

# 1500 March on N.S. Legislature

by Valerie Mansour

Halifax (CUP)-- A noisy group of 1500 people marched on the Nova Scotia Legislature Friday March 25 to protest a government decision to reduce post-secondary education funding.

The marchers, including students, faculty, and maintenance workers, gathered at Dalhousie University and proceeded two kilometres downtown to Province House carrying placards, chanting, and singing.

The Atlantic Association of Universities (AAU) had requested, through the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Council (MPHEC), a 12.5% increase in university funding. The MPHEC then recommended an 11.5% increase to the government. As well, they asked that tuition costs be frozen for three years, but if that did not happen, they requested that tuition not be any more than 4%. The Council of Maritime Premiers has rejected their recommendations and has decided to grant an increase in funding of 7% for 1977-78.

Premier Gerald Regan told the crowd that "we are living in a difficult time and students must carry a portion of the increased costs". He promised to do everything in his power to stop an unreasonable increase. Regan stated that he was not prepared to "take money away from hospitals or social services", but he was reluctant to discuss other recipients of government funding such as large corporations.

Opposition leader John Buchanen told the protesters that he would "introduce a resolution to call on the government to insure no more than a minimal increase in tuition."

NDP leader Jeremy Akerman received an unenthusiastic response when he declined to support students demands. He stated that he would not consent to more public money being handed to universities until "better priorities are shown by university administrations."

Support was expressed for the student requests by Roland Pucetti on behalf of the Nova Scotia Faculty Association, and by Gerry Jollimore President of the Nova Scotia Labour Council. "We're all in this together," Jollimore suggested, "You're all the children of workers."

March organizers were

pleased with the turnout. AFS/FEA secretary coordinator Don Soucy was impressed with the students who did not fall for the government's comments. "They tried to con students and be emotional, but the students saw through that to the real issue. An increase in tuition fees means more poor students will be pushed out."

At a meeting on Thursday Regan told students that he did not have faith in the MPHEC recommendations. "They have only been around for a couple of years and do not have enough information." He also said that the Council of Maritime Premiers' decision was based solely on economic considerations, not academic.

Nova Scotia's media gave favorable treatment to Wednesday's public forum at Dalhousie and interviewed both students and faculty.

Students taking part in the march were from eleven of the Province's twelve institutions: Nova Scotia College of Art and Design, Nova Scotia Institute of Technology, Kings College, Dalhousie, Saint Mary's, and Mount Saint Vincent Universities in Halifax; Acadia in Wolfville; Saint Francis Xavier in Antigonish; College of Cape Breton in Sydney; and the Nova Scotia Teachers College and Agricultural College in Truro.

Student leaders anticipate further action prior to the end of this year's term.

## NEXUS

NEXUS 75-76 (last year) should arrive on campus any day now as the yearbooks are now enroute from Winnipeg and a bill has been received for shipping charges.

### Sweet sound of the Jasbo Panthers

By Tony Reddin

The UPEI Music Department is still kicking!

Bert Terseeg's Jasbo Panthers, along with special guest stars, the Charlottetown Modern Dancers, performed for a full house Wednesday evening in the Steele Recital Hall. They put on an excellent show; the jazz stage band blended together very well in volume and tone and the jazz dancers gave the audience a professional-looking taste of an art

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form unfamiliar to most Islanders.

Despite rumours and tragic facts I have encountered which indicate severe internal problems in the Music Dept., Wednesday's music was quite untroubled and very much alive. I'm hoping another concert will be squeezed in before the end of the year.

## Leaving ?

Are you leaving beloved old UPEI this year but don't want to forget the damn place completely?

Well, the cadre has decided to offer you (because you're so special) a subscription to the cadre for only \$5 per year. All you have to do is drop into the dropbox in the basement of Memorial: your name, mailing address, and \$5.

If you don't trust us (God forbid but we forgive) you can get a receipt from M. SCHAAD in the Student Union office.

Also, for potential transfers, we have campus newspapers from just about every campus in Canada. Talk to Tony Reddin or get the key for the office from M.S. and look for yourself.

# GENERAL MEETING WED., APRIL 6 DUFFY AMPHY YOUNG