

Univeristy De Moncton

Students continue to fight rising tuition

A meeting with Chairman of the Treasury Board Jean-Maurice Simard and minister of Minister of Youth, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Jean Pierre Oulette is planned by members of the Universite de Moncton student body. According to spokesperson Gisile Boulay students hope to offer suggestions to the ministers as to how predicted tuition increases can be circumvented. Students are also concerned with recent changes to the Unemployment Act and Student Aid.

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

Boulay said that students realize the ultimate answer lies with the provincial government and not with the administration of the university.

A trump card the students hope to play at the meeting involves the verbal or written support of organizations on and off campus which are of student and non-student orientation. She said that the government will be convinced that students are serious about their demands when they are supported by a representative number of respon-

sible citizens and organizations. Boulay said the group of concerned students would like to see representatives from these groups at the projected meetings with the officials but would be satisfied with their written support.

The group is a loosely organized body of concerned students who, along with other members of the student body, were not entirely in agreement with previous efforts by leaders of the community to avert tuition increases. Boulay said that the two groups are supporting each other despite their differing views on how the demands should be presented. She said that the original group of activists were primarily concerned with physical means of protest such as demonstrations, while a less radical element of the student body feels it would be more advantageous to present their demands and then decide whether to demonstrate or not.

The movement was first publicized when a letter in the U d' M paper "Le Front" announced a general meeting of students interested in combatting tuition increases. Students arrived at the specified time to find that the

note was not really from the director as stated, and decided to stay and discuss the issues. A further meeting saw more than 150 students decide to actively participate in committees which were being set up to discuss the issue. The following Monday, supported by a St. Louis Maillet decision to work on the same issues, and with moral support from other Maritime institutions members met to plan strategy. The week of February 7 saw more than 1,500 students meeting at the Science and Engineering building as a show of strength. The CEPS building was then occupied due to greater space and facilities.

Boulay said that she and other members were concerned with the administrative attitude which varied considerably. She said while they voiced concern over the student issues they have also "split the student population by using blackmail". Boulay was referring to the administrative efforts on student aid and student loans.

A topical problem which the students currently face, according to Boulay, is that a National Nursing conference was scheduled for this weekend and the

administration indicated that unless the demonstration was dispersed the conference would be cancelled. Boulay said that arrangements had already been made with the School of Nursing and students questioned the motives of the administration. Nothing further on this issue was available at press time.

She said that faculty members and departments supported the student cause in many cases by cancelling courses for a period of time. "Students want to continue their courses" however, according to Boulay who said their committee intends to work on matters from a different angle.

On February 7 more than ten departments went on strike, on the 8th another seven held meetings. Boulay feels the student cause is just, and emphasizes that while there are different groups working on campus at the current time, they are both working towards the same goal.

She predicted that the meeting with the ministers would be sometime in March and said the groups would have a concrete plan to present to the ministers by that time.



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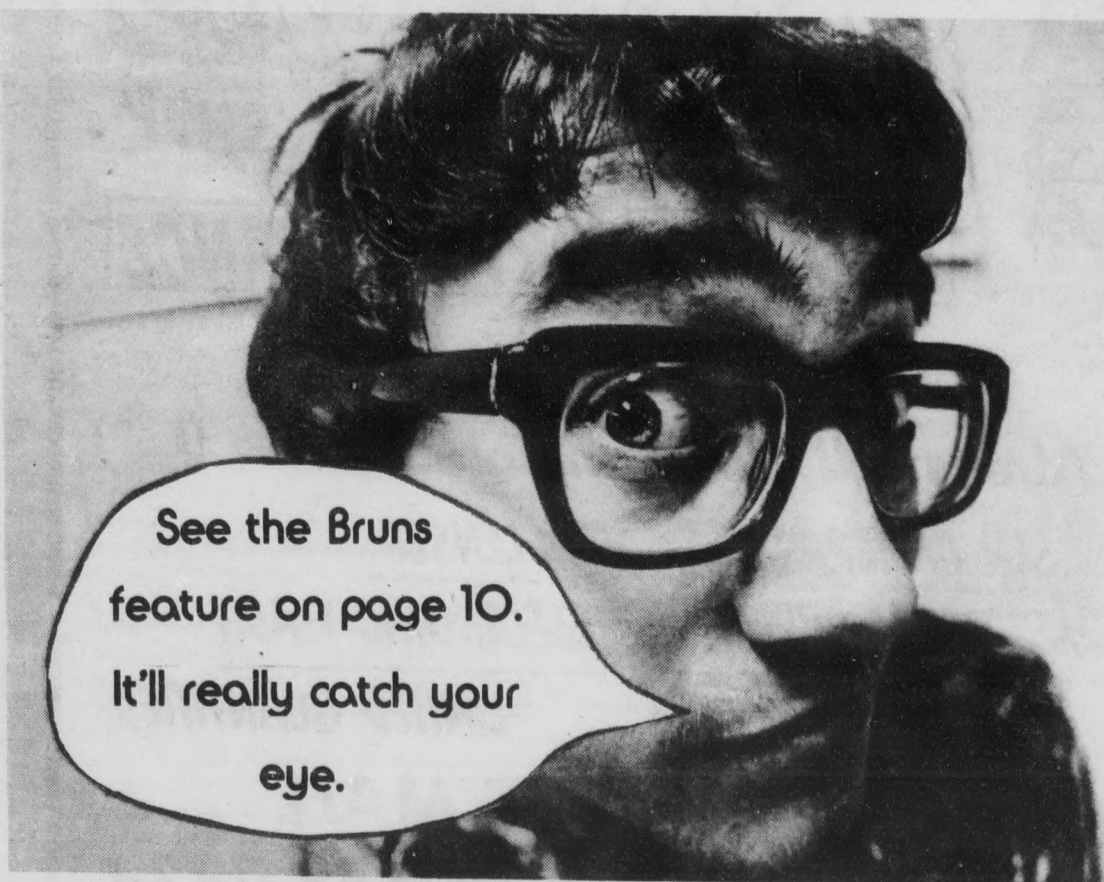
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