



Roving ambassador stops



By DAVID PYE

UNB was privileged last week to hear a talk by Richard Gorham, Canada's roving ambassador to Latin America.

Mr. Gorham, a graduate of UNB and former resident of Fredericton, has served Canada as a career diplomat for the past thirty-six years. His areas of specialization are Asia where, for example, he served as our ambassador to the People's Republic of China (1984-87) and Latin America.

His recent appointment as roving ambassador represents the first time that such a position has been created. This enables Canada to maintain a listening post throughout the Southern hemisphere even in those countries such as Ecuador where Canada has closed its embassy due to fiscal restraint.

The theme of his talk was development and peace which the government believes is necessary if multilateral trade is to take place and this in turn

requires long-term political stability in Latin America.

In his talk, Ambassador Gorham noted that Canadians have maintained a presence in Latin America since the nineteenth century but that it was not until the 1970's that we have taken a serious interest in the region. During the 1970's Canada joined the Organization of American States (OAS) with the status of permanent observer. In addition we participate actively in the many subsidiary branches of the OAS.

The ambassador pointed out to the well-attended meeting that the problems of Latin America are linked to the unequal distribution of wealth and numerous incidents of human rights violations. Canada has been encouraging socio-economic and political reform which it believes represents the only way to eradicate the social turbulence of the region.

In response to a question from a member of the audience about the recent fraudulent

elections in Haiti, Ambassador Gorham noted that members of the Haitian community in Canada have brought a lot of pressure to bear on Canada regarding its external aid program to that Caribbean nation. But as Ambassador

Gorham observed, Canada channels its external aid in Haiti through non-governmental organizations and that to cut off such aid would only hurt those who have already suffered enough. Ambassador Gorham also

noted that Canada has been a strong supporter of the Contradora Process, an agreement signed by five of the Central American presidents, aimed at settling the turmoil of that region without foreign interference.

Art Centre faces Bill C-54 head on

Erotica Display

By Marjory Donaldson

The UNB Art Centre is co-operating with other cultural institutions in Fredericton in spotlighting the effects of C-54, the Pornography Bill which is due for its third reading in Parliament in May. In its efforts to stem kiddyporn and the grossest depictions of sexual violence, it is catching in its net traditional artwork which has been considered utterly innocuous until now.

Bill C-54 concerns itself with "eroticism" and "pornography". Even to display erotica a gallery must "pass a prominent warning notice advising of the nature of the display therein or unless the erotica is hidden by a barrier or is covered by an opaque wrapper, (or be) guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction". The gallery could go to court and try to argue "that (a) the accused

took all reasonable steps to ensure that there was no erotica in the thing displayed; or (b) the erotica has artistic merit or an educational, scientific or medical purpose."

"Erotica means any visual matter a dominant characteristic of which is the depiction, in a sexual context or for the purpose of the sexual stimulation of the viewer, of a human sexual organ, a female breast or the human anal region." There is at least one definitely erotic print in the current Art Centre exhibition. But erotic will be out.

It is "pornography" if the visual matter shows sexual violence, degrading acts even if the persons seem to be consenting, and bestiality, etc. it also includes "visual matter that shows . . . the exhibition for a sexual purpose, of a human sexual organ, a female breast or the human anal region of, or in the presence of,

a person who is, or is depicted as being or appears to be, under the age of eighteen years." There are students on the campus under eighteen; nudes are often exhibited in the Art Centre. If someone thinks the Art Centre exhibition is "for a sexual purpose" the work can be seized and held in horrid conditions, the Art Centre staff could be "guilty of an indictable offence and be liable for a term not exceeding ten years" - deemed guilty until proven innocent.

If Bill-C54 comes into law, a number of works in the UNB Fine Arts Collection will be put into storage rather than risk ten years' imprisonment. On March 20th the Art Centre and other galleries in Fredericton will show exhibitions of work which may be forbidden soon. The libraries, museums and other institutions will also be affected. Including *the Brunswickan*.



Abortion:

what we said



By JOYCE OUELLETE

Abortion is definitely a serious and emotional issue in Canada. The Canadian Supreme Court's ruling has proven that the situation is all but over. The problem is now in the hands of the federal government who has the task of drafting a new abortion law.

A recent Angus Reid poll published in the *Gazette* surveying 1521 adults suggests that 90% of Canadians believe in an abortion law which would guarantee equal access for abortion to all women across Canada.

Agreement on the circumstances under which abortions should be allowed were not as clear cut. 23% of the respondents believed that "abortions should not be permitted under any circumstances except when the mother's life is in danger". 36% believed that abortions should be permitted whenever a woman decides she wants

one. 39% believed that limitations on abortions should be put forward.

Furthermore, 51% believe women should be left to judge whether or not to opt for the abortion while 45% believe there should be certain legal guidelines.

The survey revealed that a clear majority of Canadians feel that any new abortion law "should define when a fetus becomes a human being and outlaw abortion beyond that point of pregnancy." Only 27% disagree and believe that abortion may be permitted anytime during the pregnancy thus not requiring any protection for the unborn child.

52% of respondents oppose abortions beyond the 12 weeks and 63% oppose abortions after 18 weeks.

Reid suggests that an abortion law should prohibit abortion after a certain point in a women's pregnancy, "somewhere between 12 and 18 weeks."



Jim Poore (right), Moosehead Breweries' promotions representative for the Fredericton area, presents University of New Brunswick president James Downey with a donation of \$30,000. The payment is the last on Moosehead's \$150,000 pledge to UNB's Third Century Fund Campaign and was designated to the construction of the T. J. Condon Student Centre on the Saint John campus. (R. MacMorran photo)