

Coaster derby set for October 16

By REAL BERNIER

Each year since 1975 the student society of the Mechanical Engineering Department has organized a race of unpowered coaster vehicles called the "coaster derby". The race has been held during Engineering Week on the eastern branch of the UNB campus ring-road between the Aitken Centre and McConnell Hall.

Besides being entertaining to the spectators and a keen competition among the participants from various university departments, the race is used as a practical learning experience in machine design and fabrication techniques.

This year's race will be held on Friday, October 16.

Due to problems in course security and vehicle safety in past years, the race committee this year is working to overcome these difficulties. The objective is to have a secure and safe race course during the competition and to have vehicles that have passed a rigorous vehicle inspection.

Vehicle Inspection

The application forms for entry into the coaster derby competition this year have listed the following rules:

- (1) The car cannot be self-powered.
- (2) It must use either three or four wheels.
- (3) It must have good steering.
- (4) It must have good brakes.
- (5) There must be a roll bar that goes over the top of the driver.
- (6) There must be a seat belt and the driver must wear a helmet.
- (7) It must pass a test run at the beginning of the race.

The Safety Committee of the Mechanical Engineering Department will assess whether each vehicle has met these criteria. Vehicles which do not pass the visual inspection will not be permitted on the course. The drivers will be encouraged to walk down the course, as well as to take a test run in their vehicles before the competition.

Race Course

As in previous years the eastern branch of the ring road will be used. The beginning of the course is similar to previous years, however the end section is different.

The vehicles will start near the south gymnasium, pass the Aitken Centre, go around the island in front of d'Avray Hall and then down the main ring

road. After the vehicles pass by the upper side of the island near McConnell Hall it will continue down the main road and turn into the parking lot of the Alumni Memorial Hall and pass the finish line. The drivers will have to stop in between two marked lines.

Course Security

During the race the access to the course will be partially prohibited during the races heats. The access from all adjoining lane ways and roads will be blocked and manned by security personnel and members of the Coaster derby committee.

City buses which normally travel up the eastern branch will be allowed through between races or heats.

Vehicles which are normally parked along the roads forming the course will be prevented from doing so. Drivers of vehicles which park in parking lots which are to be blocked off will be warned of this when they enter in the morning.

Bicycles also will be prohibited from the course during and between heats.

After each heat the winning vehicle will be taken to the top of course by a route which is entirely off the race course.

This new course was designed for the safety of the participants and the spectators and we, the organizing committee hope to have the collaboration from everybody to make this year's coaster derby successful.

The entry deadline is today at 5 p.m. in the mechanical engineering office of Head Hall building.

There will be two classes in this Derby. The race for the safe car and one shorter course which will involve fun cars.

Course Safety

The race course is designed to test the maneuverability of the vehicles as well as their speed. The turns in the course will require the vehicles to slow down. This will keep the speed down and improve the safety. Each vehicle must keep in its lane in the turns.

On the outside of the turns protective barriers consisting of straw bales and-or tires will be used. This will protect the spectators. Barriers will also be placed in front of any sign posts and trees which may be hazardous to a vehicle which leaves the race course.

