

NEWS

Deadline: Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon. Newsdesk: 453-4983

Full house for Co-Op education discussion

by Mimi Cormier

A panel discussion on UNB's Co-Operative Education program was heard by only a standing-room audience last Monday night.

The panel discussion, which was sponsored by UNB's Computer Science Co-Op Program included speakers representing employers as well as students involved in the Co-Op program.

According to Beverly Plume, coordinator and MC of the panel discussion, the goal of the event was "to make Co-Op Education more well-known in New Brunswick." It was held as part of National Co-Op Education Week, which runs November 3 to 9.

At the panel discussion, there was also a presentation of a cheque to the Canadian Cancer Society. Students in the Computer Science faculty raised money for the Society through T-shirt sales, in memory of a fellow faculty student who died of the disease last year.

In his opening remarks before the panel discussion, UNB President Robin Armstrong said that Co-Op Education is "a form of enrichment that's an absolute and total bonus," and "an option one should give serious consideration to."

Other speakers also praised the benefits of the Co-Op program. Dr. Steven Rauch, of UNB's computer Science faculty, described the program as "experiential learning" that provides a "complete education for students" with "real experience" on the job.

Students participating in Co-Operative Education programs alternate terms of study with work terms of four months each. The program tries to place students with employers during these work terms, so that students are working in jobs related to their field of study. At the completion of each work term, students must complete a re-

port. Businesses that qualify may be subsidized by the government for participating in the program.

Francis Eying, a representative of Michelin, was enthusiastic about this company's experiences with the program. Eying said that Michelin uses the program "as a recruiting tool, focused towards our long-term hiring needs." He added that Michelin's three Nova Scotia plants have been part of the program since 1983.

A representative of NB Power, Danny McBride, said that "unlike Michelin, the Government of NB is not in a growth cycle" due to the recession and budget cutbacks by the provincial Government. But he said that there are no plans for the NB Government to stop hiring students through the program.

Al Williamson, representing NB Supply and Services, also said that there was "no indication of any job cuts in the Co-Op Placement Program" in his department.

Williamson found that students hired through the program "provide a degree of eagerness" to their work.

Among the UNB students who spoke at the panel discussion were Anna MacDonald, Bob McGuire and Jennifer Reeves. McGuire, a fifth year Computer Science student, says that he "didn't find any drawbacks at all with the Co-Op program."

McGuire cites as one of the program's benefits the fact that it "allows you to develop skills you might not get at university."

Nancy Nauss, another fifth year Computer Science student in the program, says it is a good program "if it's the kind of place you'd like to stay at." She praises the program as "a learning experience" and says "I'm much more confident with interviews."

Co-Op programs are more widespread in other parts of Canada, and mainly at Ontario

universities. Most universities with Co-Op programs became involved within the past decade, including UNB.

UNB Fredericton's Computer Science faculty is currently the only one on campus

with a Co-Op program, although it is possible for other faculties to have Co-Op programs.

Plume says the Computer Science faculty is encouraging students to "go back to their

high schools and talk about their experiences" with the program. Plume also says there will be orientation sessions in early January with the Co-Op program.



Computer Science Co-Operative Education program

Anna MacDonald and Tom Friesen present the profits from Co-Op program t-shirt sales to Scott McConaghy, a representative of the Canadian Cancer Society.

Micheal David Smith photo

The Great Pumpkin Sacrifice

A Harrison house tradition for nineteen years.

by Jeffery Czopor

Rituals on college campuses are many and varied - each house is recognized for its particular socials, events, and traditions, and Harrison is perhaps best known for "The Great Pumpkin Sacrifice."

Now, there are many who have not witnessed this "explosive" event that might conjure up unusual ideas as to what it might entail. However, this favored tradition has become sacred to past and present house participants and is hardly looked upon as unusual by them.

The Pumpkin Sacrifice was started in 1972 when two members of Harrison threw a pumpkin off the roof of the house library on Halloween night.

Each year Howard Dill of Windsor, Nova Scotia gener-

ously donates a "megamonster" pumpkin which is carved to represent the Roman god, Janus, a deity with two faces.

According to House President, Sean Daly, the sad face signifies the unhappy students who have performed poorly in their courses or who are apprehensive about the remaining year. The happy face symbolizes "a beautiful academic harvest for the upcoming year." Therefore, the pumpkin is sacrificed with all students in mind.

At 11:30, along with ominous, resonating, organ music, a silent procession starts out of the front doors of Harrison and proceeds solemnly to Lady Dunn Hall. The participants are hooded and reverently carry unlit candles, and the pumpkin is respectfully carried upon what resembles a stretcher.

Upon reaching the courtyard

of Lady Dunn, the pumpkin is lit and the flame from this, in turn, lights all of the candles. The group returns to Harrison for the climactic event, the actual sacrifice. The pumpkin is carefully carried to the library's roof, and three ceremonial prayers are directed to the pumpkin.

At midnight, after much anticipation of the participants and awestruck viewers, the pumpkin is thrown to its tragic end.

This year marked historic significance in that Harrison House has become co-ed, and the event has had to become modified to suit this. Usually, the pumpkin is sacrificed to the women of Lady Dunn. However, this year the ritual stuck closer to home, and the pumpkin was sacrificed and dedicated to the new female occupants of Harrison.

Harrison House evacuated

by Aime Phillips

Residents of Harrison House were forced to evacuate the residence last Sunday morning after a broken heating pipe set off the fire alarm.

According to Residence Manager James Coe "a broken bleeder valve resulted in hot water leakage into the stairwell."

Chantal Guay, a proctor at Harrison, says the pipe had been improperly placed after a repair to the heating system a

month ago. Guay also says after the flooding security was called and a plumber was sent to fix the pipe.

Coe states although no official damage reports are in re-

Placement Service

Continued from page 1

The Senate voted unanimously to support the project in principle.

This agreement is enough to meet federal deadlines for expressing intent, but the real test will be obtaining

monetary approval from the budget committee. Dean of Administration, Ronald Storey, suggested that it would be appropriate to submit some measure of student support as a criteria for the budget committee to use in their assessment.

Female student assaulted

by Karen Burgess

In the forth such incident reported in as many months, another female student has been assaulted on campus.

The assault occurred on Sunday evening, about 7:15, beside McConnell Hall. Apparently, the woman was walking on the west side of the cafeteria when she was pushed from behind.

The assailant threw himself on top of the victim, covered her mouth with his hand and told her not to scream. While the victim was attempting to fight off her assailant, some-

one was heard approaching the scene and the attacker fled.

The man apparently did not carry a weapon, nor did he wear a mask as did the assailant in one of the other cases.

Rick Peacock, director of Campus Security, says that the incident is currently under investigation by the Fredericton City Police. He says that the area around McConnell Hall, where the assault occurred, is one targeted in a recent report to the Physical Plant regarding poor or insufficient lighting.