

The Brunswickian



Volume 124, Number 6

CANADA'S OLDEST OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION

Second Class Mail #8120

October 20, 1989

NB Students March on Legislature

By Brunswickan Staff-writer

This Wednesday afternoon, to commemorate National Students Day 1989, about one hundred and eighty university students from the province of New Brunswick conducted a peaceful but lively march to the Legislative Building in Fredericton. During the march, which began at the University of New Brunswick, they chanted slogans as they loudly protested government policies affecting tertiary education in Canada. The march, spearheaded by the Canadian Confederation of Students N.B. culminated in a "mock legislature" held in the chambers of the provincial legislature.

On the steps of the legislature, Gary Clarke, Deputy Chair for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS - NB) addressed the crowd of students. In his brief, impromptu speech, spoken through a megaphone, Clarke spoke against Bill C33, arguing that any proposed cut on university funding in Canada was unacceptable. He also indicated that New Brunswick has the highest student employment rate in the country. Presently, the rate fluctuates between 18 and

21.2%. Clarke also took issue with the cost of differential fees being paid by international students. The crowd loudly supported his criticism of government policies.

While the anticipated "bus loads of students" from across the province did not materialize, the organizers spoke very positively about the turnout and the media attention the demonstration was getting. A number of students who did not march expressed some dissatisfaction with the Student Union for choosing a Wednesday for such a march. They complained that it was unreasonable to expect them to cut classes for a march. One student indicated that he found the effort useless because "the Government wouldn't listen anyway." A few student argued that it was too cold to march. From the windows of residences, students chanted "anarchists" at marching students, while others shouted "Woodstock never happened!" as the demonstrators filed by.

Unencumbered by such remarks, the marchers moved through the SUB Cafeteria, the McConnell Hall Cafeteria and the STU Cafeteria before marching



Students march from SUB to Legislature on October 18/89

Photo by Alastair Johnstone

down to the legislature. In the lobby of the building a massive cake was cut and pieces distributed to the marchers. The "mock legislature" which followed in the chambers of legislature was largely a light-hearted debate which pitted

nonchalant, smooth-talking government rhetoric against aggressive opposition speeches made on behalf of the students.

A message from the Premier of the province Frank McKenna was read by mock house-speaker

James Gill. In the letter, the minister stressed the importance of lively debate by students on national issues and expressed a commitment on his government's part, to tertiary education in the province.

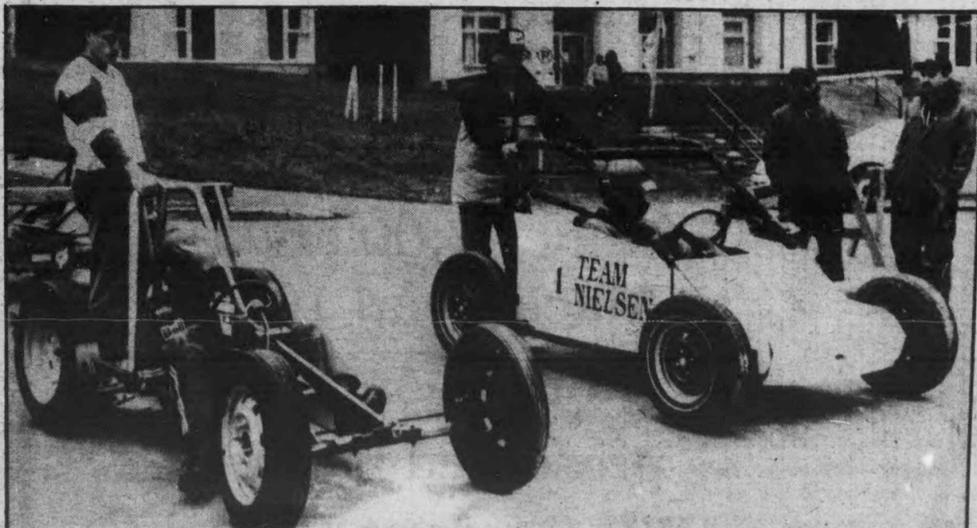


Photo by Alastair Johnstone

Father and son win Coaster Derby race. On right are winners of the race Trevor (driver) and Dave Brennan (pusher). Also shown (on left) are Gerald Benoit (driver) and Dave Brennan (pusher).

The race, which took place last Saturday, was one of the many events during Engineering week.

Car Burns

Last Sunday night a car owned by Adam Barbara, a resident of Fredericton, burned in front of Bridges House.

According to Rick Peacock, Director of Security and Traffic at UNB, the incident took place around 10:00 PM on October 15, 1989. Barbara left the car in front of Bridges and went inside to visit someone.

There is "no indication of arson," says Peacock. Apparently the car, which was a 1978 Lincoln Continental,

caught fire after Barbara went into the building. But there is some speculation as to how the car caught fire. According to the security report the car had some electrical work done on it not very long ago. It is assumed that this is the reason for the fire.

Because of fear of an explosion, one of the resident buildings was evacuated as a precaution. Fortunately, however, fire trucks arrived on the scene promptly after the fire started.

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