

# Computer mix-up nixes course evaluation this year

By SUSANNE DEWITT  
 Many of the returning UNB'ers will remember the fiasco of course evaluation that took place at the end of last year. Many students wonder what did take place.

Mike Richard, a third year law student and member of the Board of Governors, headed the Senate ad hoc Committee on Course Evaluation.

He reports that when the

individual cards were submitted to the computer analyst, they were divided by course and class and placed in clearly marked envelopes. The individual cards were not marked because "we took precau-



Mike Richard

investment is reusable in materials purchased for the evaluation. Most of the money went toward the printing of the questionnaire. No one involved received a salary.

There will be a meeting of the Course Evaluation Committee in the next few weeks about future course evaluations. To do a proper job, a larger budget in the area of \$10,000 should be used, according to Richard. The course evaluations of other universities comparable in size to UNB were studied and Richard feels that this larger budget is justified.

tions to make sure that no professor could come down on an individual student."

The mixup occurred in the manner in which the information was fed to the computer. The analyst misunderstood the instructions given him by Mike Richard, who felt that his instructions were very explicit.

The only information obtained was an evaluation of all the courses in one particular year and department, and of the professors in that course. It wasn't considered to be a total loss, as an evaluation of the departments was useful in some ways.

Many of the professors were disappointed. Mike Richard said that in no way did he feel that there was any sabotage, by the faculty or anyone else.

Expenditures for the experiment were in the area of \$1000. Half of this amount was footed by the SRC, the other half was donated by the administration. Some of the \$1000

If the evaluation is carried out, a more elaborate coding system will be used to identify the cards, reducing the chance of another mix-up.

As was the case last time, participation in the evaluation is not compulsory. Richard was disappointed last year as only 50 percent of the faculty took part. They are aiming for 80-90 percent faculty participation in the future. The evaluation serves as a guide for the students and gives the departments an indication of the student's opinions of the course and professors.

One of the main objectives of the evaluation is to give the students some voice in the weeding out of the various new professors before their tenure is reached.

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