

Library faces cutbacks

Lack of funds is digging deep into the Harriet Irving Library.

This year's library book budget was frozen at \$1,034,400 yielding a loss of 30 per cent in acquisition purchasing power. Staffing cuts are also crippling the library. There was a loss of 16 full time equivalent positions this year, and more are looming for next year if the funding situation is not remedied. Chairman of the UNB senate library committee, Tony Rhinelander said, "We must set priorities", and suggested faculty should take

salary cuts to keep the library operating.

As a result of staff cut backs there were many problems especially delays in reshelving books, photo copying, and as well in the reserve book department. The subscriptions to journals appropriation was also cut by 20 per cent. Book acquisitions were also cut by more than 3,000 volumes.

Professor Rhinelander pointed out that the library is the service used by the greatest number of students

on campus. Students from all faculties will suffer as a result of library cut backs.

Rhineland said the UNB senate turned down a request to make the library a separate department, presently classed with snow-plowing and bookstore as a support service, with special budgetary status. Rhineland said the members of the senate do not appreciate the problems at the library and so are unwilling to make any decisions to help alleviate the problem.

Chairman named

By GORDON LOANE
Brunswickan Staff

John E. Terry has been named the new chairman of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission. The appointment was announced Monday by the Council of Maritime Premiers.

He replaces Dr. Catherine Wallace who is retiring after eight years in the position.

Currently a senior vice president of the College of Cape Breton in Sydney, N.S., Terry was formerly principal of the Nova Scotia Institute of Technology. Prior to that, Terry spent 16 years with the Dominion Coal Company, Sydney, in engineering and management positions. He holds a degree in engineering and education.

Terry is a member and former president of the Association of Professional Engineers in Nova Scotia, the Association of Canadian Com-

munity College Administrators, and the Mining Society of N.S. He served in the militia for 27 years and retired in 1973 as commander of the Cape Breton Militia District, and is currently honorary colonel of the 45th field engineers squadron in Sydney.

He has served on many boards, including the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission since 1974, the Maritime Municipal Training and Development Board, the Nova Scotia Division of the Canadian Corps of Commissioners, the Provincial Manpower Board, the Board of Governors of the College of Cape Breton and the Nova Scotia Voluntary Planning Board.

Terry and his wife the former Janet Sue Kallak, their two sons and two daughters, will take up residence in Fredericton later this spring.

Debaters go for confrontation

By RANDY MACDONALD
Brunswickan Staff

"No compromise; total confrontation" - this phrase guided the actions of the two members of the UNB Debate Society as they competed in the World Debating Tournament held recently at the University of Toronto. However, this attitude caused some hard feelings, and as a result, many rumors abounded at the tournament regarding the team's notoriety.

As far as the team, consisting of John Bosnitch and John Jerney, was concerned, their actions were justified. Both members cited the often ridiculous debate topics, the leaning towards pomposity in debating style, and the too-frequent "squirreling" (twisting the meaning of a topic, while maintaining the wording). In one debate, the opponents defined "art" as "Artificial Respiration Training."

The tactics used by the UNB team were meant as a means of waging "psychological warfare" against the opposition. Arriving late, loud marching into the debate room, and rejection of any attempt to squirrel were the most noted methods.

One particular series of incidents stood out among the others. On the final day of competition, the team was placed against the "swing" team (due to there being an odd number of teams, an extra, noncompeting team was formed for each round) for both of the day's rounds, apparently because of the team's habit of arriving late. In the first round, the supposedly impartial speaker was cheering when the members of the swing team made points. Coupled with the refusal of the speaker to make a ruling on points of order, these events prompted the UNB team to walk out of the debate. The subsequent debate found the team faced with the same judge from the previous round. The topic for

the round was "damn the consequences," and the team used the topic as a means of airing their views on the weeks events. Bosnitch demanded a zero for content from any judge who didn't totally agree with his views, and Jerney in a speech delivered with his back to the debaters, leaning out of an open window continued the tirade, ending his speech with "Damn the goddamn consequences" and with both Bosnitch and Jerney walking out. The judge however had the last word, as he chased the team out into the street shouting "I hope your plane crashes".

