

## Language lab in offing

"It's simply not enough to tell a university freshman who has never learned to write that he'll have to do it on his own. You have to help him learn to write and to do that you need some kind of program." So says St. Thomas University's newly appointed Director of the Writing Program, Professor James Reither of the University's English Department.

Professor Reither was appointed Director last month to implement the recommendations of a special Senate Committee on language competence. The committee report, adopted by the University's Academic Senate last March, called for the institution of a writing course which would be required of all freshman except those who take and pass an exempting examination. The course would be taught by STU Faculty members drawn from all of the University's departments.

The reason for the unique staffing procedure, Reither explains, is that it provides the means for all departments to become involved with language competence. "Lots of universities say that good writing should be

the concern of every professor. At St. Thomas we're setting up a program which will actually make such a state of affairs a reality. To do less is simply not going to change the way people think," says Reither.

Reither noted that although some people have expressed scepticism about whether writing courses work at the university level, his experience indicates that they do.

For the past two years, he points out, he has taught a term course in writing at the freshman level at St. Thomas and is convinced that the subject can be taught effectively. "You have to do two things, basically. You have to motivate the students -- convince them that it really makes a difference whether they write clearly and coherently or not -- and you have to make some of the tools of good writing available to them."

Besides teaching an upper level course in Expository Prose at St. Thomas, Professor Reither has taught writing in Oregon and Louisiana. He has also been engaged in an extensive research

program into current theories of composition and composition teaching which included chairing a panel on the role of the Director of Writing at a conference on freshman English held recently in Wyoming. An eleven year veteran of the St. Thomas staff, he says he is optimistic about the possibility of improving writing standards at the University. "Students do want to learn to write," he says. "When they arrive at St. Thomas most of them know that they should do a lot better than they've been required to do in high school. But even at a small, informal place like this they need a formal context to help them do better."

Professor Reither's duties for 1978-1979 include teaching a pilot section of the new Writing 100 course, co-ordinating the inter-departmental staffing of the course to be offered in September 1979, selecting an examination to

exempt those students from the course who exhibit proficiency in writing, and generally heightening concern for language competence at the University.

## FNBFA to meet Hatfield

Members of the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations Executive met on August 15th with Premier Hatfield. The chairperson of the MPHEC (Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission) was also present at the meeting.

The FNBFA had requested the meeting in order to present and discuss their brief entitled "The Role of N.B. Universities in the Promotion of Bilingualism, The Financing of New Brunswick Universities and The Role of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission."

The FNBFA pointed out that N.B. provided less support per student to its universities than any other province in Canada; that the federal government gave the province more funds for post secondary education than what the government granted the universities in 1977-78; and that these funding policies were having an adverse effect on the quality of university education in New Brunswick. The Premier, while sympathetic to the FNBFA's requests for improved financing for the Province's four universities

stated that the resources available did not permit any higher level of support.

The FNBFA told Hatfield that they were not satisfied with the performance of the MPHEC. The FNBFA stated that they felt that various important studies had not been undertaken by the MPHEC and the case made for operating grant support was not well based or documented. The Premier responded that he was satisfied with the performance of the MPHEC.

The FNBFA recommended that the universities be encouraged to promote bilingualism and suggested that one method for doing this is by providing special scholarships for students who demonstrate competence in both official languages either on entering or leaving university. Premier Hatfield expressed interest and support for this idea but requested more details prior to making any commitments. The FNBFA undertook to provide these in cooperation with the MPHEC.

On August 29th the group met with the leader of the Opposition, Joseph Daigle, and presented him

with their brief. Daigle was sympathetic with the FNBFA's views, he expressed interest in the suggestions on the promotion of bilingualism while stating that he had some reservations with respect to the modalities of implementation of such a proposal.

For further information contact Professor I. Unger 453-4783.

## Travel Talk

By BRENDA JOHNSTON & LOUIE WILBY

WELCOME I assure you that I sincerely welcome students back to this Campus . . . I have been out of a job all summer waiting for you to get back. THANKS.

Needless to say, many of you have recently experienced the bitter consequences of an airline strike and who is to say that it is over . . . let's just hope so.

For those who are new to our campus, I would like to briefly tell you what Travel Talk is and who does it and why.

TRAVEL TALK is a weekly column published to help inform students how to travel conveniently and economically. It is written by the staff of Campus Travel who try to assist students in all aspects of travel.

If you haven't had a chance yet, drop into our booth at Aitken Center and enter your name for a free flight bag from Air Canada, CP Air, or Eastern Provincial Airways. The lucky winners will be announced in this column next week.

Within the next two weeks all of our new brochures and information should be available. Drop into our office in the Student Union Building; we are located on the ground floor between the cafeteria and the coffee shop.

We are expecting changes this year, one of course not being our end of the year trip to Florida, or our packages to the sun during March Break or our week-end excursions fares home.

Plan ahead . . . it is not too early . . . after eight months of hard work you deserve a break . . . take time to travel.

See you next week.

## Media ignores request

At any given time numerous applicants are being considered for various high-level positions with colleges around the country. And at any time the search committees evaluating those applicants often find themselves in a conflict with their local news media. While the search committee wants to conduct the hiring process in unpublicized dignity the local media scramble over one another to be first to announce the names of those in the running.

An incident that took place recently at the U. of South Florida is typical of many others, and serves to illuminate two points of view on the subject.

The USF student newspaper, the Oracle, obtained a list of applicants for the position of Vice-President for university relations. Florida has a strong "sunshine law," which allows public records to be opened to the public, with a few exceptions. In giving the student paper the names, the USF vice president for administration warned the paper that the names were not those of "finalists" and therefore, pending the results of a court case, might not be covered under the sunshine law. He advised the paper not to print the names, explaining that many of the candidates held top positions

elsewhere and to let it be known that they were seeking the job would be detrimental to them.

The student newspaper editors listened to the Vice-President's advice, then proceeded to run a spectacular article identifying the applicants, which included some prominent local businessmen.

In an editorial the newspaper explained its reasoning in ignoring the administrator's advice: ". . . being 'found out' is a hazard that goes along with applying for any job."

"If the Oracle wanted to serve

only the public relations interests of the university, we would ignore search processes, and ignore proposed parking rate increases and ignore anything even halfway controversial," said the paper.

The vice president who gave the paper the names didn't see it that way. "I have always tried to be open and responsive to the Oracle staff," he wrote in a private letter to the editor. "You will understand my difficulty in maintaining this posture in the future after this experience."

### GRADUATE STUDENTS

Do You have an assistantship?

If you want your first payment on SEPTEMBER 29 you MUST

- 1) Register as soon as possible
  - 2) Give your Director of Graduates
- Your UNB Student Number  
Your Social Insurance Number  
Your Citizenship Status  
and (visa students only) the expiry date of your Employment Authorization.

Neglect may mean NO PAY UNTIL MID-OCTOBER!

### Library hours

Here are the hours at the Harriet Irving Library for the 1978-79 year:

- Mon - Thurs: 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. Basement until midnight
- Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. Basement not open
- Saturday: 1 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Basement until 7:30
- Sunday: 2:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Basement until midnight.

Students are advised to pay particular attention to the journals as you can be fined for returning these late. Journals can be signed out for two days. Other books can be signed out for 14 days. If these books are overdue then you can get a renewal form available inside the doors at the desk and send it in.

Remember that other students need these books as much as you do so please return them on time.

Above information compliments of UNB Security.