

Legal Aid Underway at UNB

by Dale Hinchey

The Legal aid system in our society would seem to indicate that justice is only for those who have the necessary access to funds. The amount of justice one receives is proportionate to the amount of money he may spend in hiring a legal representative.

Law students of the newly operative Legal Aid Committee (L.A.C.) of UNB are providing free access to legal knowledge as a community service.

The law students were conducting interviews on Nov. 9 in rooms 118 and 120 of the Student Union Building. There were four interviews during the first half-hour (from 12:00 pm. to 12:30 pm.) and several students approached the commit-

tee on behalf of other but were not interviewed.

If a person has a problem, the L.A.C. will help him to define whether or not he has a legal claim as well as the nature of further legal action. The L.A.C. will then refer the person to one of several Fredericton lawyers. Here the role of the committee may end unless the lawyer desires the law students themselves to research the case so as to defer cost of legal services, especially if the person concerned has no such funds available. However, actual court costs must be paid by the individual or someone else, but with some financial understanding must be achieved with the lawyer.

When questioned as to whether or not they would be involved in drug prosecution, the

students said that they could do little because the defendant would definitely require a lawyer. All they could do would be recommend a good one.

Most of the claims forwarded by students are expected to be common landlord-tenant disagreements and small debts.

The L.A.C. also expects to establish some degree of co-operation with such groups in Fredericton as Insight and the Human Rights Commission. Until the New Brunswick Barristers Association and the Provincial government sort out their difficulties, it appears that the law students will be the only organization providing legal aid service in New Brunswick. The L.A.C. are attempting to organize in St. John as well.



The commission's interpretation of the War Measures Act; STU-SRC Vice-President closes the door on our reporters. photo by Gallagher

RUNB Commission Holds Closed Meeting

In the midst of confusion, the UNB-STU committee meeting on STU's involvement in Radio UNB was closed to the press Tuesday night. Bill Akerley the apparent chairman of the meeting, gave no reason for shutting the doors to the press.

After the meeting, one of the UNB committee members, Rick Fisher, said that it was through our (the committee's) own ignorance that the press was kept out. He added that he would talk to UNB SRC President Steve MacFarlane and STU SRC President John Smith about press attendance at the next meeting.

The meeting lasted an hour and a half.

"In terms of achievement, very little was accomplished (at the meeting), but we set up a good base with which to proceed on", said Fisher.

The committee is made up of 2 STU SRC representatives, Bill Akerley, and Rick Fisher, the lone UNB SRC committee member.

Fisher may have summed up the atmosphere of the meeting when he said, "if they're (UNB-STU) not smart enough to appoint someone who knows what he's doing..."

by Bill Anderson



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