

Primary health care is his main concern

The opportunity to practise primary health care did much to make Robert Tingley the University of New Brunswick Health Centre's first full-time doctor. The soft-spoken former UNB graduate said in an interview this week primary health care "is my bag—it's something I enjoy very much," as opposed to private specialization. The centre is located in Tibbett's Hall.

The appointments of Tingley and



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Dow Dorcas to the centre staff was announced Jan. 1 this year after 18 months of work by the health service review committee and became effective July 1. Previous care had been administered on a volunteer basis by various Fredericton doctors and had not been available 24 hours a day.

Dorcas is a part-time physician at the centre in addition to working at UNB's bio-engineering institute. Both are UNB and Dalhousie University graduates and Dorcas has an M. Sc. in electrical engineering earned at UNB in 1963.

Tingley said he prefers to serve the narrow age group found in his practice. Students, he said, constitute a group "I was interested in and to which I felt I had something to offer." In addition, there are fewer cases of extremely ill persons.

This, he said, is not intended to portray the centre as dedicated only to primary care or preventive medicine—the latter a Tingley propensity. "I don't enjoy watching the disease process," he said.

On the contrary, service this year will include eight weekly clinics with acute cases, or physical complaints, receiving priority. Remaining time will be spent on preventative and non-urgent medicine. The doctor widely defined on-campus preventive medicine as "clearing up misconceptions" on subjects such as birth control methods, venereal disease and social drinking attitudes.

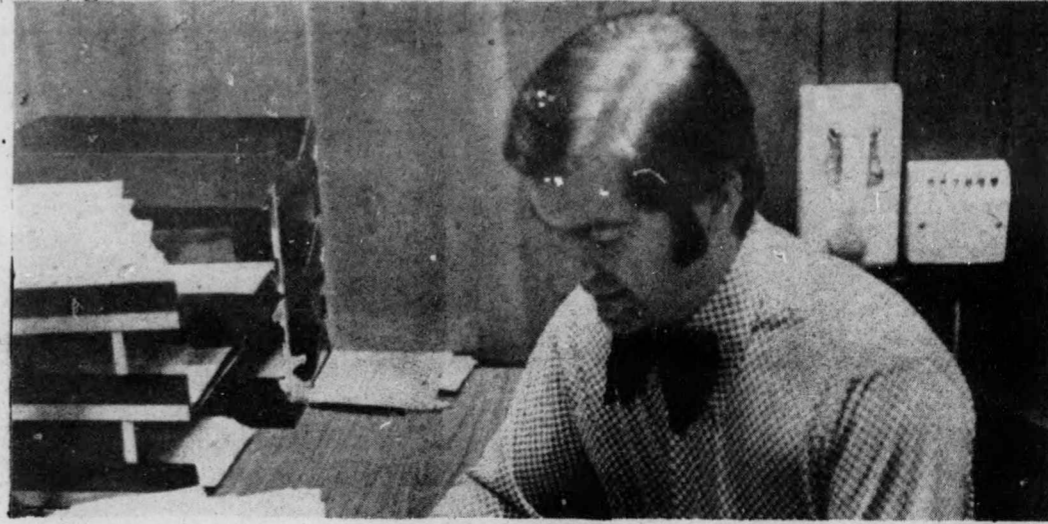
He defined his role not as moralist but as a source of advice

and information. Communication—preferably on a one-to-one basis—could possibly deter VD cases, abortions and socio-psychological problems. It could help to encourage one to define a "responsible" lifestyle—an identity

hospital being constructed in Fredericton will include such services as a 30-bed psychiatry ward for example, which should increase the number of specialists in the city. Such individuals include psychiatrists and physio-

one of four Fredericton family doctors. The four will be retained by UNB and receive a small fee certain nights and weekends to allow 24-hour service.

In return for this service, Tingley would serve in Freder-



Dr. Robert Tingley

suitable to the individual.

The service will also include minor operations such as suturing and wart or mole removal, for example. Service will not include cast removal and fractures will be referred to orthopedic specialists. "It's not justified our doing it (handling fractures) where there are others who can specialize," said Tingley.

