

## Classes boycotted

# U M students study without profs

MONCTON (CUP)—More than a quarter of the students at the Université de Moncton are boycotting classes to attend workshops on student aid, tuition increases, unemployment and the high rents in the city. The workshops are being held in the University's athletic centre which students have been occupying since early Monday.

Earlier, students narrowly defeated a motion to cancel classes for a two day period to hold the workshops. On February 1 at the largest general meeting in the University's history, over 1,500 of U de M's 2,400 students turned out to debate having the study sessions. A motion to cancel classes was defeated 680-825.

Afterwards, however, a group of about 200 students decided to occupy the Sports and Athletic complex to continue discussing the issues. On Monday they decided to approach students in each department to vote on cancelling their classes and joining the study sessions.

As of Tuesday evening more than 600 students in the faculties of Arts, Science and Engineering had voted in favor of cancelling their classes and most other departments were expected to do the same by Wednesday.

A spokesperson from the student radio station told **the Gazette** the original motion for the study days was defeated because students were afraid that it would mean a general strike.

"Most people are scared of having a strike but realize that something has to be done."

"The purpose of the study sessions is to fully debate the

issues and to find some alternative to a strike which will allow us to deal with the questions", he said.

According to student federation spokesperson Joseph Labelle, "the campus is mobilized and moving."

"There's discussion everywhere. The situation is very volatile." He added that people were proceeding cautiously, given the results of the February 1 vote.

The students have outlined four areas for the study sessions: the student aid system, tuition increases, the unemployment legislation Bill C-14, and rent increases in the city of Moncton.

### Student Aid

The students are asking for three changes in the Student Aid program: that loans and bursaries be tied to increases in the cost of living, that the criteria for determining "independence" of either two years in the work force or four years of post-secondary study be eliminated, and that revenue obtained from sources such as part time employment not be used to decrease student aid.

About 75-80 per cent of U de M students receive some assistance under the program.

Last November, U de M students withdrew from the provincial student aid advisory board because they said the government was not willing to accept their suggestions about how to improve the program.

### Tuition increases and higher rent

Although no tuition increases have yet been announced, Ghislain Michaud, the general secretary of the student federation, said stu-

dents expect a 15 per cent increase. This would mean an additional \$100 onto the present \$620 fee.

Moncton students who live off campus have also recently been hit with increased rents. In December the Moncton landlord's association raised

rents by \$25 per month and plan another \$25 increase in June.

Labelle said students are trying to form a tenants association in conjunction with city and community groups to push for a provincial rent commission.

The students are also protesting the recent changes in UIC legislation which restricts students from coverage. Michaud said the changes hit the U de M students especially hard since most are Acadians from the province's highest unemployment areas.

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Over 250 Université de Moncton students gathered in the Science and Engineering Building last week to discuss how to deal with impending tuition increases, student aid, unemployment and the high cost of housing in the city of Moncton. They have since been joined by more than 600 others who've voted to cancel their classes to attend workshops on those questions in the Université's athletic centre. The centre has been occupied by students since early Monday.

## Administration

# Ads cost \$

by Alan Adams

Four advertisements in the Chronicle Herald, Mail Star papers have cost Dalhousie over \$6000, the **Gazette** has learned. The ads appeared regarding the CUPE strike.

In last Tuesday's edition of both papers a full page ad appeared explaining Dal's "side of the story". Then on Tuesday of this week a subsequent ad appeared saying the dispute had ended and thanked everyone for being patient.

Vice-President MacKay said the first one was placed "simply to tell people our side of the story," while the second appeared "simply to thank everyone," and say that "it's over."

Derek Mann, of Information Services, said that he was "primarily responsible for the writing", although "a president and vice-president approved of his work" before sending it to the papers.

A spokesperson at the Chronicle-Herald, Mail Star, who wished to remain anonymous, explained the ads cost just over \$6000.00. "We charge \$2208 for a full page, while the smaller one runs at just over \$900.00." He added "Dalhousie did not receive a reduced rate for their patronage."

Earlier the Chronicle-Herald, Mail Star had refused a CUPE ad because it contained what the editorial board considered misleading information. The **Gazette** questioned Chronicle editor Harold Shea who refused to comment on the matter. Shea referred the **Gazette** to Richard Capon in the advertising department. Capon said that the paper's barristers instructed them not to run the ad, although he did not elaborate on this.

## Longer school term

# Council opposes Admin

by Ron Stang

Student council representatives are circulating petitions in their classes to oppose a university decision that would have the first term of the 1979-80 academic year end as late as December 22.

Student council is opposed to the late ending date because it would deprive students of employment opportunities in the pre-Christmas period.

There are two reasons for the late ending date. One is that the university has added an extra five days to the first term. This is to make the term equal in duration to the second. Up to this time, the first has always been shorter in length than the second. The five day extension will make both terms equally thirteen weeks.

The other reason is that New Year's Day falls in the middle of the week. According to university vice-president Andrew MacKay, it was for this reason that it made more sense to have classes begin later in January. As a result, the exam period will correspondingly end later in December.

MacKay said that while the first term will end later next year the length of the Christmas break will be the same as always, two weeks. He added that the main reason for the late ending date was because of the way the calendar falls. He said it wasn't the first time the term would run so long. "If

you go back a few years you'll find the same thing happened."

At the last meeting of the university's senate, student senators proposed a motion that would have the extra five days added to the beginning of the first term. This would

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# Elections loom

by Alan Adams

Despite claims of student apathy on campus a full slate of candidates are in the running for next Wednesday's council elections.

The biggest surprise is in the presidential and vice-presidential race where five teams have offered themselves as candidates. The situation is somewhat ironic due to the fact that when nominations first closed only a single team had filed their papers. (Election organizers then decided to extend the deadline, hopefully to drum up more contestants.) When nominations closed on January 24, a number of seats were vacant.

As a result of last minute interest and politicking, 7 people are in the running for 2 Senate seats, 5 for 2 Science positions, 3 for the Arts rep, 2 for Fenwick Towers and 2 candidates for the lone Law seat.

Students wishing to participate in forums with the presidential candidates will have the opportunity as four debates will be held before the election, Sunday, at 3 p.m. in the study room at Sherriff Hall, Monday at 11:30 a.m. in the SUB lobby and Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the dining room at Howe Hall, and the last on Tuesday noon in room 212 of the Law building.