

## New Brunswick Students May Hold Aid Protest

New Brunswick university students voted Monday on a referendum calling for "students of the universities to join with the other students of the province in a demonstration against the oppressive student aid program of the provincial government."

Results were unknown at presstime. The referendum, sponsored by the New Brunswick caucus of the Atlantic Federation of Students, does not specify what form the demonstration will take but the students representative council at the University of New Brunswick in Saint John has voted to support a province-wide student strike.

Randy Hatfield, president of the UNBSJ student council, said that in Saint John the students would probably march on the Provincial Building, if the referendum is passed. While students at other campuses would arrange their own demonstrations.

The UNB academic senate voted Tuesday to support the demonstration providing it lasts only two days, and asked professors not to penalize students taking part in the demonstration.

Mr. Hatfield said the New Brunswick Federation of Labor has also declared its support for the proposed demonstration.

Currently, New Brunswick's student aid program is identical to P.E.I.'s. The students are asking that the maximum loan be set at \$900 and the remainder, up to the total of \$2,800, be considered a bursary.

The students also want the interest-free period to last one year after graduation instead of the current six months and allocations for living expenses to be increased by 25 percent and indexed to the rate of inflation.

In addition, the students' federation is seeking placement of student representatives on all government bodies dealing with student aid.

Mr. Hatfield said student representatives have had six meetings in the past year with provincial officials responsible for student aid in their effort to have the changes made, but they have received a negative response.

He said that the changes proposed by the Atlantic Federation of Students would bring New Brunswick's system to a par with that of Newfoundland.

He said he did not think students would be apathetic towards the issue.

"The biggest thing is to make them realize it is not going to be a radical, rock-throwing, banner-waving strike.

"We're trying to hit the government with the numbers game. There are 14000 students in this province - that's 14000 votes; and then there are their parents too."

Evelyn Briggs, director of student aid in the New Brunswick provincial department of youth, said she had not received a copy of the students' demands, and therefore found it somewhat difficult to comment on them. However, she said she knew basically what the demands were from meetings with the students.

She said it is probably true that student in New Brunswick incur larger debts than those in Newfoundland, but there are a lot of strings attached to the program in Newfoundland.

She said students who attend university outside Newfoundland, when their courses are offered within the province, are not eligible for any student aid, while New Brunswick students can attend any university in the world, and still be eligible.



## Library Floor Shows Buckles in the Tile

UPEI's new \$3,000,000 library had yet another in its increasingly long list of problems in construction when the second level mezzanine tile buckled on Sunday.

The tile rose about four inches above the underlying cement resulting in the destruction of a strip about twelve feet long and up to three feet wide.

Since its completion about a year ago, the building has suffered from faulty wiring and a leaky roof. At present UPEI is attempting to get some recompense from either the builder or the architect for the damage.

According to one workman "the latest problem shows that the building is unsafe and should be closed" until a complete investigation is done into the construction.

He is scared that the floor may fall through.

But according to Merritt Crockett, the Head Librarian "it seems to be a flaw in the way the quarry tile was laid down." Originally he and the construction firm "were afraid that the flaw was in the building but it now looks (his emphasis-ed) like its just in the tile."

However, aside from the obvious carnage to the floor, there is a hairline crack in the wall of men's washroom.

This reporter saw Merritt Crockett come storming out of the washroom while a workman stood by with an 'oh-oh' look on his face.

The contract for the building expired yesterday.

Meanwhile the roof still leaks.

## Carleton Joins March Against Ontario Student Aid Policies

Ottawa (CUP)---- Carleton university students are planning to boycott classes and join a province wide march on Toronto, January 21, to protest "massive and regressive revisions" to student-aid programs and the dropping of the federally-sponsored Opportunities for Youth program.

At a Carleton University Students Association (CUSA) open meeting January 9 President

Dave Dunn said, "It appears both governments are taking aim at post-secondary education."

The students predicted militant action if the province and federal governments continue to tamper with the quality and access to post-secondary education.

It is expected that buses will be rented by CUSA to get the students from Ottawa to Toronto

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