

EDITORIAL

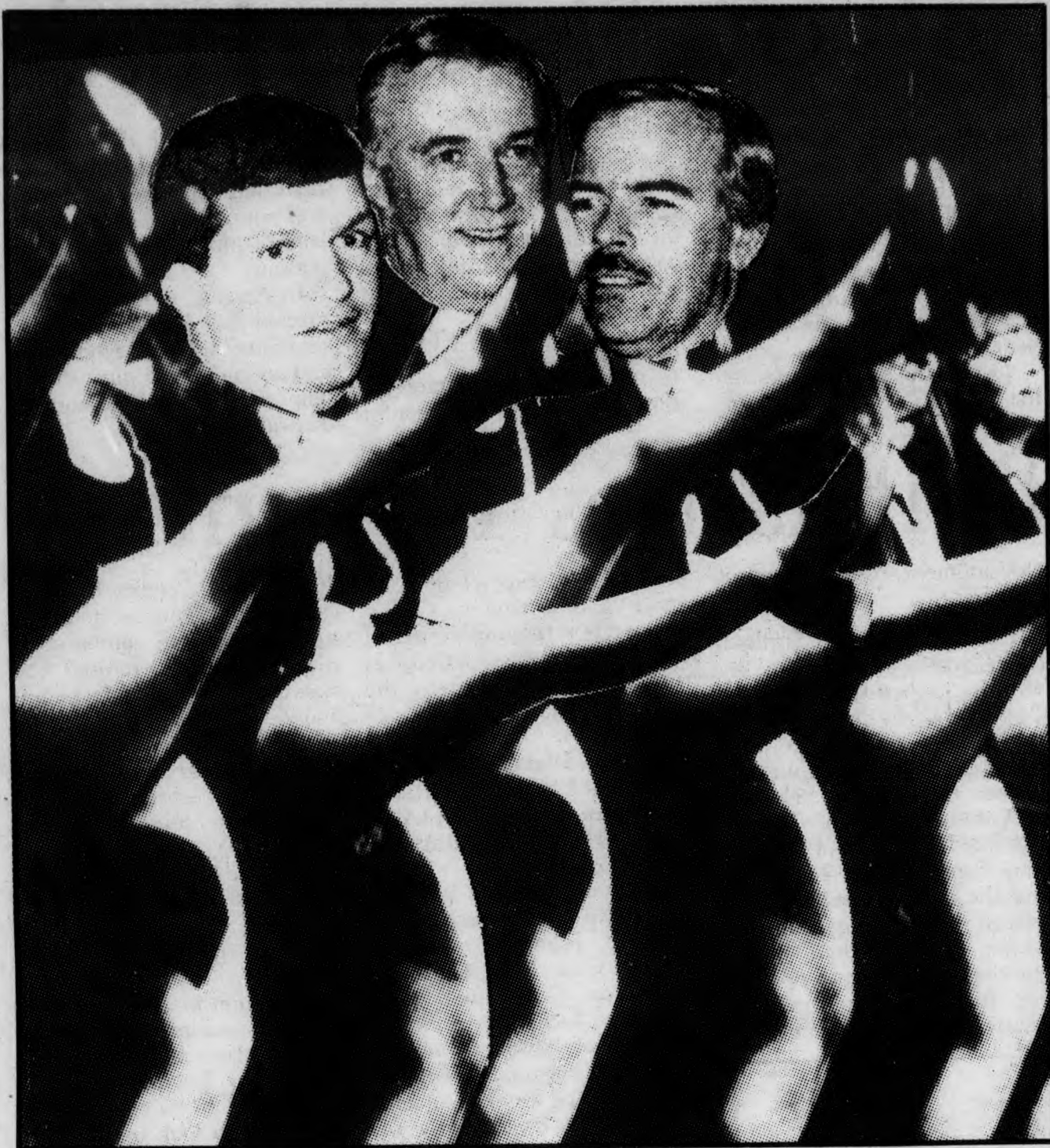


Photo: Freeman Leslie

Well, higher education funding is the game and provincial politicians are the players. Richard Hatfield, Frank McKenna and NDP Representative Tom Good participated in a debate (that wasn't supposed to be a debate) on the STU campus Monday January 26.

