

# Engineering Conference to be held at UNB

by Allan Carter

The Canadian Committee on Women in Engineering will be holding a national conference on the UNB campus, May 21-23.

Before the conference at UNB the committee is asking various representatives of educational

institutions, government, industry, business, students, and other interested individuals across Canada to share their perspectives and recommendations on various barriers in their particular area.

In a letter which the committee is circulating to

various organizations and individuals, it asks "how can we address the barrier (perceived or real) and to take positive steps towards increasing women's participation" in the engineering field for the future.

The recommendations will be gathered and discussed at the Atlantic Region Public Forum on March 26 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

According to the letter, the information collected will be gathered to formulate effective strategies for increasing, encouraging, and enhancing women's participation in the field of engineering.

The results of this forum will be presented at the national conference in May.

Monique Frize, chair of the committee and a professor at UNB, says that they decided to hold the conference at UNB because the committee has already gone all across Canada holding public forums.

She feels it is appropriate to hold the "final big event at UNB."

Frize says the national conference will present the results of major national research projects and also some local projects which were done at UNB.

UNB is one of the universities which was included in the research project. Frize says she cannot release the other names until permission is given.

"The study at UNB has been very positive," says Frize, "however, the attendance of some focus groups was low and disappointing. Yet, generally, I was told it was very good."

## Nominations for elections to open Feb. 25

by Leigh Acheson

Recently, Vish Nandlall, Chief returning officer for UNB-SU announced a call for an official Student Union Election.

On February 25, the opening of the nomination period, there will be an overview of the election agenda highlights for students interested in participating in next year's Student Union. Nomination forms will be available at the Student Union office, and the nomination period will close March 12.

An advance poll will be held March 22, and elections for contested positions will begin on March 26.

Among the positions contested are representatives of the first and second year Senates, the Board of Governors, Council Faculty, and Student at large as well as executive and Grad Class positions.

In addition to the election details, Mr. Nandlall also announced that several referendums are being considered.

Among possible referendums is one concerning the present health care program, which has caused concern because it does not cover oral contraceptives, a commonly demanded prescription among students.

Another short fall of the

One of the purposes of the conference at UNB is to study the recommendations which will be collected at the forum in Halifax and to decide how these recommendations can be implemented.

Frize says this is an important aspect of the conference. She stresses that in order for the conference to be successful, it must be understood that it is not just a conference for women.

"We need a gender balance conference. We need as many men as women at the conference interested in improving the situation. How can we make the changes with just the women - impossible."

So far, 80 individuals are registered for the conference. Frize says they cannot take more than 300. Only about 10 men have registered.

Schedule of the National Conference which will be held at UNB see page 10

Frize says the low registration of men is disappointing. She is hoping that professors, deans, and other individuals at UNB will want to participate in the workshops during the conference.

Part of the committee's recommendations have touched on students. Frize says the committee is trying to make the students aware of the forum and the conference. For instance, a letter was sent to the Engineering Undergraduates Society at UNB.

## Peace demonstration held in Fredericton

by Jerry K. Thomas

Nearly one hundred demonstrators marched from the Provincial Legislative Assembly to Fredericton City Hall on Saturday morning to protest Canada's involvement in the Gulf War.

Chanting slogans such as "No Blood for Oil" and "Troops Out Now", the placard-waving group was led by three people dressed as skeletons symbolizing the death toll which grows higher as the war continues.

The march, sponsored by the newly formed Fredericton Anti-War Coalition, went along a highly visible route, covering much of the downtown Fredericton area.

At City Hall, the group gathered around an "open bullhorn" to hear a variety of speakers opposed to the war, including representatives from the NDP, the Voice of Women, the Fredericton Anti-War Coalition, and the International Socialists.

Demonstrators were encouraged to speak about how they felt about the war, and many people took advantage of the opportunity to make their voice heard.

Many of the speakers addressed the issue of the number of civilian deaths in the war, as well as the amount of propaganda on the part of

the Bush and Mulroney government. The role of the mainstream media in the war was challenged, as a number of the speakers felt that the media have shown an obvious bias toward American and Canadian military propaganda.

One speaker stressed the need to build an organized anti-war movement, similar to the one which helped to sway public opinion during the period of the Vietnam war. Two women spoke of the fear they have for their children during this war, and wondered aloud how to answer their children's questions about the deaths in the war.

One speaker noted that as demonstrations across the country in opposition to the war occur on a more frequent basis, the anti-war movement is building much more rapidly than during any previous war or military confrontation.

It has become apparent that this anti-war movement is an international one, as demonstrations in opposition to the war have occurred across the globe over the past two months.

The Fredericton Anti-War Coalition will be planning upcoming demonstrations and other actions in the very near future, and are encouraging interested persons to contact the coalition for information about upcoming meetings.

## Law students bowl for millions

Press Release

Students in the Faculty of law at the university of New Brunswick took part in Bowl For Millions, the major fundraising campaign for the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters association which was held on Saturday, February 9, 1991.

Pledges in the amount of \$577.00 were collected from fellow students and staff. The students look forward to participating next year.

## CHSR

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government, and the UNB Administration.

From these sources, a policy was formulated which Staples feels "most closely resembles the federal government's policy".

At present, the Employment Equity Policy only affects the two full-time staff and the three part-time staff at CHSR. Staples however says that "there is some talk of expanding the policy so that it will affect the senior positions

which receive honoraria from the Student Union."

In the meantime, Miller says that "the Women's Collective is just ecstatic", and she feels "CHSR has taken a bold step in doing this."

Staples says that "certain people are really happy with it - others are raising questions as to whether it will affect the competency of the hired staff. I believe that this is just natural apprehension which will die down as the policy's effectiveness is put to the test."

## SU currently constructing 91-92 budget

Press Release

The Student Union Finance Committee is currently constructing the 91-92 budget. To date, most clubs and societies have made presentations to the Finance Committee, but a few are straggling behind.

According to VP (Finance and Administration), Greg Lutes, "After all the notices, meetings, and ads in the Bruns, I have to assume that any club which has not made a submission doesn't want any Student Union funding next year".

The usual budget process of giving preliminary budgets to the VP Finance, meeting with the Finance Committee, and then having the overall budget presented to council (3 readings) is proceeding a little earlier this year than last.

Any club or society which has not made a submission, or had an interview yet, is urged to contact Greg Lutes at the Student Union office.

The first reading of the budget should be presented to council February 27

## SU committee reviewing honoraria system

Press Release

The Student Union Honoraria Committee is currently in the process of soliciting information from various universities across Canada concerning their honoraria systems.

The distribution of honoraria at UNB has remained unchanged (except for periodic increases) for several years. V.P. Finance, Greg Lutes, comments, "There is very little structure guiding the distribution of honoraria, and there needs to be. A system which actually compares the value of one position over another, based on some type of points rating method would be preferred."

UNB probably rates about average in honoraria amounts

for a school its size. For example, the Student Union President receives \$3,500 per year here; at St. Mary's the President receives \$2,600 per year; and at Dalhousie University, the President of the Student Union receives \$9,150 per year.

Differing structures between the various Student Unions probably account for the differences in honoraria amounts.

The Honoraria Committee is also seeking input from concerned individuals. If anyone is interested in learning about how honoraria is distributed by our Student Union, or wants to comment on the present system, then contact Greg Lutes at the Student Union office in the SUB.