

The cost of education

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of Newfoundland which is the most expensive of those falling below the average. Nova Scotia remains the most expensive province in which to attend university, with tuition reaching almost \$5000 province-wide. Quebec offers the lowest tuition at under \$2000, which is only for residents of the province. New Brunswick is the fifthth most expensive university to attend in the country. Since 1996/97 the province has seen a 36.7% rise in undergraduate tuition, the second highest rise next to Saskatchewan.

Some provinces, to the surprise of many, have lowered tuition this year. These include

Newfoundland and BC, which boasts the second lowest tuition rate in the country. However, BC's six-year freeze on tuition hikes may end as early as next year according to the newly elected Liberal government of the province.

Elsewhere, Quebec students at McGill University have gone to an appeals court hoping to put an end to extra tuition students from outside the province have to pay. A Quebec resident pays \$55.61 for

each credit hour while a student from elsewhere in the country pays \$95.61. They hope to deem this act unconstitutional.

On a positive note, scholarships are on the rise. Undergraduate scholarship funds will increase by \$200 000, bringing the total amount of bursaries and scholarships to \$2 million at UNB.

So as students reach deeper into their pockets and cringe at the sight of their account balance, they are left with only the hope that an education will again become affordable for the average Canadian.

International News Bits

AFRICA

MALAWI: FRAGILE PEACE IN CENTRAL AFRICA The presidents of Rwanda and Congo began a two-day meeting Wednesday, intending to shore up a fragile cease-fire agreement to end a three-year civil war in Congo. Rwanda and Uganda have backed rebels who began fighting in 1998, trying to oust then-President Laurent Kabila. A 1999 cease-fire agreement has been plagued by violations and sluggish implementation. Disarmament and demobilization of the Interahamwe — Rwandan rebels accused in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda — is a key provision of the 1999 deal. Rwanda insists it will not pull its troops out of Congo until the Interahamwe and former Rwandan soldiers fighting Rwanda from Congolese territory are stopped.

(AP) October 3, 2001

SOUTH AFRICA: GAY-RIGHTS LAWS WIN SUPPORT IN 2 NATIONS A South African court ruled Wednesday that gay and lesbian couples could adopt children, a judgement hailed by gay rights groups as a victory for equality. The judgement must still be upheld by the Constitutional Court here, which is likely to hear it in a few months, legal officials said. Gay rights groups welcomed the decision in the case, brought by a lesbian judge and her partner, but said much remained to be done to end discrimination against gays and lesbians in South Africa.

In Finland, Agence France-Presse reported today that the Finnish Parliament approved a law allowing gays to register as couples and to obtain some but not all of the rights of married couples. Under the new law, same-sex couples who register their unions can, for example, inherit property from each other and visit if one of the partners becomes hospitalized, a right previously reserved for relatives, a Finnish government spokesman said. But same-sex couples cannot adopt children or take a common surname.

(REUTERS) October 3, 2001

ZIMBABWE: LAND CONFISCATION MAY PROCEED The Supreme Court ruled that the government could continue acquiring white-owned farms through forced sale. The judges said they would determine at a later date whether the police have restored law and order on farms that have been invaded by black squatters.

(NYT) October 3, 2001

EUROPE

IRELAND: A VOTE ON TOUGHER ABORTION LAWS The Irish government announced plans to hold a national referendum before next spring on measures that will make it more difficult for women to have abortions. According to the outcome of a 1992 Supreme Court case, abortion is illegal in Ireland unless carrying the pregnancy to term threatens the mother's life, or if she threatens to commit suicide. The new proposal will create legislation to uphold that ban and will remove the suicide provision.

(NYT) October 3, 2001

SWITZERLAND: THOUSANDS STRANDED IN AIRLINE CRISIS Thousands of people were left stranded in airports across Europe on Wednesday as two national carriers teetered on the verge of collapse. Swissair planes did not leave the tarmac for the second day running, as the airline failed to find cash to pay for fuel. Its shares plunged 97% at the opening of trading. Swissair chairman Marti Corti announced late on Wednesday afternoon that a cash injection from the Swiss Government would allow some flights to start again on Thursday, although full capacity would not be achieved. Meanwhile, Belgian airline Sabena — in which Swissair held a big stake — filed for bankruptcy protection, though its planes still took to the air. Up to 39,000 people are said to have bought what are now worthless tickets for 470 Swissair flights scheduled to depart on Wednesday.

(BBC) October 3, 2001

THE AMERICAS

COLOMBIA: OPPOSITION LAWMAKER SLAIN Gunmen assassinated an opposition congressman, the third lawmaker to be slain in the last year. Octavio Sarmiento, of the Liberal Party, was shot and killed near Tame, in the eastern state of Arauca. The killing came three days after the body of a former culture minister, Consuelo Araujo, was found after her kidnapping. (AP) October 3, 2001

UNITED STATES: US SENATE BACKS VIETNAM TRADE PACT Trade between Vietnam and the US is predicted to double since the US Senate approved an agreement normalising trade relations with America's former enemy on Tuesday. Senators voted 88 to 12 in favour of the move, which was negotiated by the Clinton administration last year. The move is the culmination of a 10-year reconciliation process between the two countries, which only established formal relations in 1995. Last month, the House of Representatives gave its backing to the agreement, which will now go to President Bush to be signed into law. Senate Finance Committee chairman Senator Max Baucus said the vote "represents an important step in the healing process, a step that has been a long time coming".

(BBC) October 3, 2001

ASIA

INDIA: FARMERS PROTEST W.T.O. Thousands of farmers rallied in Bangalore to protest the World Trade Organization, saying it was allied with multinational corporations against farmers. M. D. Nanjundaswamy, who fought the entry of Kentucky Fried Chicken into India, said W.T.O. rules allow in cheap imports and forced a reduction of subsidies. Celia W. Dugger (NYT) October 3, 2001

PAKISTAN: AID GROUP CONVOYS HEAD INTO AFGHANISTAN The main United Nations aid groups — the World Food Program, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and Unicef — said yesterday they are taking urgent measures to send aid convoys into Afghanistan. Unicef is using 800 donkeys to carry some 200 tonnes of clothes, food, water and purification tablets over the 4,500-metre Shah Saleem pass in Pakistan's northwest. (REUTERS) October 3, 2001

NEPAL: MAOISTS FREE POLICEMEN Maoist rebels who have demanded that Nepal abolish a monarchy recently blighted by mass murder released 22 policemen as a gesture to improve the atmosphere for peace talks with the government. Those freed were among the 71 policemen captured by rebels two months ago in western Nepal. (NYT) October 3, 2001



Photo: Kevin Forneris

Tuition fees are higher this year than last, forcing many students to work longer hours to make ends meet.



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