

A DAY OF MOURNING



A FUNERAL procession and Irish wake will be held later today to mourn the potential passing of quality higher education in PEI. The wake and procession are part of the National Week of Action organized by the Canadian Federation of Students being held across Canada this week.

Lisa Murphy, one of the fifteen Student Union committee members who have been organizing this week's events says that this dramatic day of mourning is being held to emphasize the plight of university education in PEI.

"It's to draw attention to the fact that the quality of our education has declined. We want the public to be made aware of the students' discontent", she says.

The protest will begin with a coffin being displayed in The Pit in Robertson library at 11:00 today. Murphy says they plan to fill the 7-foot black coffin with post cards students have been filling out all week to send to Ottawa. The coffin will remain in the pit until 7:45,

when a procession of students to an Irish wake at The Barn will begin.

Murphy says this procession will have all the touches.

"There will be six pallbearers, a grim reaper, and one student will be a keener (to cry as the procession heads to the barn)", she says. "Marian Hall has prepared a chant and the Music society is providing a tape of funeral music."

Black armbands will also be handed out for students to wear and information sheets explaining why the protest is being held will be given out.

Once reaching The Barn around 8:00, a memorial service will be held. Debating Society member Barry Linkletter will deliver an eulogy for higher education which Murphy describes as 'full of fire and brimstone'. To top off the protest, an 'Irish Wake' pub is to be held in the Panther Lounge following the service. The pub will feature Irish song group 'Shellelagh Anne', a duo which has played at the Dublin Pub downtown.

Murphy says that they decided

to stage this dramatic day of mourning rather than just a straightforward protest because of the serious nature of the events involved.

"We don't want to offend anyone", she says. "This is a very serious issue and to draw attention to serious issues sometimes you have to take an approach like this... students don't want to watch our tuition costs rise and rise and not get anything back."

The 'National Week of Action' is a week of events being held at universities across Canada. The coordinator for the week is national student organization The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), which the students of UPEI joined in 1984.

The main issue Action Week is focusing on is federal transfer payments to provinces to be used for higher education. CFS says the problem with the payments is that they are inadequate

to maintain the quality of universities and that the monies intended for higher education are not being used by the provinces entirely for that purpose.

Under an agreement between the governments, the federal government provides each province with a transfer payment called Established Program Financing (EPF) to help maintain the level of health and higher education services.

The total amount each province gets differs and is calculated by the federal government by allotting a certain for each program. According to figures calculated by Murphy, the federal government allots 32.1% of the EPF for higher education. The provinces have a moral, but not legal, obligation to spend the funds as allotted and it appears only 28.8% is actually going towards universities and colleges.

National Action week has been designed to bring

public attention to these and other issues. Murphy says that each university participating in the week is staging their own events—some are asking their students to boycott classes for the day of mourning while one other university is building a cross.

In addition to the mock funeral being held tonight, the Student Union has organized events on Friday to round out the week. At 11:00 Premier Ghiz will address students in The Robertson Library Pit.

The committee organizing National Action Week urge all UPEI students to participate in the funeral and wake and the other activities left in the week. The education coffin will be on display in the pit today until 7:45 when the procession is scheduled to begin. Students are encouraged to wear black and faculty and members of the public are welcome to join in. The Irish wake pub begins in the Barn at 9:00 ■

No increase in summer jobs funding

by Michelle Lalonde

OTTAWA (CUP) — Jean Charest says students can thank a lower unemployment rate and a booming economy for the government's zero per cent increase in funding to the summer job program, Challenge 88.

The federal minister of youth announced January 12 that funding for the job creation program will remain frozen at the summer '86 and '87 levels of \$180 million.

Charest also announced that \$4 million more of that money will go toward the high school drop-out component of the program.

"Those who have benefited the most from the program are college, CEGEP and university students, so that's why we are concerned

about the secondary level students, especially potential drop-outs," said Charest adding that college and university graduates represent only six per cent of total unemployed in Canada.

But student leaders are angry and disappointed with the announcement.

"I can't for the life of me see why we should be pleased. Funding for summer employment has been decreasing since 1985 and this latest 'no increase' erodes benefits students hoped to gain from a lower unemployment rate," said Tony Macerollo, chair of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

Last summer's jobless rate for returning students of 12.5 per cent was the low-



Jean Charest, Minister of State for Youth

est since 1981, down slightly from the summer '86 rate of 13.3 per cent. However, rates were up substantially in Saskatchewan (from 12.7 per cent in '86 to 15.6 in '87), and in Quebec (from 14.8 to 15.8).

Charest said the Challenge program reflects regional disparities, with more

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