The persecution of the UNB team was not just limited to the debates. After two nights on the campus the team was expelled from residence for being out too late and making too much noise. (The fact that

there were 15 people in one room wasn't considered). The next step was to move to Devonshire (DEVO) House where the organizers thought we might fit in. Mistake again.

... the next move was through a steam tunnel into another area of the building's basement. To add insult to injury the UNB team was refused the "privilege" of taking part in the party at the end of the competition.

Despite the rumors, not all impressions of UNB were bad. Every team who debated against our team commented on their above average abilities, only their attitude, and their methods were questioned. In fact, the team received invitations from two universities to tournaments, and one was extended because of the rumors.

UNB research effort enters fourth year

A major research effort now entering its fourth year at the University of New Brunswick is making great strides in reducing the toxic side effects of digitalis, the most widely-used drug in the world for treating heart failure.

Right now, highly purified forms of natural digitalis, marketed under such names as digoxin and digitoxin, are consistently among the most frequently filled prescriptions at a typical pharmacy in Fredericton.

But physicians must tread a very fine line between the therapeutic dose and the toxic dose. Too little digitalis, and the pumping action of the heart is not strengthened enough; too much, and the patient's already damaged cardiac system is further threatened by irregular heart rhythm, with other symptoms like nausea and vomiting.

Although still in the experimental stage, new digitalis-like derivatives being synthesized at the UNB Natural Products Research Centre have

been shown to stimulate heart function with much-reduced side effects. The compounds are being developed by chemist Karel Wiesner with a team of eight collaborators, and tested by Dr. Raphael Mendez at the Institute of Experimental Cardiology in Mexico City.

With the new compounds, 15 to 50 times the minimum therapeutic dose must be administered to induce irregular heart rhythm, Dr. Wiesner reports, while irregular rhythms can result from as little as one and a half times the therapeutic dose of digoxin. The new compounds thus have a much wider margin of safety.

This research has been supported by a \$40,000 Isak Walton Killam Scholarship from the Canada Council, and by funds from the Heart Foundation of Canada and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).

Improvements on digitalis were held back for many years by two factors, Dr. Wiesner says. First, it was generally

believed that both the beneficial and damaging effects of digitalis were inseparable, both stemming from its inhibition of an enzyme which regulates sodium and potassium transport in heart tissue. And second, there was no method for synthesizing digitalis which could be used to quickly and efficiently generate many derivatives for pharmacological testing.

Research in the mid-1970's by Dr. Mendez and others suggested that digitalis was interacting with two separate receptors in heart tissue, triggering beneficial processes in one instance and ultimately damaging processes in the other.

In 1979, Dr. Wiesner's team was successful in developing the methodology for fast, efficient synthesis, and to date they have created some 30 derivatives of synthetic digitalis. That in itself is a considerable scientific achievement, Dr. Wiesner says. But ultimately many hundreds of

derivatives must be created and examined before any drug company can be sure it has the optimum new drug, worth risking tens of millions of dollars for years of animal and clinical testing required to put a new drug on the market.

The next milestone in this research will be determining the topology (the shape of the surface) of the receptors both for both effects of digitalis compounds. If the shapes are different, Dr. Wiesner says, it will prove beyond a doubt that the therapeutic and toxic effects of the digitalis drugs can be separated. And knowing the exact shape of the receptors for improving heart action would help Dr. Wiesner to develop the ideal molecule to bond with that site.

Within the next year Dr. Wiesner expects to have completed the aspects of this project which are suited to university research. At least one international drug company has already expressed interest in taking up the digitalis work where Dr. Wiesner leaves off.

Selling is key

Selling yourself is the key to getting summer jobs, says Ron Savage of the campus Canada Employment Centre.

In many cases, students haven't the necessary skills or experience to get a job, so a positive, friendly attitude and a smile are essentials. A neat appearance, with hair in place, etc., reinforces the good impression a pleasant personality makes.

Students seeking summer employment should be working on it right now, thinking about how they plan to approach employers, Jackson

said. Students should be making contact with companies they are interested in working for, letting them know they are available and telling them what they can do. Another contact should be made after the exam period is over.

Employment opportunities are not as good as they have been in previous years, said Savage. His office has been contacted by a number of companies, most with vacancies outside the Fredericton area. Beginning April 1, the Canada Summer Employment Centre downtown will be placing students in summer jobs.



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