunswick should take a brave step and say that they will not let our New Brunswick students become anymore indebted than they already are ... and provide some kind of training or workshop. Teach these kids, they're young and have no idea how to handle their finances with a brief workshop that will show them the responsibility they have toward the provincial government," says Jarratt.

David Belmore, manager of Student Financial Assistance for the Department of Advanced Education and Training believes that students are already given adequate information about the task they are undertaking when they follow the current procedure.

"We provide each student with an application kit and one of the things we hopefully suggest they do is they come

to us. We do an orientation through the high school system beforehand but we expect the students - these people are young adults in university - to take the responsibility of reading the forms... On their certificate of eligibility their responsibilities are clearly indicated but if they don't understand something about the system and wish to make a call, make an appointment, that's fine, but we hope, and encourage all those people to have basically read it before they come in here."

The debt load of the average New Brunswick student is comparable to that of students in other provinces. However, New Brunswick has a stronger bursary program than most other provinces (a recent statistical survey shows that the percent increase in amounts given as bursaries was more than double the increase shown in the amount of money distributed in student loans).

Some rebates are also available, but Belmore feels that only about 80% of eligible candidates apply for their rebates, because they do not take time to read about available benefits, and therefore cannot qualify.

This is a prime example of where students would benefit from some sort of instruction about the intricacies of a new student loan.

As it is unlikely, however, that students will receive any more information than is provided in the application kit, it is the responsibility of each individual to make sure he/she fully understand the commitment and responsibilities involved in receiving a student loan from the provincial government of New Brunswick.

invoke a sense of unity among all Arts organizations.

After dealing with the business of the upcoming year, the immediate task at hand was to elect individuals to the open positions on the Arts Undergraduate Society executive. Steve Seabrook, existing Vice-President, assumed the President's seat without contest. Mr. Seabrook, Kim McLaughlin (Executive Secretary), and Karl Meyer (Treasurer) were then pleased to welcome Mark Cove as Vice-President, and Scott Morris and Jeff McLaughlin as Events Co-ordinators.

The New AUS Executive invite anyone interested in the activities in the Arts Faculty to drop by their office in Trailer 5. For those unfamiliar with this location it is the off-white trailer located beside Annex C and adjacent to the Carlton Hall parking lot. Drop by anytime!

Faculty of Arts hold "meet and greet"

Press Release

The Faculty of Arts held an organizational meeting for the executive members last Thursday. The meeting served as an informal "meet and greet" whereby those involved would be able to touch base with each other and also provide an open forum for comments, questions, and criticisms.

Those in attendance, including Student Union President Kevin Bourque, Arts Representative Derek Dunnett and Jonathan Lazar, several executive members of Arts Clubs and Societies, and undergraduate and graduate student departmental representatives, showed genuine concern for the condition of student activity within the Faculty of Arts, and extreme willingness to remedy the situation.

Dean of Arts Peter Kent was

first to address the gathering with an informative report on the Faculty. Topics of interest, such as the freshman enrollment cap, hiring practices, research projects, computerization, and student life, sparked debate among the attending leaders whose questions were also fielded by Dean Kent.

The represented organizations spoke of several interesting, fun-filled activities that have something to offer everyone, and judging by the overwhelming number of offers from clubs to organize large group activities involving the entire faculty it is obvious that the foundation of a unification process is present within the Arts Faculty.

This process would hopefully move the now internalized clubs/societies into a partnership with the Arts Undergraduate Society to

News Notes

UNB Environment Law Society

Press Release

In 1989 a group of concerned law students at Ludlow hall formed the UNB Environmental Law Society.

The primary purpose of the Society is to promote awareness of environmental law issues and access to environmental information within the Law School itself, as well as the New Brunswick legal community at large.

By providing an academic and legal forum from which environmental issues can be explored, discussed and analyzed, the Society hopes to better prepare tomorrow's lawyers for the legal challenges they will be forced to encounter.

The Society, now in its second year, boasts a complement of 60 members who are committed to playing an active part in this environmental revolution.

This commitment has meant vigorous Society participation in the Environmental Law Subsection of the New Brunswick Branch of the Canadian Bar Association.

To help practise what it preaches, the Society took on two tangible projects for the fall.

First, the Society successfully established a recycling programme within the Law School, the first of its type by any Faculty at UNB. Aiding in the Society's successful implementation of this programme has been the tremendous support of Ludlow Hall's janitorial staff, Frank McKenna and Bob Neate.

Secondly, the Society will be selling ceramic mugs carrying the Environmental Law Society logo next week in an effort to finally do away with the use of styrofoam coffee cups in the Faculty.

The Society will be hosting a series of environmental law presentations in the coming months.

For more information about the Society or setting up your own environmentally free faculty please feel free drop by the Law School or give us a call at 453-4822. Don't be one of those who let it happen.

Native Student Council election

Press Release

The NSC has completed its elections as of October 16, 1990. The positions of spokesperson, fundraisers and record keepers are jointly held by numbers of each campus.

The newly elected members are:

Spokespersons: Terry St. Jacques, UNB
Sharlene Paul, STU

Fundraisers: Linda Ross, STU
Connie Sabatis

Record keepers: George Sanipass, UNB
Teresa Marchand, STU

The next meetings for the Native Student Council will be held October 23, 1990, in Room AD 213 at STU, from 1:00 - 2:30

October 30, 1990, in Room AD 213 at STU, from 1:00 - 2:30

Discussion will be arrived at through traditional consensus. All students are welcome to be a part of this exercise and show their ideas.

The NSC's primary objective is to promote harmonious relations between all students.

UNB Law School in Short Fat Guy's Run

Press Release

Students and staff of UNB Law School dug out their running shoes for the 4th annual Short Fat Guys' One Mile Downhill run in air of the Children's Wish Foundation on Saturday, October 13.

The Children's Wish Foundation is an organization which grants wishes to terminally ill children. Ninety-four students registered in the run and Pat Fradsham, secretary was successful in obtaining pledges from the faculty. The run started at the top of York Street and ended at the Club Cosmo with a pit stop at the half way mark for a well needed rest and refreshment.

The Law School participants were successful in raising pledges totalling \$2,014.00. At the awards ceremony, this group was given the award for the team with the most participants.

Everyone agrees that the day was well spent and hopes that the Law School's participation will become an annual event. The Law Students' Society encourages other faculties to take part next year.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Summer 1991

Student Supervisor position
CHARACTERS INCORPORATED

Information Meeting October 24, 1990.

Singer Hall Room 158 7pm OR
Oct. 25, Faculty Lounge STU 7pm

UNB

by Pat Fitz

Sunday, October 14, 1990, an important day for UNB. It saw the convocation, installation of the new Vice-Chancellor, University of New Brunswick, naming of the new emirite and the honorary degree.

This year's convocation was no small event. It saw 283 graduates and 146 under-graduate families in attendance to receive their degrees and witness the ceremony.

Following the Convocation, the new Vice-Chancellor, R. R. Aitken, was welcomed by the rector of the University of Maryland, who provided a message of guidance. Dr. Armstrong Aitken was named as the new her welcome. Lady Aitken's Convocation installation as president, was a fresh start.

After a warm welcome, Lady Aitken was officially installed in her office which she has held for the past two weeks. Robbed by Lady Aitken of the Board of the President's Alumni, Ar

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Press Release

Friday evening, October 13, 1990, at 6 o'clock the evening was exciting as we prepared for the convention.

In an hour converted comfortable gaming area, the hour remained begin, and Master's are

The table each DM, the waiting