The logistics of acquiring the barrier material, putting the

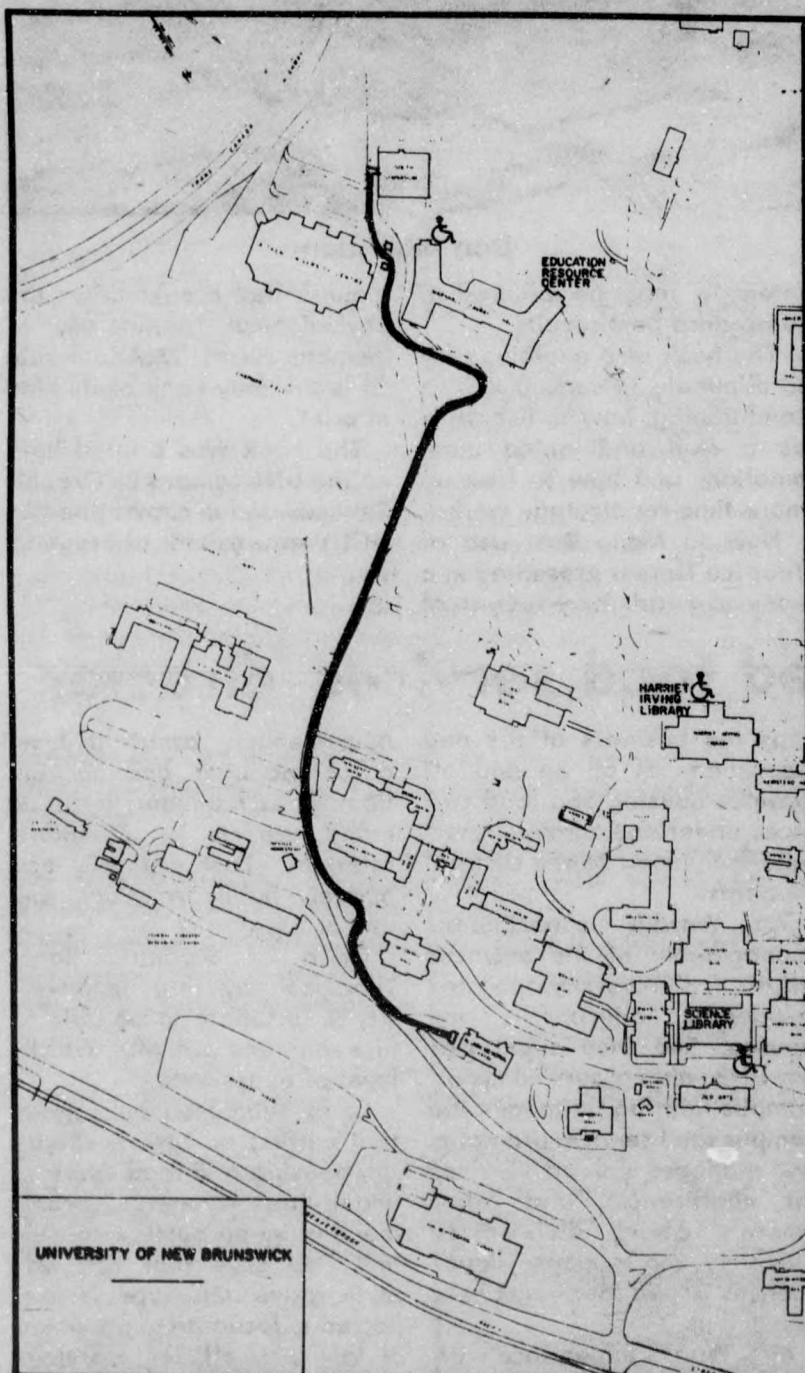
barriers in place, and removing and returning the barrier material will be the responsibility of the organizing committee. The student leading the committee is Mr. R. Bernier and the faculty member is Professor R. Rogers.

Race-day Schedule

It is proposed that the race course be completely secure for a period of two hours. This should provide time for the vehicle test runs and all of the race heats.

The vehicles will race two at a time with the winner proceeding to the next heat. For example, if there were 16 entries. The race schedule would be as follows:

- (1) Eight first heats at 5 min. each for 40 min. total
- (2) Four second heats at 5 min. each for 20 min. total.
- (3) A pause of 10 min. for vehicles to return.
- (4) Two semi-final heats taking 10 min.
- (5) A 10 min. pause to return finalists.
- (6) One final heat taking 5 min.



This year's coaster derby route

THE NEW BRUNSWICK ELECTRIC POWER COMMISSION

is actively seeking career oriented people for the following positions:

1. Engineers:

- a) Electrical
- b) Chemical
- c) Mechanical

Various positions exist within the Commission at Head Office and various field locations throughout the province of New Brunswick. Our company offers excellent opportunities as well as a comprehensive employee wage and benefit package competitive (or comparable) to other Maritime companies.

Students wishing to be considered for these positions should contact the Canada Employment Center on Campus where "Applications for Employment" forms can be obtained.

We are looking forward to hearing from you in the near future.

N.B. Power will be on campus on Monday Oct. 19 from 12:30 to 3:30 in room E 50 at Head Hall for an informal session with interested students. Sandwiches, coffee and donuts will be available.

Formal interviews are scheduled at the University on Friday, October 23.

Sincerely,

THE NEW BRUNSWICK ELECTRIC POWER COMMISSION