Expansion of regional hospital services should also enlarge the referral possibilities available at the centre, he said. A new regional

therapists especially, according to Tingley.

The doctors' work this summer involved administrative tasks and serving summer school students. The centre was closed for three weeks during this period since there were few students and for budget considerations. Next summer, from May 15 to Sept. 1, service will be restricted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

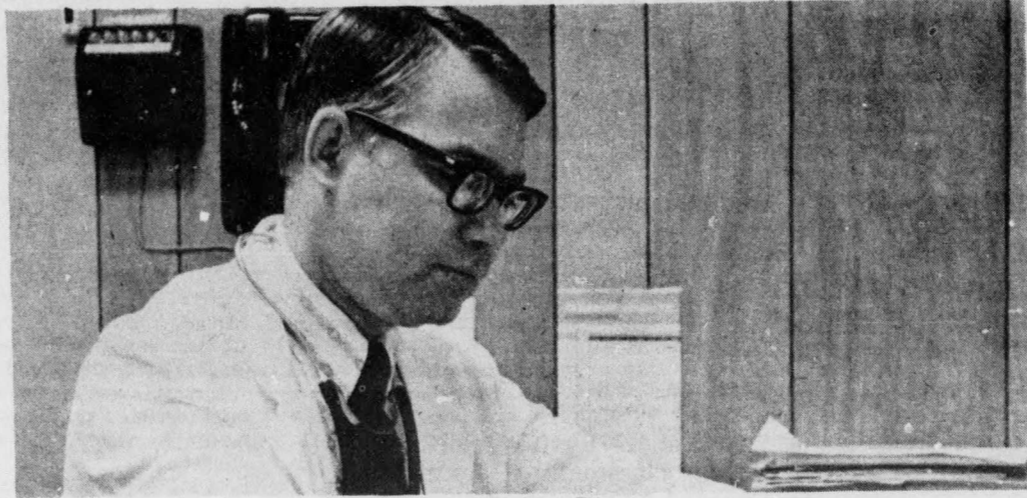
Beginning this academic year, however, students will have the services of Tingley and Dorcas or

icton's Victoria Public Hospital emergency room at intervals agreed upon by the city's family practice group. "This way everybody's happy and service is complete," said Tingley.

This plan means during off hours a nurse will be available at the centre to either summon, or if the case requires it, to summon a doctor. "In fact," said the doctor, "many times a nurse's opinion is sufficient and most students understand that but at least this way a doctor will always be on call." A "beeper" system, which would reach a doctor regardless of his location, will be installed this week.

Will a third doctor ever be needed at the centre? Tingley said while there are "now 1½ (doctors) to serve 6,000 there is no doubt another doctor would pay for himself" since the tendency is for such service to draw a larger practice. Whether this is necessary should be determined this year.

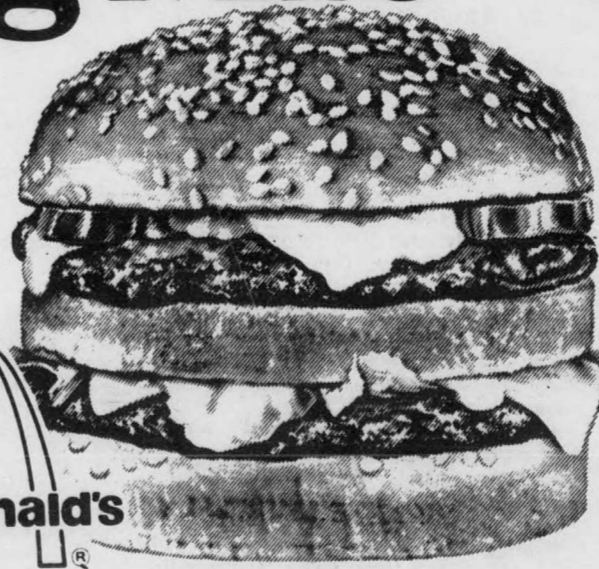
The centre medical director rated their summer case load as five to 10 a day "as a ball park figure." These included faculty and staff who will not be eligible during the academic year. Eventually, he said, service may be expanded to include students' spouses and families.



Dr. Dow Dorcas

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