

STUDENTS FACING INCREASES

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) Students at Memorial University began planning action Monday to protest inadequate government funding for the university and student aid changes announced in a provincial budget Friday.

The university recommended an operating grant increase of just over eight per cent, which would have covered cost increases at existing service levels. However the university will receive increases of just over four per cent.

MUN president M.O. Morgan said Monday fee increases are "very likely" as a result of the

government decisions, although he was unable to say how much of an increase students can expect.

He said the university will have to look hard in all areas, but noted there is "a high degree of inflexibility" cutting back on the institution's budget in the short term.

The provincial government also announced loan requirements for provincial grants would be raised \$250 forcing students to borrow \$700 each term before they become eligible for grants under the provincial bursary plan.

Annette Clarke, a

Memorial representative on the Atlantic Federation of Students, said Monday an ad hoc committee is making plans to protest the government decisions, but was not sure what form any action would take.

Clarke said students had no knowledge of the severity of the budget position until late Friday, however she indicated MUN students would protest the move before the end of classes, possibly in conjunction with AFS-NUS demonstrations in Halifax, Sydney and Yarmouth.

The provincial budget also included a \$750,000 grant that would match the money students gave to the university last month to assist start up costs for a new library. The government indicated they would also match the university dollar for dollar to a maximum of seven million to complete

the library, which will cost 15 million.

The university will have to launch a national drive to make up for the remainder of its share of the library costs, but Morgan feels construction on the new facility will start this year.

Morgan added the university has been under an austerity program for two years and he expects it will be much more difficult to meet its non-deficit requirement this year than in previous years.

He said the administration's worst fears were a six per cent increase which would have been approximately the same as that received by maritime institutions. Due to the timing of the information Morgan said the university will not be able to cut faculty or staff, but will have to look hard at other, non-salaried areas of expenditure.

8,000 STUDENTS MARCH

TORONTO (CUP) - More than 8,000 students marched through Toronto March 16 to protest cutbacks in government funding of education and voice their concern for continued government neglect for the quality of education. It was the largest student demonstration in Ontario ever held.

Students from more than a dozen Ontario institutions met at the University of Toronto at 1 p.m., then marched to Queen's Park, shouting, "They say cut-back, we say fight back," and "Cut Bill (Davis), not back."

There were nearly 2,000 students from U. of T., and more than 2,000 from Ryerson Polytechnical Institute -- one of the institutions hardest hit by the government decision to increase funding for Ontario institutions by only 5.8 per cent.

Gathering at Queen's Park, students heard messages of support from faculty and support staff associations, and from student organizations in the Atlantic Provinces, the Prairies, B.C. and from the National Union of Students in Ottawa. The rally had been endorsed by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations and the Ontario Federation of Students.

Ontario premier Bill Davis and Minister of Colleges and Universities Harry Parrott continually refused to speak with students at the rally, despite repeated calls for "Harry".

Members of both opposition parties spoke with students, and were well received, as was Cliff Pilkie of the Ontario Federation of Labour.

Just before the demonstration started, occupations at two institutions ended so that students could attend the rally. The occupations at Guelph University and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute pressed demands for cancelling classes so that occupations at the University of Toronto ended the day before, when students said they had won their most important goal -- publicity for the rally.

Occupations at Trent University and Carleton University the week before the rally were successful in closing those universities for the day of the rally.

Most universities and colleges remained officially open for the day, although students were told that there would be no repercussions taken against them for attending the protest.

SENIOR CLASS

Okay, Seniors, your opportunity is here to get involved in Class events and to help in fund raising.

Thursday, April 6th is designated Senior Day at U.P.E.I. There will be events in the Barn in the afternoon and night for you to participate in.

In the Panther Lounge there will be a Pub from 1:00 - 5:00. From 2:00 to 3:00 there will be chugging contests between Faculty and Students so get your team of four members and see who are the best chuggers on campus. From 3:00 - 5:00 there will be a talent - joke pub so get your guitar, fiddle, washboard or joke book and come to the Panther Lounge. There will be prizes for participants and as well door prizes for everyone who comes.

In the afternoon of April 6 from 1:00 to 4:00 and in the morning from 11:00 to 12:00 Heckbert's Studio will be located on the second floor of the

Barn to distribute grad photos. Payments must be made in full and this will be the only day they will be here. Just as a reminder - the yearbook needs a black and white grad photo as soon as possible. If you had your pictures taken by people other than Heckbert's, please get a negative and give it to Brendon Bulger at the Student Union Office as soon as possible and if you haven't ordered your pictures from Heckbert's yet, do so now.

In the evening of April 6th there will be a Pig 'n Whistle sponsored by Senior Class. Try to get as many people to go as possible because this is one of our last Pigs.

There will be a Senior Class office in the Alumni Office in Kelley Building so if you have any suggestions or problems, please drop in.

Now, get your chugging teams together and we will see you on April 6th!

Jeanette, Sue, Martha