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Photo by Bob Boyes

Many local students, both university and otherwise, paused Friday to demonstrate against the Cannikin blast on Amchitka island. The students, who marched on the legislature, heard a number of speakers along the way and participated in Project Plant a Tree.

Local students demonstrate

By CHRIS J. ALLEN

Last Friday students at STU and UNB showed their intense disapproval with the proposed detonation of a 5 megaton nuclear bomb on Amchitka Island.

The activities commenced in front of Saint Thomas University at 11 o'clock with the planting of a tree by the recently formed Mother Earth Fan Club. Hugh Williams, organizer of this tree planting ceremony began by addressing a crowd of about 200 people. The sod-turning ceremony was conducted by Father Richard O'Brien Waugh of the STU Philosophy Dept. He was then helped in the planting of the maple tree by Brian MacRory,

a student at Saint Thomas, and Pat Paul from the Tobique Indian Reserve. Father Waugh then blessed the tree and three children of different nationalities.

Next on the agenda was Mrs. Marion Owen-Fekete, of the STU English Dept. who unveiled a granite monument in front of the tree. The small monument bore the inscription "Amchitka Memorial."

At 12:30 students began a march from in front of the STU Administration Building to the Centennial Building downtown. The march was originally scheduled to end in front of the Federal Building on Queen Street.

This demonstration was organized by the Amchitka Com-

mittee, composed of members from the UNB Student Liberals, New Brunswick NDP, the Fredericton Young Socialists, Voice of Women, and the Mother Earth Fan Club. Mr. David Kelsey, President of UNB Student Liberals, said that this march was to show support for the people in B.C., to show contempt for the Amchitka blast, and the U.S. military. He further stated that the Amchitka affair "shows the power one man has over the fate of the entire world."

The march, which totaled about 100 people at the start, wended its way through the campus with more students joining in along the way. A Fredericton police cruiser met the demonstrators at the UNB main

gates and escorted them down University Avenue to the Centennial Building.

About 200 people congregated on the steps of the Centennial Building to hear various speakers. Mr. Walter Davis, of the Halifax Amchitka Committee, informed the crowd that at that time there were about 1000 students on the streets of Moncton and another 400 in Saint John demonstrating against the proposed Amchitka blast. He also had a list of 460 signatures from students at Acadia University to be added to the Fredericton area's petition.

Other speakers were Kay Bedell from the Fredericton Branch of the Voice of Women and UNB student Gaby Zatzman,

who read a statement for Mr. Ted MacDonald, the President of the Waffle Labour Committee, Carol Wright of the Fredericton Young Socialists, and Dave Kelsey, also spoke.

Mr. Pat Callaghan, Leader of the NB NDP also spoke and informed the crowd that he was pleased with the turnout at the demonstration. However, Callaghan said that "it would have been more appropriate to have it in front of the Federal Building."

Mr. Horace Smith, Minister with Portfolio, came out to speak on behalf of the Premier who was not in the capitol. After that, the marchers were escorted back to the university gates.