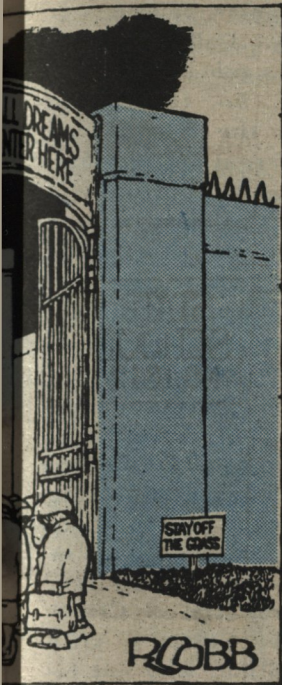


FORUM MEASURE UP?



Trainor, chair of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS).

Although finances will receive some attention, organizers did not plan to address the question of federal-provincial cost sharing because provincial governments refused to attend until they received assurances that federal-provincial relations would not be on the agenda.

"We exclude direct dealing with federal-provincial fiscal arrangements," said Deputy Forum Secretary Del Lyngseth.

The Mulroney government promised a national forum on PSE in last year's Throne Speech, touting it as the first step in solving the financial troubles facing Canada's post-secondary system. The provinces refused to attend until they received assurances that the key topic of federal-provincial relations would not be on the agenda.

Ironically, these fiscal arrangements are, for many representatives from Universities and Colleges, the most important issue.

"Established Programs Funding (EPF) must be addressed if the Forum is to

have any purpose at all," said Tony Macerollo, Chair of the Canadian Federation of Students. EPF is the current system of transferring funds for PSE from the federal government to the provinces. Originally intended as a cost-sharing program, EPF has left Ottawa footing most of the

bills while the provinces decide where the money is spent. Provincial contributions have deteriorated under the EPF system.

Macerollo is also concerned that governments are using the forum to avoid taking any action on higher education issues now.

"Politicians are saying: 'we'll discuss it at the national forum'," said Macerollo. "We don't need a forum to know about debt load or that thousands of qualified students are being turned away from colleges and universities this fall. Consultation is nice, but these issues have to be addressed now."

Graham Flack a student from Dalhousie University who was chosen to be on the organising committee, wants to see a "full and frank" discussion of tuition fees.

Flack wants the forum to discuss new ideas like doubling tuition fees for wealthier students and using the extra revenue for bursaries and loans to students from lower income backgrounds.

"We have to look at new ideas and many of them will be trashed, but if we can get just a few good ones out of this forum, we will have succeeded," said Flack.

Genevieve Tanguay, a McGill graduate student on the organising committee said grad students are hoping to make a case for guaranteed annual income (through student aid) in recognition of the research work they do.

British Columbia seems to be taking the most initiative in terms of forum preparation. A pre-forum meeting for all B.C. delegates was held at Simon Fraser University September 26 and 27. The provincial television network will air a phone-in panel on October 14 (8 p.m.), to gauge the views of the B.C. public before the National Forum.

The 13 Ontario student delegates to the Ontario Federation of Students will meet this Saturday to "set out what we'd like to see accomplished and what our priorities are," said Weir, chair of the Federation.

Weir said plans are underway for a lobby session of provincial MPs October 20-22 as well as some sort of activity on the campuses of Ontario's colleges and universities to coincide with the forum itself.

"The best thing that could happen," said Trainor, "is that this forum will become a permanent inter-provincial structure for discussing post-secondary education issues."

The Choices of Clio

by Malcolm Gorrill

There once was a Freshman named Clio,
Who came to UPEI,
And was at once assaulted
By every club under the sky!

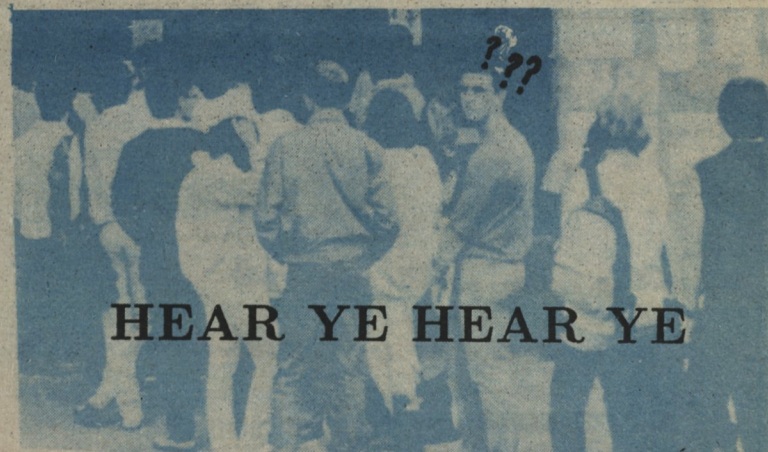
First he turned down the Bios,
As he was not interested in dissecting frogs,
But then came the Engineers,
Who were anxious to design a few more bogs!

He listened to their arguments,
But then turned them down,
As he had not come to college,
To learn how to be a clown!

Business and economic students touted him,
As did many other groups and clubs,
But Clio did not feel he belonged to any of them,
And so he went downtown for a sub!

But then he heard of the newly-formed History Society,
And decided to give it a try;
He was hooked after one meetin. As you would be too

If you dared to be so spry!



HEAR YE HEAR YE

ALL STUDENTS OF THE UNION

There will be a GENERAL MEETING of the UPEI Student Union body
(That includes YOU)

Wednesday, October 14th

11:00 AM

Robertson Library Lounge

(The Pit, The Fishbowl)

find out what your Student Union is doing for you.