

FNBFA supports day of action protest

The Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations has added its support to the Day of Action called by the New Brunswick Federation of Labour for Saturday, January 30 in Fredericton's to protest high interest rates and rising unemployment.

"These issues have obvious implications for us as citizens of New Brunswick," Claudia Whalen, FNBFA President, said in a statement endorsing the protest. "But they also have implications for us as citizens of the university community.

The universities of New Brunswick are in a state of financial crisis from a decade of chronic underfunding. Now with unemployment and interest and interest rates higher than ever, the universities are threatened with further government cutbacks."

Last week, the Maritimes Provinces Higher Education Commission recommended increases of 12.5% for New Brunswick universities, in spite of statements from the Association of Atlantic Universities last fall that the Maritime universities would need a 17% increase in operating grants next year just to remain at existing and enable some needed new programs to be added.

Since 1978-79, when the provincial government allocated an amount to New Brunswick universities over 3% lower than the MPHEC recommendation, the MPHEC appears to base its recommendations for operating grant increases on what it feels the New

Brunswick government will readily accept.

"The effects of the provincial government's shortsightedness on the quality of higher education in New Brunswick are obvious," Whalen said. "The universities, operating within increasingly tighter budgets,

are forced to reduce library acquisitions and services, eliminate teaching and support staff positions, cancel academic, athletic, and cultural programs, neglect important research, and put off badly needed equipment and building repairs. Tuition fees inevitably rise out of all proportion; those students who can no longer afford to attend university and have no opportunity to go elsewhere are

forced to drop out. With the rate of university graduates leaving New Brunswick to find work already the highest in Canada (50%), it is likely that undergraduates who drop out have even fewer options of finding jobs in their own province. Some of our best young minds, students and graduates alike, are faced with the choice of leaving New Brunswick or being unemployed."

"The toll of university cutbacks and staff layoffs on the economic community is also of grave concern to FNBFA," Whalen said. "A 1977 economic impact study of the Fredericton area revealed that in 1974-75, UNB and St. Thomas University accounted for between 15-20% of Fredericton's effective income, employed 1343 full-time

employees, and created another 1139 to 1921 jobs through contract services and university employee spending. The situation is similar in other New Brunswick university communities - Moncton, Saint John, Sackville, Edmundston and Shippigan all depend heavily on their universities as

an economic base. This is not the time to be cutting back on social service expenditures. Corrective measures must be taken to strengthen the economy and reduce unemployment."

"We wish to make clear that our concern about the crisis in our universities is directed at both levels of government," Whalen added. "The federal government in its November budget did not cut any of the established programs

(medicare, hospital care and post-secondary education). But it did reduce provincial revenues through termination of the revenue guarantee, and while it is expected that this loss will be more than made up through equalization payments, we are watching the provincial government

closely to see that it does not try to pass on any federal revenue reductions to the university sector. We are also concerned that the federal budget did not provide for reasonable increases to the three granting councils and funding for overhead research costs. Yet university research is of fundamental importance to regional and national economic development efforts."

UNB Liberals organize

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE
Brunswickan Staff

The UNB STU Young Liberal's held an organizational meeting Wednesday.

Speakers at Wednesday's meeting, attended by about 35 people, included Bob Rideout. He is the youth representative on the Steering Committee for the upcoming Liberal convention.

Steve Patterson, a former provincial candidate for the Liberals in Fredericton South, spoke about the history of the liberal party and the local youth movement. Another speaker was Len Hoyt, president of the New Brunswick

Young Liberal Association.

The next meeting, to be held March 10, will involve the adoption of a new constitution

and election of officers. The organizers of the organization are Paul Wenzell and Judith Rogers.

Orientation '82 General meeting

Sunday, February 7
at
7:00 pm in T303

All persons interested in being on the Committee for Orientation '82 must Attend.

WUSC Cornucopia

W.U.S.C. or World University Service of Canada is a non-profit, non-governmental organization involving the Canadian academic community in social and economic development at home and abroad. At our last meeting, held Sunday Jan. 24, we featured Prof. Geza Kuun of the UNB Political Science Dept., who spoke on the "North-South Dialogue."

What is this "North-South" discussion really about? Prof. Kuun indicated that North-South is really an euphemism for the rich and poor nations of the world. This division of wealth has as one of its main historical roots, the colonialism of the Third World by Western Europe and the United States of America. Results of this "expansionism" include:

1) The economies of the colonies were based on cheap export of natural resources for manufacture and consumption by the colonizers.

2) Land utilization that was detrimental to the colonies ie. growing of cash crops (coffee, tea) rather than food production for local consumption.

3) Lack of capital for self investment (because of 2 above) and a growing dependence on the rich colonialists for survival.

This rich/poor dichotomy is still present today and the rich are getting richer as the poor are getting poorer. Present statistics show that there is a tremendous amount of illiteracy, poverty, and disease in the Third World ie. Asia, Africa, Central and South America. Unfortunately though, two thirds to three quarters of the world's growing population continues to be centered in these areas. Statistics also show that the rich (north) utilizes 80 percent of the world's energy and the poor (south) are trying to live off the other 20 percent.

The picture is bleak, but not hopeless. We must realize the growing interdependence of the world and that international organizations such as the United Nations do have a role in bridging the North-south chasm. More specifically, we at UNB-STU can become more aware of the issues involved and appreciate that our education and knowledge can be utilized just as effectively by the poorer nations. After all we are on this "spaceship earth" together.

Our next W.U.S.C. meeting is Sunday Jan. 31 in Room 103 of the SUB. Following the film "The People of This Land" shown at 7:00 pm, Prof. Sid Pobihuschy of UNB's Political Science Dept. will speak at 8:00 pm. on "The Third World in Canada: The Rights of Aboriginal Peoples." We hope to see you there.

PSSA back from D.C.

The Political Science Students Association concluded a five-day road trip to Washington, D.C., Monday. Fifteen students visited many places of interest in Washington and found it a very positive experience. The trip was organized by Mary Abraham, president of the PSSA. The Brunswickan will have a special feature on the trip in several weeks.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS STUDENT SENATORS

There are three positions open for undergraduate students from the Fredericton campus on the University Senate, one-year terms commencing 1 March 1982.

Nomination forms are available from the Office of the University Secretary (Room 110, Old Arts Building), or the S.R.C. Office. Anyone nominated as a candidate must be:

1) Registered as a full-time student for 1981-82, not in the School of Graduate Studies and Research, on the Fredericton Campus.

2) In good academic standing (i.e. not on academic probation.)

3) Willing to serve, and have signed an agreement to that effect.

Nominations must be signed by twenty eligible voters (full-time students, registered for 1981-82). Nominations will close at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, 4 February 1982.

Nominees have 24 hours in which to withdraw. ELECTION DATE 17 FEBRUARY IN CONJUNCTION WITH SRC ELECTIONS.