

The EUS - For them and their engineers the student's council matters not

by brian steeves

The Engineering faculty of UNB accounts for slightly less than one-fifth of the university's student population, and representative of this large group is their Engineering Undergraduate Society. The society is active, articulate, and very adamant in pushing the views of its members, as well as giving a myriad of services and social activities to its members.

Membership in the society is not compulsory but its enrollment includes three hundred out of a possible seven hundred and fifty students, representing five departments of engineering. The average attendance at meetings varies from fifty to sixty percent, a seemingly large, unwieldy group, but not so. The services provided by the Society for its members are to be envied by any other faculty on campus.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

The most popular of their social functions are the annual blowouts, the engineering smokers, and in a more sedate view two formals.

Engineering Week supposedly opens the Engineering faculty to the public, but quite often is a week-long debacle by the engineering students, leaving alcohol-muddled heads and nervous tremours at the end of the week.

New with the society this year was the chariot race held in October. The entertaining race was a successful fund-raiser for the United Appeal. Planners would like to continue the chariot race on an all-faculty scale next year.

Services lesser known generally but highly valued by the engineers are the engineering store, their yearbook, their newspaper, an engineering lounge, and a program of guest lectures and films.

ENGINEERING STORE

The store, to protect the Campus Bookstore monopoly, is not permitted to sell books, but it does stock all the hardware required by engineering students as well as

records and sundries. A member of the society pays cost plus five percent (to defer operating costs).

The non-member must pay cost plus fifteen percent. The society is now considering the sale of limited EUS memberships to the general student body, entitling them to use the store but still excluding them from other EUS privileges.

The yearbook (\$2.00 to society members) centers exclusively on the engineering faculty and its members. The society publishes a newspaper, irregular in its publication schedule, often barely surviving from one year to the next. The paper performs an information service for engineers, with only slight emphasis on features. It is a highly-valued communication medium, consolidating the society.

The films and guest lecturers are a valuable extra-curricular source of technical information for the students.

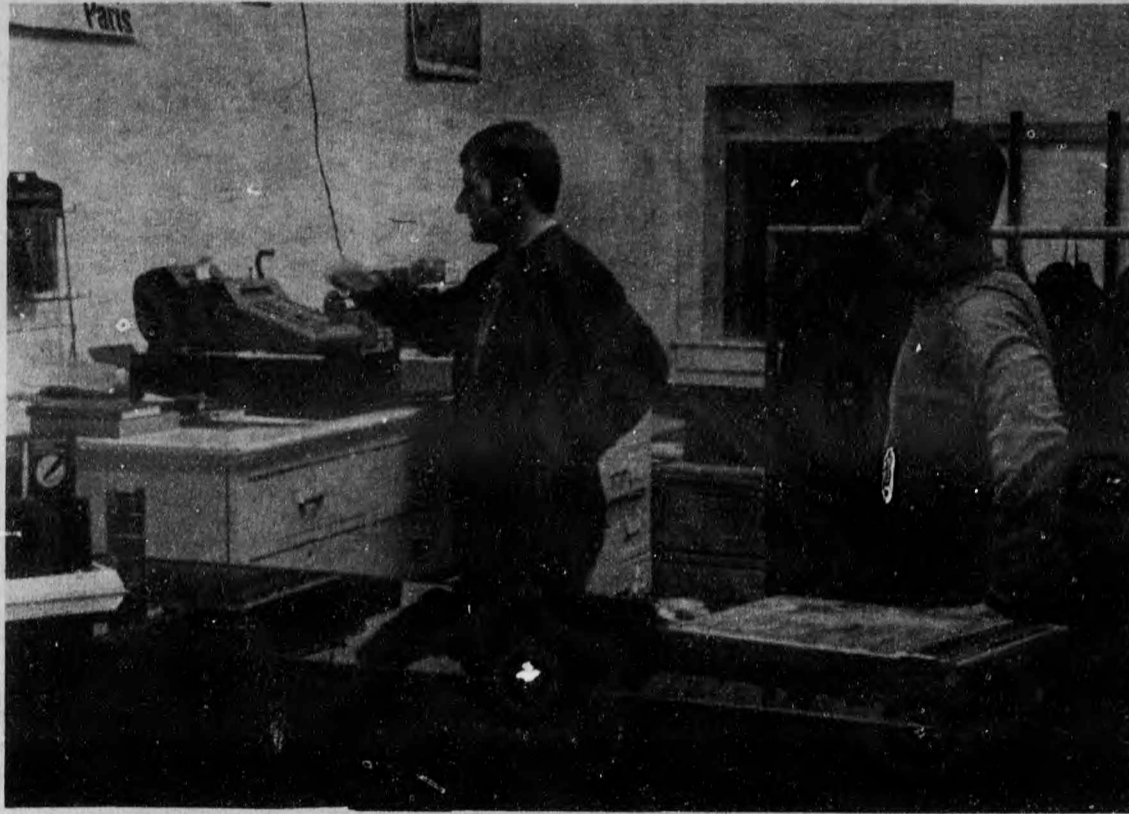
FINANCING

How is all this financed? It is not as expected from the yearly SRC dole (the society does receive money from the SRC for films and guest lecturers upon request) but from store revenues, dances, yearbook sales and membership fees. The bulk of their revenue depends on the five-dollar society membership fee and membership is of course restricted to the engineering faculty.

