

Faculty kids: ½ tuition

Cutbacks in effect - so what about the others?

By JOHN HAMILTON

The old saying, "The rich get richer while the poor get poorer", certainly applies to today's world but affects the students of UNB perhaps closer than we would expect. For a number of years, children and spouses of UNB employees have been admitted for half-tuition - a quite substantial saving this year of nearly four hundred dollars a piece.

To find the reasoning behind this seemingly wasteful policy in a time of economic hardship, The Brunswick contacted Sam Mullin, Comptroller of the University.

The policy has been in effect for a number of years, he said, and serves as an incentive for employees. This can be compared to restaurant employees getting their meals half-price, for example.

A common practice among Canadian universities, Mullin stated, the tuition benefits apply only to children and spouses of

full-time employees - from professors to secretaries to plumbers. In addition, those whose parents have retired from the university or have died while employed still receive these privileges.

The faculty of UNB is among the highest paid residents of Fredericton yet it is their families that get this economic benefit. When asked if this was unfair, Mullin said that it is difficult to separate the employees into two groups, on the basis of salary.

This year approximately one hundred students are paying half-tuition. By simple multiplication, we can see that the university is losing a total of nearly \$40,000. However, this is a "relatively" small amount when compared to the total budget of thirty-five million dollars, said Mullin.

In light of recent cutbacks, we asked Mullin whether this money could be put to a better use. He replied, "Of course, there's always

an alternative use - this money could pay salaries of two faculty members." He also questioned whether it is worth withdrawing benefits and incurring the "displeasure" of employees to save this "relatively" small amount of money. Removal of the half-tuition policy has been

suggested, but as of yet nothing has been done.

This obvious benefit must influence a lot of people to seek work at UNB, especially those who expect a lot of their children to enrich themselves here. In theory, a parent could come here, work for the month of September

(enabling their kid to pay half-tuition) doing any job, then quit. Not a bad deal, when one thinks about it.

Maybe my mother would consider mowing campus lawns for several weeks next year . . .

Registration: Down again

By KATHRYN WAKELING

Registration is down at UNB this year. No statistics are available yet but figures are running as high as two to three hundred students. (based on a rough estimate of withdrawals and no-shows).

Intake for the university year is based on the high school population in New Brunswick. This year the numbers were equal to last years and still there was a

decline over last years enrolment figures.

One reason that could contribute to this decrease, claims the Registrar, is the introduction of marine biology on the St. John campus this year. This has resulted in a substantial number of transfers from this campus.

The most obvious factor is the financial cost involved with university. According to Mr. Ingram the economic question is

two fold. There are a lot of students returning each year simply because they don't want to face the job market or just can't find the job they want.

In closing, Mr. Ingram said it was impossible to comment on future enrolment for UNB as there is always constant change he still feels, however, there is a benefit in the university education - both socially and educationally.

'Nuts to NUS' Murray speaks out agst Union

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

"Nuts to NUS" said Jim Murray, Student Representative Council president. Murray was responding to The Brunswick's request for comments on the upcoming referendum for membership in the National Union of Students. (NUS)

Murray said the students of UNB are not realizing enough advantages in a local or national level to warrant the 55-60 thousand dollar membership fee this year. He said that the money goes primarily toward paying NUS office staff, as well as fieldworkers salaries and expense accounts.

Concerning the relevance of NUS on the federal level, Murray said they didn't actually have a voice, but had to lobby someone in power already. He also said that any information NUS proffers the government is often dug up by the individual student unions.

"Theoretically, the organization sounds great," said Murray but when it get down to brass tacks the money is being blown out the

window."

Murray was sceptical of the organization in other areas also. He said that not only do the membership fees have to be paid, but the student unions has to support the cost of a travel pool to

national conferences as well as pay an extra \$35 for the Student Advocate the NUS newspaper.

Murray said for UNB to voice personal sentiments, the representative had to attend the conferences, and that in the past

few years, UNB has had to pay the travel pool, although the cost of travel was considerably less than would warrant the amount demanded for the pool.

