

# UNB HISTORY SYMPOSIUM HELD AT STU

By J.P. GOLDRING

Despite complications arising from the Strax affair, the University of New Brunswick symposium on Atlantic Provinces History went off without a hitch-- but not at UNB.

The two-day seminar, sponsored Friday and Saturday by UNB's student history club, was hastily transferred to St. Thomas University when main speakers George Rawlyk of Queen's and Michael Cross of the University of Toronto refused to speak on the UNB campus. Rawlyk explained to local press and radio in Fredericton that his and Cross' refusal stemmed from the lack of "due process" in UNB's suspension of physics professor Dr. Norman Strax in September. It was decided Wednesday, November 13, to change the location of the symposium to St. Thomas, a separate university located on the west side of the UNB campus.

Cross and Rawlyk read papers describing the state of historical writings on Maritime provinces subjects; a third paper written by W.S. MacNutt, dean of arts at UNB, was read by Dr. D.M. Young since MacNutt was in New York "engaged in another enterprise of an historical nature".

Early speeches during the symposium mentioned the Strax affair and the change of site obliquely, and Rawlyk quipped that he felt "a lot better since Professor MacNutt's review of my book has already been published."

P. Buckner of UNB's history department introduced Rawlyk with a glowing description of his sense of judgment, concluding that Rawlyk was a man who "would never reach a hasty decision." However, the Strax case was never a major topic of discussion and if any dispute might have been raised, UNB history department chairman buried the hatchet with his remark, "I can't exactly say a word of welcome to THIS campus to our distinguished visitors, Dr. Cross and Dr. Rawlyk; but I do welcome them to the neighbourhood."

Rawlyk called for a school of "progressive-minded radical historians" to provide a fresh approach to maritimes history. He claimed that local historians ought to concentrate more on social history, the relations of the maritimes to the US and Britain, and an application of the Hartzian analysis to the maritime mentality.

Both Rawlyk and Cross criticized conservative, establishment-oriented maritime historians. Rawlyk's paper dealt with four reasons why Atlantic provinces historians have ignored not only critical social history but virtually all history since 1873. First, he said,

historians became conscious first of the gaps in 19th century history, but should have progressed beyond simply filling those gaps; second, the sense of inferiority which many maritimers feel leads their historians to concentrate on the period before 1860 when Nova Scotia and New Brunswick really were the most prosperous and dynamic colonies in British North America. He cited a third cause, a reflection of the British historians' belief that recent history is little more than "futile exercises in current events". This, he said, explains why much good recent history has been written by political scientists: McKinnon of PEI, Thorburn of NB, and Nova Scotia's J. Murray Beck. Fourth, Rawlyk claimed that historians here are too closely connected to the provincial establishments and thus are reluctant to criticize local institutions and individuals.

Dr. J.K. Chapman of UNB criticized Rawlyk's fourth point and claimed that New Brunswick historians have not been writing much because they were recently involved in a "revolution within the university" at UNB. He was not referring to the Strax case but to recent changes in the University Act, and to considerable growth in the university and its history department.

Professor Michael Cross of Toronto discussed some of the schools of Canadian history, criticizing the emphasis on constitutional history "which still

continues to bore school-children", the "myth of respectability" which supposedly distinguished Canadians from Americans, and the resulting tendency to ignore social history, and particularly violence as an influential factor in Canadian development.

The symposium ended with a panel discussion Saturday morning; main speakers were Mlle. Maillet, an Acadian novelist teaching at the Universite de Moncton, Dr. Pacey of the English Department at UNB, prominent Maritime artist Alex Colville of Mt. Allison, and Rawlyk. All discussed maritime culture with particular reference to the Acadians, but Rawlyk pointed out a glaring defect in Atlantic Provinces intellectual life -- maritimers are not contributing anything to the debate on the future of Canada, he said. He claimed that in some maritime newspapers, "some of the editorials are clearly from the neanderthal period."

While he was teaching at Dalhousie, Rawlyk was threatened with a lawsuit for comparing a prominent daily newspaper unfavourably with the NOVA-SCOTIA, Joseph Howe's newspaper of the nineteenth century.

Historians from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and the state of Maine attended the symposium. Dalhousie sent five students and a professor.

## CEGEP Crisis Returning Again?

MONTREAL (CUP) — The Quebec CEGEP crisis may be blowing up again.

Repressive administrative action at CEGEP Chicoutimi has set off an occupation of one CEGEP, the closing of Chicoutimi and a series of study sessions and ultimatums at others.

Earlier this week, seven students were expelled at Chicoutimi for missing more than 10 per cent of their scheduled classes. Student leaders say the seven were singled out for their activity in occupation of the school earlier this month.

On Tuesday, students at the school held a massive protest in which some damage was done. The administration replied by shutting down the school because the "climate is unfavourable for the pursuit of studies." Education Minister Jean-Guy Cardinal approved the administration action in a statement to the parliamentary education committee.

Students at Jonquiere CEGEP occupied their school

Wednesday in support of the students at Chicoutimi. Nerves are raw in the neighbouring area, just outside Chicoutimi, as residents are worried the CEGEP crisis is in some way linked to the theft of some 150 sticks of dynamite from a local construction site.

Students at Lionel Groulx in Ste. Therese, the school that kicked off the whole occupation movement in October, have issued a three-point ultimatum to their administration and threaten to occupy their school again unless their demands are met. The ultimatum deals with curriculum control and student council fees. The Lionel Groulx administration is on the verge of shutting down that school as well but has held off because it feels the militants are a minority faction.

At CEGEP St. Laurent, students voted to hold study sessions on the Chicoutimi problem.

Many of the Quebec junior colleges are meeting tonight (Thursday) or Friday to decide on action they might take.

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