

NB students vs. government over bursaries

In case you missed it, New Brunswick students and the provincial government haven't been getting along very well with one another lately. Here's the background:

The newly-formed New Brunswick Union of Students

has been providing a lot of static for the government, mainly over the amount of money students will be receiving this year under the provincial bursary program. Last

spring, the government cut its bursary program of \$2.4 million down to \$1.1 million, and, at the same time, allowed students to borrow more money.

That's what the NBUS has been complaining about. Now, instead of receiving free financial help from the government in bursary form, the average student simply borrows more.

Last year, the federal government, under the Canada Student Loans Act, allowed each student to borrow a maximum of \$1,000. It was up to each provincial government to decide how to distribute that money. On top of the \$1,000, each province had its own bursary program, whereby they kicked in a little extra to the students who needed it.

This year, the federal go-

vernment will allow students to borrow up to \$1,400. Again, the dispersing of the loans is left up to the provinces. The provincial bursary now amounts to \$700, but students will only receive a part of that after they first borrow \$1,400. Total money available this year is \$2,100, compared to \$1,700 last year.

But, says the NBUS, this year, because of the new structure, the average student will have to borrow more, and the poor student who needs the full amount will have to take the full amount.

Formed in mid-July at a meeting in UNB's SUB, the NBUS rapidly gained province-wide attention, as well as that of the government. Youth Minister Brenda Robertson was present at that first meeting, and she offered to try and get Finance Minister Jean Maurice Simard's help in approaching Ottawa to change the program federally. While the students haven't rejected this, they have said that it will take too long, and that it is New Brunswick's responsibility to change its own program.

At the same meeting, Mrs. Robertson also offered to employ students in the Department of Youth.

According to NBUS secretary Roy Neale, even that's not enough. "We propose slicing the province in five sections, with loan review boards comprised of four people in

each one. There the student's application, we hope, will be dealt with on an individual need basis, rather than some governmental criteria. Half of the board hopefully will be students, who are either appointed by or associated in some way with the NBUS."

When provincial action didn't seem to be forthcoming, the student union decided to place half-page ads in every provincial daily newspaper, French and English. The campaign, which cost in the neighborhood of \$800, never did muster any support from the letter-to-the-editor writers, and as far as we know, few people wrote to their MLA to complain.

But the ad did bring support from Opposition Leader Bob Higgins, as well as the presidents of all New Brunswick universities. Shortly after the ad appeared, the government and students met again, and approximately two weeks ago the students met again with Mrs. Robertson, Finance Minister Simard, and Premier Hatfield.

The government promised a statement before university started.

The cabinet met Wednesday morning, and the student aid program was on the agenda. A statement by the cabinet on the revised program was expected Thursday, after the Brunswickan had gone to press.



Work on a roadway behind the SUB began last week. The road will carry traffic from the SUB's traffic circle to the Law Building.

Senate to get housing proposal soon

By EDISON STEWART

The UNB Senate will be presented with a multi-phase student housing proposal sometime before Christmas, according to Prof. Eric Garland, chairman of the Academic and Campus Planning committee. Site of the proposed apartment development will be an area between Montgomery and Priestman Streets.

The development is the result of a report by the Housing Committee to Garland's committee. Other parts of the report not dealing with the development will be considered at a Senate meeting next Tuesday, he said, "but we felt that the housing needed more study."

The Housing Committee's recommendation was for apartment style units in neighborhoods of 48 to 50. The report recommended that the first

phase of the development be for married students, and comprise three separate 'neighborhoods'. The rest of the complex would be built later, and would accommodate single students.

A housing study last year recommended this form of accommodation, said Garland, and now we're in the process of checking with the campus planners, the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, and others in an effort to make a full recommendation to the Senate this fall. The final recommendation will include location, size, cost, financing and timing in the development of the complex, he said.

At Tuesday's Senate meeting, a number of other things will be considered, including the integration of Teachers College with UNB. Senate secretary Dugal Blue said Wednesday that there is a possibility

that a draft agreement for the integration may be presented at that time. "This is just one step along the road," he said.

In other Senate business, Dean Kavanagh and Prof. Grant will present a proposal for a Ph.D. program in civil engineering, and the nominating committee, charged with finding a new president and a new vice-president administration will present a routine report.

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