This year's operating budget for the society is \$3,300, not really that much, considering the services provided. For five dollars the member receives a very good return on his investment as well as a voice in a strong and powerful student organization. He can create impact on the campus as a whole, through his society, even sometimes in direct conflict with the SRC.

The society is required to submit its constitution to the SRC for ratification, but being financially independent, highly organized and large, the society is largely unaffected by SRC decisions.

The Engineering Undergraduate Society hasn't



Two volunteer clerks in the Engineering Undergraduate Society are at Head Hall. This store is one of the many services provided by the EUS. Though not permitted to sell books, it is still a very useful service to the engineers.

-macneil

yet incorporated all members of the engineering faculty into its ranks, but there is a sufficient amount to be considered fully representative of all the engineers. In this respect, the policies of the society are definitely centered on gaining a consensus of their members' views and assuring that these views are acted upon. No major movement on campus or even SRC policy receives strong campus support unless it is endorsed by the society.

EUS POLITICS

Politically the engineers have been right of centre or even reactionary, a position generally endorsed and implemented by the society in its meetings regarding political action. One member of the society confided that the citizens of Fredericton look to the society as what may be termed as "defenders of the faith"; that is, a conservative, non-violent stand playing down student activist demands. Another member suggested

that the faculty considered the society "policeman" of the campus. This was illustrated by various vigilante groups tracking down those who offended their political opinions in last year's student disruptions. However this is not really representative of the society. The engineering society does try to endorse and promote their own political interests, which may give their membership a rationalization at times of the violent and vindictive approach taken by some engineers. The society does not promote these tactics, but by its nature, may to a degree foster it.

In the past, the faculty and administration, through the society and its president, could to a degree manipulate the engineers but this is no longer the case. During the occupation of room one thirty last year, the engineers held lengthy meetings for two days in an effort to formulate a policy for the society. Faculty influenced to a degree but the meetings were candid and heated. The initial response

was outright condemnation of the students in one thirty with few arguing against it. Various tactics for dislodging them, ranging from the absurd to the lethal were suggested. Assistant professor Pobihushchy came to the meeting and eventually lent an air of moderation to the proceedings. The result was a less reactionary approach to Norman Strax and the people in one-thirty.

THE BOYCOTT

The student boycott of classes last spring became a success after the Engineering Society decided to endorse it. After long deliberations in open meetings sponsored by the society a moderate approach was formulated. The society balked at more violent or active approaches and condoned only the boycott. The boycott was successful and the society had demonstrated their power. A political consciousness was shown, a product of the society and quite invulnerable to tampering from the outside.

Engineering Festivities This Week - Queen to be Crowned Next Friday

A guest speaker from the national aeronautics and space administration will highlight opening night of engineering week, Monday night.

Mr. R.D. Esten of Houston, Texas will speak on the Apollo 11 project and show films and slides from the moon, at 8 p.m. in Head Hall auditorium.

The queen candidates, Libby Duncan, arts 2; Robyn Alexander, arts 2; Heather Warren, arts 3 and Mary Sedgwick will be presented the same night at 7 p.m. in Head Hall.

Open house is featured Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday. Engineering students from sister universities will tour Head Hall displays and facilities Tuesday, 1:30-5:30.

The general public and the rest of the campus will tour from 7-10 p.m. Senior high school students from all New Brunswick will tour Wednesday afternoon, 1-5:30. The guided tours will include competition projects prepared by individual classes. The judging will be announced at the ball Friday night.

The annual floor-hockey grudge match between the engineers and foresters heads up sports night, Thursday, 7-10 p.m. It's followed by a floor-hockey game with the engineering profs and basketball and volleyball games against the nurses.

The engineer's ball, "THE" social event of the year, climaxes the week. Tickets are by reservation only to dance to the Thomists in the SUB ballroom. The engineering queen will be crowned that night.

The denouement is movie nite in Head Hall, beginning 8:30, Saturday night. The feature is "Texas Across The River" starring Dean Martin. EUS members and their dates are free, others 50 cents.

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