Murray said the high cost of membership wouldn't be so bad if it showed tangible results. But the last project he had seen was the Young Canada Works project. He said what they usually did, was, in essence, try to tell the union how to run their own organizations.

Murray felt this was presumptuous and felt the students did not need to pay someone to tell them what they already knew.

He said there were enough problems on the local level and added that people want to see tangible benefits.

In closing Murray said, "Its my hope when the election day does come, October 19, that enough students will come out to give a majority vote against NUS. On Oct. 19, Nuts to NUS".



Murray



Kibaki

Give it another chance: Muriithi's view

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

Alex Kilbaki Muriithi, vice-president external feels the University of New Brunswick students should continue to support the National Union of Students. (NUS)

He said while there is no direct benefit, the existence of a student body across the country makes the government aware that students aren't completely dormant.

He said NUS has a platform, if not tangible, which has an indirect influence on the federal government.

Muriithi quoted the Young Canada Works project, a program instigated with NUS's help as an example. Muriithi said that if NUS doesn't succeed in making the federal government do anything,

the students shouldn't ask why, but keep in mind that they tried. He said they're not just another body sitting somewhere."

Muriithi felt the unimpressive results of NUS until now are partly due to inadequate leadership.

He said that NUS provides opportunities for leadership. He said that each university had the option of nominating people to positions in the NUS executive. These people would then be involved in policy making and decision making.

In response the Brunswickan question concerning the apparent dearth of NUS literature on campus, Muriithi said that the organization sends material to the executive offices of the Student

Union, where it was available to anyone who wished to see it.

Muriithi said NUS is involved in a variety of issues, including Student Aid, job creation and such.

Muriithi said that the students may feel the money is being put into an organization which is doing nothing, and while he also agrees with that rationale, he encourages the thought of forming a national Union of Students across Canada.

He says what is being talked about is not \$6,000 but \$1 per student.

Muriithi believes the students should ask what he (the student) is contributing toward leadership and ideas, rather than what NUS has done for him.

Its up to you

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

The students of the University of New Brunswick will be facing an important decision in the upcoming Student Representative Council elections.

There will be a referendum to ascertain whether or not, students wish to remain in the National Union of Students (NUS).

In a referendum held last spring, UNB students voted to support NUS with a \$1.00 per head charge for fees. This resulted in a \$55-\$60,000 fees charge for the UNB Student Union for membership this year.

Jim Murray, SRC president said, should the students vote against rejoining NUS, there will be a dollar rebate for each student. He said he would rather see that dollar spent on beer or something of that nature than wasted on NUS membership.

NUS is a national constitutional group operating from Ontario. It has members across Canada. Previously it went under the name

of Canadian Union of Students. (CUS)

The organizations function is to represent the Canadian student to the federal government. NUS was instrumental in the instigation this summer of a Young Canada Works project, in that data from NUS investigations was quoted in parliament.

Among its functions, NUS organizes national conferences, where the elected representatives of the various universities can gather to discuss issues pertinent to the Canadian student.

NUS also sends mandates to student unions advising action on various matters. An example was the mandate to boycott the AUCC conference in the spring (see Brunswickan, Sept. 16).

The organization also sends material on various issues, compiled from various sources, such as a fieldworking report. A fieldworker is assigned each region by the national executive of NUS. Also available, for a separate fee is the NUS paper, The Student Advocate.

This is a year of experimentation and participation. We cannot afford the luxury of apathy any more! If you don't believe me listen to this. For the first time in the history of our Union elections we are inviting ADVANCE VOTING FOR those who cannot otherwise make it at the polls on

Wednesday, October 19, 1977. The days for advance voting are: Monday, Oct. 17, 1977 and Tuesday, Oct. 18, 1977. Location - Rm 118, SUB Be on the look-out for more details. Alex Kibaki Muriithi (Chief Returning officer)