It was obvious there was the feeling of an election in the air. Premier Hatfield had too much to lose to say anything of consequence. McKenna had absolutely nothing to lose, he said too much and made Hatfield pale in comparison. Tom Good? Well, as usual the NDP sits right in the middle of it all and doesn't say much of anything, although he certainly did try.

Students in New Brunswick have a good opportunity right now to make higher education funding a full blown election issue. McKenna is picking up on it *and* capitalizing on it but is Hatfield? I doubt it. With the sad state of affairs such as they exist in New Brunswick right now in terms of educational funding, it is important that students take a stand. Force the government to get off of their fannies and change some of the deplorable situations that are in existence. New Brunswick's post secondary education institutions are suffering but, more importantly, the students are suffering. High unemployment, high tuition fees, low loan benefits and even lower bursaries. There are even those students who wish independence but because of regulations their parents must still foot the education bills. According to Hatfield's comments at the forum, things are not going to change. Sad eh? That should not be the case, if Hatfield does not do something soon, he might not have the chance later. It is up to students to start asking pertinent questions and demanding answers instead of letting politicians flower them over with answers that are not answers.



Mugwump Journal

By VALERIE WHITE
Managing Editor

I don't normally like to start off the day by talking about politics, especially when it touches on ancient history, but I feel compelled to mention a few things that took place at the press conference held by John Bosnitch this past Monday. John claims that he will take action against Dr. Downey to have him removed from office if indeed Michael Bennett and Barry White are expelled from university. Somehow I don't think that it is loyalty that compels John to stick up for his friends. What really baffles me is why John Bosnitch is concerned in the affair at all. If Mike Bennett and Barry White are being threatened with expulsion, then let them fight it out themselves. John, you've graduated. It's time to move on.

Times are tough all over it seems. The Photocopy centre has been unable to hold its own and has sold a few of their photocopiers. Room 106 is looking pretty bare. If the photocopy centre closes down, where are the students expected to get their photocopying done? Does this mean it's back to the library with a handful of dimes? I guess it also means that Orientation will get its old office back. At least someone will benefit from this deal.

And speaking of pinching pennies, Beaver Foods are putting their foot down as well. No longer do you have the luxury of helping yourself to the jam in the morning. Now it's only one package of jam per order of toast. After that, it's 5+ for each extra package. Did you ever try and make one of those little packages cover four pieces of toast? And I hear that they are rationing the tarter sauce as well. What is fine dining coming to? At this rate, we'll soon be down to one napkin a piece, and then what?

An now for a complete change of tone. The dates have finally been set for the Red 'n Black. They are the 15, 16, and 17 of February. It looks like things have finally taken shape. I hear that everyone's favorite act, the jug band, will be returning. It will be interesting to see what kind of crowd the show draws on a Sunday, Monday and Tuesday night on the last week before the mid-term break.

Well, the grad class executive is at it again. They have planned a wild beach party for Friday the 13th. The party will be, I'm sure, equally as exciting as the Ooze Cruise was last fall (well, maybe not that great). There are a lot of great prizes lined up including, as rumour has it, a free massage! Now who'd want to miss out on that?

A note for all you residence people out there. We are starting a new feature in the Brunswickan soon. It will be an entire section devoted strictly to residence news. We would appreciate a representative from each residence to submit an article telling the world what is going on at your house. Just think, this may be a good chance to tell about upcoming house events which may even stir an interest in the off-campus crowd.

Since we seem to have a good thing going with the increased fan support, let's try to keep it going. There is a double-header of Red Raiders and Red Bloomers basketball this weekend at the Aitken Centre. Although the Bloomers playoff hopes are still alive, this may be the Raiders last chance for a playoff position. However, the Aitken Centre is considerably larger than the LB Gym so it's going to take a lot more people to make it seem crowded. But if all the residences are still keen on their Big Cheer competition, I'm sure there will be no problem.