

Student reps to lobby Mulroney Ministers

OTTAWA (CUP) — Four Tory cabinet ministers whose policies may have a profound impact on students are the target of the Canadian Federation of Students' upcoming lobby campaign.

Youth minister Andree Champagne, employment minister Flora MacDonald, finance minister Michael Wilson and secretary of state Walter McLean will receive letters and phone calls from CFS congratulating them on their appointments and encouraging them to press the government for adequate university funding.

CFS representatives will meet the four ministers in their Parliament Hill offices before Nov. 5, in a bid to make student issues an important item on the Tory's parliamentary agenda.

After the warm handshakes and polite introductions, however, the student leaders will pressure the minister to take concrete steps to ensure that federal transfer payments to provinces for education are passed on to universities and colleges.

Last year, some provinces failed to pass on the full amount of money set aside by the federal government for education. The most notable example was B.C., which failed to pass on the federal government's eight per cent increase in funding, and is reducing funding by 24 per

cent this year.

The federation wants the federal government to offer financial incentives to provinces that give institutions enough money, penalize those that fail to live up to stated financial commitments and come up with national goals for Canada's post-secondary education system.

"We want a national dialogue on education. We want to include business, labor, students and anyone who's interested in education in this dialogue," says CFS executive office Diane Flaherty.

Flaherty says two of the ministers, namely MacDonald and McLean, presented some of the federation's concerns on education to Parliament while they were in opposition, and she is optimistic they will do so again. Flaherty says she hopes they will encourage other Tory MPs to support the federation's campaign, called "guaranteed tied funding."

"I'm not sure how representative (MacDonald and McLean) are of the Tory caucus, but I'm sure they're influential," she says.

The federation's campaign — which includes lobby meetings with all 211 Tory MPs and will culminate in a national lobby, Nov. 8 — is similar to that of the Canadian Association of University Teachers. CAUT

has also asked the government to set up a federal post-secondary act that would stop provinces from diverting federal grants away from education.

The education act calls for federal education grants to be earmarked, a post-secondary advisory council, made up of politicians, teachers and students and for a new parliamentary standing committee

on science, research and education.

Flaherty's says CFS's campaign will ensure Tory MPs understand the need for an adequately funded education system and will help them when they renegotiate the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act, formerly known as the

Established Programs Financing Act.

Flaherty suspects the Act will be renegotiated between the federal and provincial governments in early spring, after the Tory's first budget is tabled. She says the Act must be renegotiated because its expiry date comes up this year and governments are changing their positions on education financing.

The release of the Great Brain Robbery, a book written by three historians who demand that universities become more elitist, and the upcoming report of the Bovey commission, named after entrepreneur Edmund Bovey and set up to plan the reshaping of Ontario's universities, mean that governments are becoming more reluctant than ever to pump large sums of money into education, Flaherty says.

"There are changes in thinking on funding but not a lot of understanding of the issues," she says. "It's important that MPs know the historical background of post-secondary education funding before being asked to pass a bill on the issue ... (otherwise) the tendency is to renegotiate in a purely fiscal sense."

Last year, the Liberal government imposed the six and five restraint program on federal education transfer payments, causing a loss of \$116 million in the 1983-84 funding year and \$250 million in 1984-85.

The Tories have already told the federation they will not restore the losses, but have pledged to maintain funding of universities' and colleges' basic operating costs as provided for in the 1977 federal-provincial funding agreement.



So you scalped tickets at Haywire? Bad person. Shame. Don't do it again ... or else (Photo: Hartinger)

Student Union tries to crush scalping

By Carolyn Ryan

Amid rumours of widespread scalping at a recent Main Event, and suggestions that a Councillor may have been involved, The Student Union Council has passed a policy on ticket sales for future Events.

The regulation, which was formed at Council's meeting Sunday night, will restrict sales to four tickets per person. As well, on Monday sales will be limited to students with ID's from UPEI, Holland College, and the PEI School of Nursing. After that, the four ticket limit will be enforced for non-students wanting tickets.

Councillors approved the motion after one and a half hours of discussion, despite a statement from Councillor and Campus Police member Norman Beck that "scalping wasn't a big problem at the Haywire event," on October 4.

VP Internal Howard Beattie, who is in charge of booking events for the Barn,

opposed the motion, saying the maximum number of tickets sold to any one person that week was six.

"Scalping is going to happen whatever you do ... unless you limit sales to one ticket per person," he protested, adding that the only way to stop illegal ticket resales is for students to refuse to buy them from scalpers, thus drying up their incentive.

Still, the motion to limit sales passed, as Councillors expressed a wish to "make it as difficult as possible for a person to scalp," (as expressed by Business Rep Kevin Wisener.)

SU President Michele Dorsey agreed, admitting the scheme "won't work one hundred per cent." She called it "a psychological trick to make people perceive scalping as being harder to do now."

Dorsey told the meeting that she had received a complaint about a Councillor participating in the scalping,

saying "if I ever hear tell of it again, I'll move immediately for impeachment."

Such a move would involve an interpretation of the year-old Student Union constitution, which does not set moral requirements for Council members.

The elected representatives of the students of UPEI decided to add a clause restricting Monday sales to students only after much discussion of the high number of "townies" at Haywire.

However, Panther Lounge manager Gerard MacDonald spoke from the gallery to inform Council that the number of names on the sign-in sheet (a list which must be signed by all non-students who are with students of UPEI) was 46, no larger than usual for a sold-out Main Event.

Senator Gordon Cobb originally called for a limited of two tickets per person, but the motion was changed after Beattie told Council this would be unfair to stu-

dents with classes all morning when tickets go on sale.

The Haywire tickets had all been sold by 1:45 on the Monday they went on sale.

Restricting some sales to the night of the event was also considered, but it was decided this would cause too much confusion for the Campus Police and would be unfair to students arriving on Thursday evening too late to purchase a ticket, who could have made other plans if they'd known in advance the event was sold out.

At times the newly-elected Councillors seemed confused, especially when the motion to restrict sales was tabled, by a motion from Board of Governors rep Steve Zakem, who said, "I just don't want to stay here all night talking about this."

The motion to table was then reconsidered, and defeated, before the original motion to limit sales was carried.

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Quote of the Week

"I prefer a little hole to a big hole."

UPEI student
from Gander, NFLD.