

Only the rich get to go

by Martha Muzychka

OTTAWA (CUP) -- The federal government will cut about \$380 million dollars from post secondary funding if it succeeds in amending the Established Programs Financing Act.

Dr. Sarah Shorten, president of Canadian Association of University Teachers, said the plan to tie Established Programs Financing to the six-and-five restraint program will exacerbate an already desperate situation for Canada's post secondary institutions.

"If we are to look ahead to an information based society, as the government says we must, and at the same time (they) reduce the opportunity for young people," said Shorten, "then (the bill) seems excessively shortsighted."

The government's amendment to the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act (1977) applies only to education funding and does not include transfer payments for medicare and hospital insurance.

The government has allocated \$13.5 billion this year and \$14.7 next year. Under the old for-

mula, provinces would have received a 9.3 per cent increase this year and 8.3 per cent the next.

Most of the opposition comments have focussed on the government's failure to tie the funding specifically to post secondary education. MPs charged provinces with using the funds earmarked for education elsewhere or not passing along the increases.

NDP education critic Pauline Jewitt (New Westminster-Coquitlam) said not only did B.C. fail to pass along any increases from the federal government, they would not increase the operating grants to the three B.C. universities.

She said the cutbacks were eroding the education system by obliging universities to impose stiff tuition fee increases.

Shorten said CAUT was concerned about accessibility to students, as well as the social and economic impact on the quality of education and research capability.

"It's one more symptom that there is no coherent policy at either level of government."

SUNS conference at Dal

by A.D. Wright

The Student's Union of Nova Scotia will hold their conference this weekend at the Dal SUB. Representatives from student unions from across the province will attend.

The priorities of the conference will be to organize the spring campaign of SUNS and to hold information workshops on student affairs. The spring campaign will involve SUNS rallying for summer employment programs, a reasonable tuition from university administrations, and the annual elimination of Student Aid shortcomings.

Information workshops will cover subjects ranging from how to compile a budget to tuition increases.

The conference will be the first for SUNS Executive Officer Judy Guthrie and she will be given her mandate at the opening plenary. Essen-

tially a job description, this is important to ensure that her time is utilized in the most efficient manner.

"SUNS is a unifying force for universities across the province," said Guthrie. She feels that SUNS is strong at the moment, and that it is being listened to. The organization met with success in getting the provincial government to create more jobs last summer. "I see this strength continuing for at least another year," she added.

The major concern of SUNS is accessibility. The composition of the student body is changing, reflecting the fact that a disproportionate number of students come from upper income families, while enrollment from lower income families has consistently dropped. "Accessibility is the most important thing SUNS must address at this conference," said Guthrie.

Council in capsule

by P.R. Doucette

The DSU is working on a proposal for "University Night", an evening of recognition for the active members of itself and its societies. The event is planned for March, with a maximum cost of \$1600 approved by Council. Council Executive was granted authority to book a band.

It has been brought to Council's attention that the six month probationary period it placed on several members of Bar Management in September has ended. The disciplinary action had been taken in response to the showing of pornographic videos in the Grawood. Since the original probation was an interim measure, Council will now be

reassessing the performance of the employees in question.

The DSU Executive vetoed a proposal by the Dal Christian Fellowship. They wanted Council to co-sponsor the presentation of "Spectrum", a rock video show with a religious theme. DSU Community Affairs Secretary Caroline Zayid said Council felt the show presents "a philosophy which was not apparently the union's."

Finally, the DSU Executive is playing fairy godmother to the Halifax Radio Club. The high school club will receive CKDU-FM's old sound boards when new equipment is ordered. The idea originated with CKDU Station Manager Keith Tufts.

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