

Sign Language Workshop Slated For Saturday

Last summer, recognizing the need to communicate with the province's 40,000 hearing-impaired persons, the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton developed a training program in American Sign Language (ASL). Assisted by the N.B. Coordinating Council on Deafness, UNB has so far offered four introductory and intermediate level courses in ASL, a sophisticated system of hand, body and facial movements which convey ideas, thoughts, stories and concepts to the deaf.

On Saturday, March 10, as another part of its sign language education program, UNB will host a one-day workshop called "American Sign Language: Its Roots and Significance to the Deaf Culture." Laura Petitto, professor of psychology at McGill University, will lead the session with Montreal interpreters Donna Vann and Janet Jamieson, who is originally from Fredericton.

Designed for any person who is deaf or lives or

works with the deaf--particularly relatives, educators, counsellors and medical personnel--the workshop will explore the roots and development of ASL, how it is "spoken" and its importance to the deaf. Prior knowledge of ASL is not required.

Information and registration forms can be obtained from the UNB department of extension and summer session at UNB Fredericton.

The workshop is sponsored by the Secretary of State.

Dr. Petitto is a leading expert on ASL in North America. Her research on the deaf and their acquisition of language spans 10 years with such distinguished organizations as the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, Harvard University, Gallaudet College for the Deaf and the Brooklyn Developmental Center. In addition to her work at McGill University, Dr. Petitto has also taught at Harvard and the New York Society for the Deaf. She is in demand worldwide as a

speaker and teacher.

Dr. Petitto received an undergraduate degree in psychology from Ramapo State College in New Jersey in 1975 and continued her studies at the University of California at San Diego. She earned an MA from New York University's Deafness Research and Training Center and an MA and PhD from Harvard University.

Janet Jamieson, who will accompany Dr. Petitto from McGill, will serve as inter-

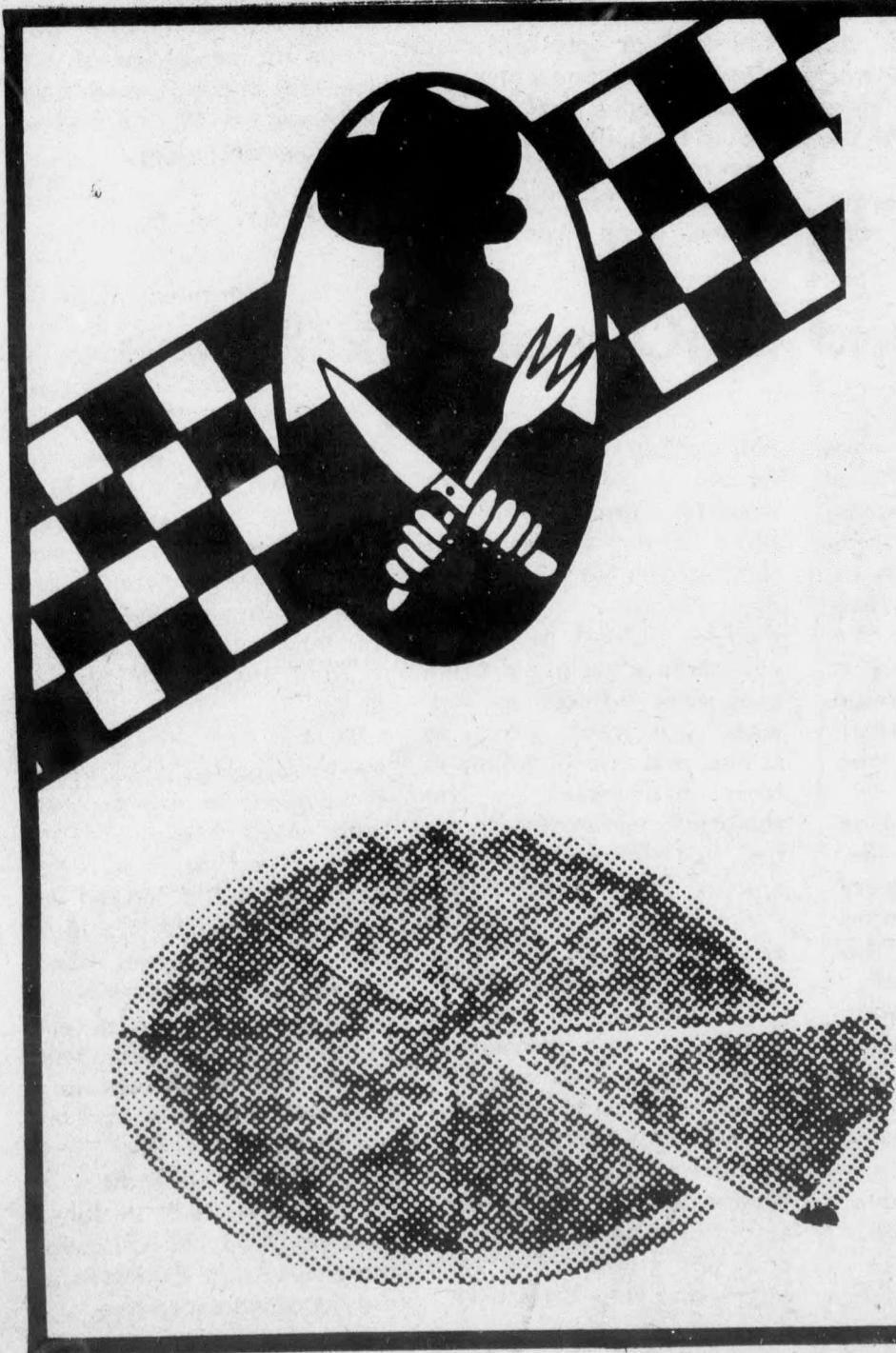
preter for the deaf persons attending the workshop. Ms. Jamieson graduated

from UNB in 1976 with a BA in psychology and French. She continued her training

in speech training at the University of Western Ontario and studied counselling of the deaf at Gallaudet College. She is currently conducting a study of the

deaf in Canada at the Mackay Centre at McGill.

She is the daughter of Mrs. Lloyd Jamieson of Fredericton.



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