

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

N.B. Students Form Coalition

FREDERICTON (CUP)- Responding to their own lack of organization students at New Brunswick post-secondary institutions decided to form a provincial student coalition at a meeting here Feb. 11.

Representatives from Mount Allison, the University of New Brunswick at St. John and UNB at Fredericton said they felt one of the reasons New Brunswick institutions will receive less government support next year than those in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island could be because New Brunswick students are not as well organized.

The New Brunswick government plans to increase funding levels at

the province's institutions next year by 6.7 per cent while institutions in the other Maritime provinces will have a one per cent boost from their governments over the 6.7 level.

Delegates at the meeting which began as a provincial caucus meeting of the Atlantic Federation of Students, agreed upon the need for New Brunswick students to approach and be recognized as a group by government agencies.

Although the organization, titled the New Brunswick Coalition of Students, does not want to be seen as an arm of AFS, delegates said they wanted to use AFS resource resources. The NBCS agreed to use an AFS-

produced questionnaire on cutbacks for their own purposes and to pass the results on to the federation.

The immediate concern of NBCS will be to stress the importance of equal accessibility to education and examine the larger implications of funding shortfalls, particularly in light of the more severe situation in New Brunswick.

Coalition chairperson Susan Shalala from UNB at Fredericton was mandated to prepare a statement outlining why NBCS was formed to be distributed to the press and students. Shalala will also co-ordinate the results of the cutbacks survey which will be used to demonstrate the need for the coalition of students. The coalition will meet again in Sackville on March 18.

CHILDRENS PLAY SET FOR THIS WEEK

Please Don't Sneeze, a two-act musical for children, will be presented at the Dr. Steel Recital Hall on February 23, 24 and 25. Written by Chris Wiggins, the popular production was presented a few years ago at the Children's Circus Tent Theatre, during the Charlottetown Festival.

Suited particularly for children aged 5 to 12 years, the play tells the story of a family kingdom in which good overcomes evil.

The play will feature young amateur actors in Area Three School Unit under the direction of Tom Crothers, director of

the highly successful production The Chappell Diary. Mr. Crothers is a Sessional Lecturer in Education at the University.

The set design and construction will be executed by Art students of Holland College Design Department and the Unit Three School Board.

Besides special performances for Island school children, three public performances will be presented at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Tickets are 75 cents each and will be on sale at the door.

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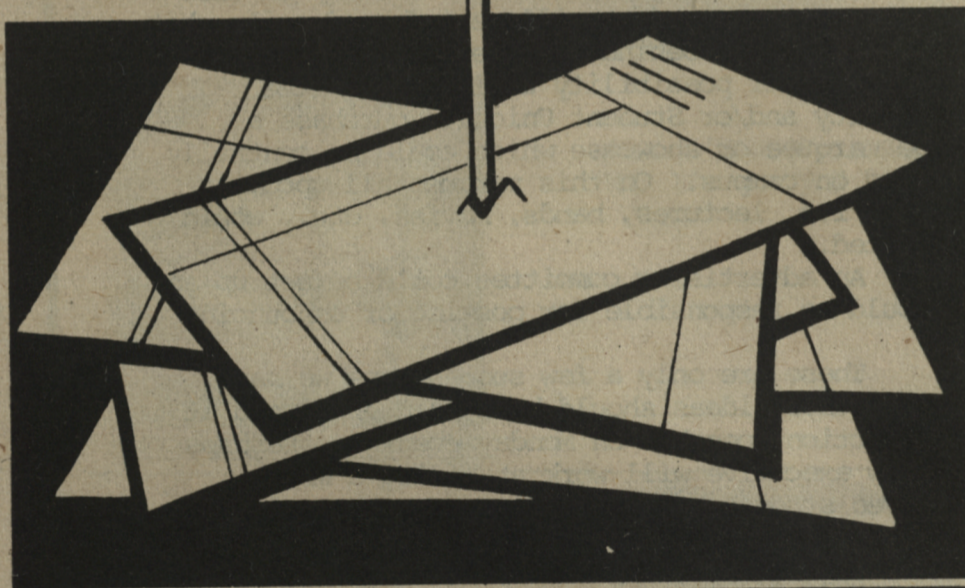
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dent of the University, Dr. Meincke. Gauthier would like to see the Student Union assume a new face, a more responsible one so that the Union will be more than just a social committee. He would remain open to the approaches from all students and student groups.

Alan Hilton said that the President has to be "totally receptive and responsive to the Student body." Hilton promised to close the gap between members of Student Council and Council Executives.

He said a priority of the President should be to deal with the political problems and protect the best interests of the student body. As President he would enforce the Bursary fund which would direct financial assistance to students who really need it. He said a President should try to insure that the human resources at hand are fully utilized to their full potential. He didn't believe that PEI should support the AFS the way the organization now stands but that if the students elected to stay in, he would

respect that and lobby his efforts in that area. An alternative, he said, would be to establish a liaison committee.

After the candidates' speeches were over, Ray Shalala briefly spoke about AFS. By the time the nomination speeches were over, a good deal of the students in attendance had left. The evening lasted 2 hours.

It has been said that this year's elections have been the most boring in some time. Last year one of the major issues was the continued existence of

the Student Union, a topic which generated a fair amount of interest and discussion this year the topics are constructive ones; mainly business choices that a well running organization must make.

These decisions were beyond the scope of last year's Council. Students should approach the new Student Council with a great deal of optimism as those "boring" election topics prove that the Council is and hopefully will continue to get things done for the students.