

Establishing a Legal Clinic at the U.N.B. Law School

By SEAN P. RILEY

Ever since Frank McKenna's Liberal Government axed the province's legal aid program in April of 1988, there has been much discussion throughout New Brunswick as to possible solutions to the resulting dilemma of having equal access to justice for the poor virtually cut-off. No doubt, from all indications, a new province-wide legal aid system will soon rise from the ashes of what one can only hope will be proven to be a short-term purge of a previously ineffective system. However, regardless of what materializes in the form of a provincial legal aid program, there is another aspect to the whole question which relates to the University of New Brunswick - in particular - the fact that the U.N.B. Law School: Ludlow Hall does not have a legal clinic.

Specifically, what is intended in the embodiment of a legal clinic at a Canadian law school is to provide a forum in which law students can gain much needed practical experience, while at the same time, providing a much needed public service to those who use the service.

As is the experience at most law schools in Canada - the overwhelming majority of whom have some sort of legal clinic instituted - by working in these clinics, students gain a sense of social responsibility and public service so often left untaught by academics most often uneasy with addressing fundamental moral questions in an increasingly relative society. Thus, students come in contact with real people who must deal with a wide spectrum of legal problems. They learn that there are sometimes discrepancies between laws and real justice, and in practical terms, they come to acquire a greater appreciation for the quirks within the Canadian legal system; something the cold impersonal case studies and theories taught in lecture halls often neglect to transmit into the law student's psyche.

Thus, it can be demonstrated that it would be most beneficial to establish a legal aid clinic at Ludlow Hall. The students want it. The faculty wants it. The public needs it. All that is needed is the will to fill an obvious void on this campus. Rest assured, should such a legal clinic materialize, no doubt the quality of the legal profession as a whole in New Brunswick shall rise accordingly.

All that is needed is for the right people to get this job done properly to come forward now.

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A Day in the Life

By BLAIR T. SAWLER

Dean Frost is the president of the Student Union of UNB. In case you couldn't answer the questions in last week's Bruns, he is a man, and according to Dean, "I go to as many classes as possible. My profs understand that I cannot attend all of my classes as I spend a lot of my time meeting with students, professors and members of the business community."

Dean is in his fifth year of Arts, and is majoring in political science. He was a goalie for three years with the Red Devils, but he said that he had to give it up because "being the president of the Student Union is a full time job."

According to Dean, the job of president of the Student Union is to make sure that the day to day operation of the SU runs as smoothly as possible. He oversees the budget, and makes sure that our money is not wasted.

He also said that a personal goal of his is to raise the image of the Union with UNB students, the city, and with universities across Canada.

When asked how he plans to do this, he said that becoming a member of the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce was a good start, and by helping to operate a 'make work' program for university students. The people living on Waterloo Row can hire students for jobs around the house and the SU will pay for it.



Photo By Blair T. Sawler

Other things that he says they are doing this year is setting up a SU scholarship fund. "This is the first time anything like this has happened in the Student Union's 203 year history," commented Dean, "we are helping students." Dean is also working with downtown business people to help build up SU's image.

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"We hope to be able to have a balanced budget this year, maybe even a surplus!" exclaimed Dean. This will hopefully lower student's fees next year. But we will have to wait and see what happens.

When asked about the rumour of his running for mayor of Fredericton, Dean declined to make any com-

ment. "I would rather deal with pertinent issues of the Student Union right now."

Some people feel that Dean is concentrating on the external affairs, rather than the internal affairs of the Student Union, it has been said that the Student Union wants to make a good name for themselves outside of UNB, instead of inside. Dean does not think so, "I feel that the Student Union seems to run basically the same, year in and year out. There are committees looking at new issues, and the financial responsibilities are being met. Internally, everything is fine." He seems to feel that since they are doing new things, students are afraid that he is not taking care of the SU. "The affairs of the Student Union are in good hands. I want this to be the most prosperous year for students yet."

A good example of what he has done for the students is the electronic signboard in the SUB cafeteria. It cost the union \$1825, and has raised over \$6000. This money is being put back in for extra services for the students.

Dean's door is always open, like the signboard in the cafeteria says, even if his door is closed, knock. He's there from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. "I encourage anybody to come up and ask me questions." His room is easy to find, Rm 119 of the SUB. So far the year looks good, and Dean is looking forward to serving the students for the months to come.

U.N.B. - S.T.U.

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Dear Editor:

Last week the editor dealt with time for the Club. I know are not great a feeling for Many groups thrilled with t happens when space is as high

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