

JANUARY 8, 1982



Student Services

AWARDS/LOANS

The Awards Office is located in Room 109 of the Alumni Memorial Building. Awards Officer Bonita Hallett and Financial Advisor Susanna Wiesner provide UNB students with advice and financial assistance.

Undergraduate Scholarships - Applications for University of New Brunswick Undergraduate Scholarships for the academic year 1982-83 are available to full-time students from the Awards Office between January 1 and April 15. APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE AWARDS OFFICE BY APRIL 15, 1982.

University Loans- Applications for University of New Brunswick Student Loans (not Canada Student Loans) are available at the Awards Office, between January 6 and January 22, 1982. A short interview is required with the financial advisor.

University Loans are small, low-interest loans. This may be the only opportunity to apply for university loan support for second term. Therefore, students who anticipate a definite need for loan assistance to complete this academic year, should apply now.

Should you require a university loan, apply at the Awards Office before Friday January 22, 1982. APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER JANUARY 22, 1982.

PLEASE NOTE: Students are not considered for University loans until they have successfully completed one term at the University of New Brunswick.

For more information, contact the Awards Office at 453-4796.

CANADA EMPLOYMENT CENTRE ON CAMPUS

The Canada Employment Centre on Campus is located in Room 3 of Annex B. Manager Ron Jackson, Employment Counsellor Ron Savage, and Sereta Hinchey, our assistant, provide students with information and assistance toward securing career-related permanent employment, summer jobs, as well as part-time work during the academic term.

After a very hectic fall semester when more than 125 companies interviewed approximately 500 UNB and STU students for jobs, it would now be appropriate to point out the existence of the "Principles and Practices of Recruiting at Post-Secondary Educational Institutions." These guidelines, particularly those dealing with the acceptance of job offers, may be very useful information to a graduating student who is wrestling with this type of decision. Any student who, as a result of the interviews, has received one or more offer of employment or who has not been advised of his status, should contact our office for a copy of the Principles and Practices, and to generally discuss his situation with one of the staff members. For students who were interviewed in the first term, the earliest date they are required to give a reply to a job offer is January 15th. If students are under pressure by prospective employers to accept offers prior to this date, they should know that this is a contravention of these principles and practices. Anyone in this situation should get in touch with Ron Jackson or Ron Savage.

Graduate recruitment will continue throughout the second term; however, more of our attention will focus on the summer job situation. In this regard, the Federal Government "Career Oriented Summer Employment Program" application kits are now available. In order to be considered for summer jobs within the Federal Public Service, one of these kits must be completed and forwarded to the appropriate Public Service Commission Office. The earlier you apply, the better are your chances! Examples of some of the other summer opportunities that are currently open include summer research positions with the Whiteshell Establishment of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd., and applications for employment overseas through the I.A.E.S.T.E. Exchange Program (International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience).

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Forestry different in Andamans —UNB student visits islands

By SAMEER PRASAD

When one mentions forestry in the underdeveloped nations, the first thing that comes to mind is an image of thick and lush tropical forest with elephants in the background pulling logs; that image could be true, but it is often a biased one. Last summer I had the opportunity of visiting the Andaman Islands, a union territory of India which lies in the south eastern part of the Bay of Bengal contiguous with the south Indonesian island chain.

The forest industry of the islands would be termed old-fashioned and backward, but it makes the best use of limited resources. One may ask why it is so, and I will try to explain, but not justify, the state of the industry, which constitutes the mainstay of the economy of the Andaman Islands, and is the major employer of the people of the region.

Forest covers almost 78 per cent of the land, but much of it is impenetrable to man and still remains largely unexplored, and the difficulty of the island terrain made my journey to the felling area treacherous and time-consuming. I left the city of Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Union Territory, in a jeep, and travelled in roughly southern direction to reach the coast. From there I went on by canoe and crossed the stretch of sea separating the main island from a smaller one where harvesting was taking place. After landing it took me another hour over rough, winding roads in a transport truck to get me to the felling area.

Felling is entirely done by men equipped with axes. They come early in the morning, and leave four to five hours later when each man has cut his daily quota of eight cubic metres. A truck driver told me that in the evening these men like to relax with a home-made brew made of fermented rice, and after dark play the drums and have Bihari dances.



Tractors are used to a certain extent but often succumb to mechanical and fuel problems.



The forest industry is somewhat old fashioned and backward. An elephant being used to load logs; many animals are worked beyond capacity.

wondered why chain saws or other equipment were not in use, but the forest officer with me said that this had been tried, but the chain saws would not work well with these trees, and in addition, the price of gasoline made it more economical to employ manpower.

After a tree is felled, two men equipped with hand saws process it. The crown is sawn off and the remaining branches also removed, the log being then cut into six metre bolts for better manipulation.

Transport to the loading zone is done by a combination of tractors, elephants, bullocks and winches. It is quite sad to see the animals being worked far beyond their capacity, so far, in fact, that most of them die of exhaustion. My impression is that authors who write about "the romantic past" and the beauties of the pastoral life have not seen reality too closely. I was told that tractors were replacing animals, but unfortunately not one tractor was working at the time, three of them being in the maintenance shop and the other one waiting for the fuel to arrive.

All the roads are feeders, built simply and at low cost. They are only four metres wide, but to accommodate two-way traffic parking spaces have been built at various intervals. Bolts are then piled into waiting trucks (Benz and Tata-Benz) which continuously shuttle between the felling area and loading zone by the water's edge. It takes approximately one hour to cover the fifteen kilometres of meandering road but high-speed transport is felt to be unnecessary. The bolts are unloaded on the shore and interwoven with floater logs into a gigantic floating mat, necessary because the extremely dense wood sinks when placed in water. A water craft tugs the "mat" across a body of water two kilometres wide to the main island and left floating in an enclosure

just off the beach. By evening the tide goes out and the logs are left lying in the mud.

After separation from the floater logs, the bolts are pulled to the loading zone by a tractor and a winch. The bolts are then loaded onto trucks to be sent to the Andaman Timber Industries plywood mill.

Because of the scarcity of fresh water only those forest industry plants which can operate with little or no water in processing have been established in the Andamans; these include sawmills and plywood, and matchwood manufacturing industries. Almost all the products are shipped to mainland India, and very little if any are exported overseas. Some of these plants are rather old and in need of modernization, in fact government owned sawmills still use steam power to run its saws. Because of the lack of modernization and integration of the different parts of the industry, a considerable amount of waste occurs during processing. The abundance of timber means that high quality species are often used for products which can really be made of low quality wood or secondary species. Even for a casual visitor, waste in the forest and plant appears exorbitant, and one wonders why some of this waste could not be chipped and sent to mainland India, where the chips could be used in the production of pulp and paper or fiberboard.

A study of the potential for improvement and further development of the forest industries of the Andamans was commissioned by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the resulting report presented many sensible ideas and practical options for future expansion. I doubt, however, that a major improvement will occur because of a general apathy towards progress I noticed in the forest industry of the Andaman Islands.