

Samad explains foreign students' dilemma

By SARAH ABRAHAM
Brunswickan Staff

Daiza! R. Samad, an English PhD student from Guyana, is actively involved in the affairs of the foreign students on campus. Samad, who is currently serving as representative for graduate studies on the SRC acted as spokesman for foreign students during their recent problem with the former foreign student advisor Doreen Kissick. He now serves as a member of the five man search committee responsible for selecting a new advisor.

In an interview, Samad stated that the Kissick affair represented a "concrete problem" faced by foreign students. However, he emphasized his belief that foreign students are also subject to real, though more "abstract pressures of insecurity and fear."

"Once a very high official at university asked me 'where is this fear coming from?' My response to that would be that fear and insecurity are the

results of any leap... from one society to another or one discipline to another. The result is what has been called a clique." Cliques serve as a defense against fear and insecurity.

Samad referred to the various groups of foreign students on campus as "a constellation of cliques" which are largely unknowledgeable about the surrounding community." He was quick to point out, however, that such cliques are not exclusive to foreign students alone.

"...to say that the rest of the student body and community do not have their own obsessions and prejudices is to be hopelessly naive, absurd."

Samad believes that "foreign students are sensitized to any kind of slight, pressure, provocation or prejudice." Being transplanted out of their home environment into a foreign one presents problems for the foreign student and community alike. Both sides are tentative before fully accepting the other. Samad

made the following analogy to illustrate the situation.

"One does not voluntarily incorporate into one's body a foreign substance, which for all we know could be harmful. Yet one is always apprehensive of leaping into an unknown density." (ie. culture)

Samad optimistically insists, however, that this is not a hopeless dilemma. He is deeply convinced that the solution lies in mutual, "trust, acceptance of responsibility for errors and for confessing ignorance." He adds "until all Canadian and foreign students enact this gesture and ritual of faith, we shall remain as we are, hopelessly polarized." As President of the Caribbean Circle, Samad believes that such foreign student organizations aid in bridging the gap between the cultures on campus. He stated that one of the primary goals of organizations like the Caribbean Circle is answering the question: "How do we convey a peculiar identity of experience and an experience of identity?"

The Caribbean Circle attempts to at least partially address this complex question by producing Caribbean Night, a most successful annual panorama of Caribbean culture and talent. However, Caribbean Night, in Samad's view does not adequately portray both the good and bad aspects of Caribbean society. Samad believes that the "face of the Caribbean must be portrayed like 'the smiling face of anguish and the anguished face of laughter.'" A night of light entertainment, obviously can not attempt to portray the human misery, the harsh political, economic and social realities that exist in many of the Caribbean nations. Yet Samad firmly believes that the political cruelties and inhumane conditions in Caribbean countries like Guyana

must not be ignored. For this reason, he has been actively involved in the Guyanese-Canadian Friendship Association.

The G.C.F.A. is an organization which amongst its many other activities, endeavours to support Guyanese students in need of financial aid.

As Vice-president of the Association Samad is very much disturbed and distressed by the Guyanese government's repeated refusal to accept humanitarian relief intended to alleviate some of the starvation in that country. He claims that some of this aid is not only refused but sent back. The government of Guyana, Samad believes has designed a policy which is specifically and arrogantly "opposed to any revelation of their inhumane, bankrupt regime."

Assistant-comptroller appointed. . .

by CHRIS CHAPMAN
Brunswickan Staff



Janet Thornton
will take office in January

The SRC approved the appointment of Janet Thornton as the new assistant-comptroller on Monday night. Comptroller-elect, Darren Evans, said Thornton was the best qualified for the job, largely because of her experience in office work, and her involvement on university and house committees.

Thornton is a fourth year business student, and is presently social chairman of Tibbits Hall, where she was president last year. Last year she was also the chairman of the Inter Residence Social Committee. She has worked

with Evans before, on committees, so they have proven they can work together, and will be able to in the future.

Since the elimination of the position of full time bookkeeper, Thornton's experience with payrolls, accounts payable, and other office jobs will be important. Any bookkeeping skills the assistant-comptroller has are vital to the smooth running of the comptroller's office.

Thornton feels that these skills, as well as her involvement in residence activities, where she sees enough students to have a fair idea of what the student body wants, are why she is the new assistant comptroller.

. . .and duties outlined

By LORETTA DOBBELSTEYN
Brunswickan Staff

In the past few issues of the *Brun* there have been several ads for an assistant comp-

troller and a request for submission of application for the position. Understanding very little of student politics and policies here at UNB, I talked with comptroller Andy Young concerning the position of

assistant comptroller.

First of all, the job of the comptroller is basically to audit and supervise expenditures and accounts. Therefore the assistant comptroller is to assist the comptroller with all his duties, and to be the comptroller for the Winter Carnival and the Orientation committee.

The assistant shall be appointed by the executive of the union on the recommendation by the Comptroller-Elect with two-thirds approval of council. The assistant is to be appointed three weeks after fall election and shall be seated at the first meeting in January.

PSSA obituary

The P.S.S.A. is sorry to announce the death of the trip to Cuba. The trip fell victim to an unexpected price hike. The funeral service was held on Nov. 24th at 3:30 p.m. Chief mourners were the P.S.S.A. executive. At the wake, plans

were discussed to replace the departed with a trip to New York. Out of respect for our grievous loss, the P.S.S.A. will release more information on this new trip after a suitable period of mourning has passed.

Senate committees chosen

The following students have been appointed to these Senate Committees and will serve until next September subject to ratification by the Senate. Each student representative will be required to report back to the student senators periodically and ultimately to the student body. The first meeting between

these student representatives and the student senators will take place on Wednesday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m. in Rm. 119 of the SUB (President's Office). This meeting will be a mandatory briefing session for these student representatives. If for some reason you are unable to attend please contact Mary Abraham c/o Student Union Office.

Academic and Campus Planning

Mary Abraham
John Bosnitch

Academic Policy
John Bosnitch
Mary Abraham

Admissions
Jeffrey Moore
Remi Ogunkeye

Audio-Visual
Gerard Finnan
Timothy Lethbridge

Awards for Excellence
Jeffrey Moore
Mary Abraham

Bookstore
Stephen MacAlinden

Budget Review
Gerard Finnan
John Bosnitch

Ceremonials
Sandra Hollingum

Computing Centre
Gaetan Roy
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Examinations
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Gerard Finnan
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Publications
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Student Standing and Promotions
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Undergraduate Scholarships
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Visiting Lecturers
Sarah Abraham
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