

Student Services same as those needed in small town

By KEVIN MCKINNEY
SUB Director

The basic "Student Services" required on this campus are much the same as those felt to be desirable in any comparable community of 7000. Food and accomodation are basic needs and there are services on campus to help students meet these needs.

Also, the Security Service provides an aid to the protection of person and property. Beyond meeting these basic needs, what we normally call the "Student Services" becomes a bit more nebulous. Though the University may be defined as a "Community of Scholars", or a "serene Oasis of Knowledge", it is sometimes seen as a turbulent watering hole; but regardless of how we wish to describe it, the University is a community that presents challenges and problems to those involved in it, and the Student Services Support Personnel must meet and conquer these challenges and problems if the University is ever to achieve excellence.

Counselling is an area of concern to us all that has been neglected in the past, but in recent years has been justifiably receiving more attention. Many people at university are under stress from a myriad of problems, academic, emotional and social, that require professional counselling service to combat feelings of utter hopelessness.

Career counselling is also an important area of concern. A tightening job market in recent years has undermined the position of the University as an automatic provider of an admission ticket to a high-status, high-salary job. This has driven enrolment down and the University must consider as a high priority maximum exposure to its students of information on career opportunities and continuing education.

The future of the University depends on this and we may ponder the question: How many 1973 graduates are now facing the frightening prospect of not knowing for the first time in their lives what they will be doing in the fall?

Recent developments at the University of New Brunswick have brought the co-ordination of all of the Student Services under the aegis of the Dean of Students. This is a positive step, and since many of the areas of Student Services involvement overlap, conflicts and duplications can now be more easily eliminated, and where individual cases require the attention of several departments, joint efforts can be directed by the Dean of Students.

A student who comes to UNB with financial difficulties will quite conceivably have, as a matter of course, coincident problems with diet, accommodation, and emotional stability. Students from other countries may suffer from any combination of the above, and can usually expect to experience feelings of social and cultural inadequacy, real or imagined.

A growing concern with the use of leisure time is providing new challenges for the Athletics Department, for the SRC and for the SUB. New Programmes for recreation and for travel are developing at an accelerating rate, and must remain responsive to the current needs of the University community.

Whether the Student Services functions are brought together under one roof or not is less important to their successful function on campus than the co-ordination of the Services under the Office of the Dean of Students.

We now must attempt, however, to pool our information on services currently available so that it will be easily and readily accessible to those who need the information.

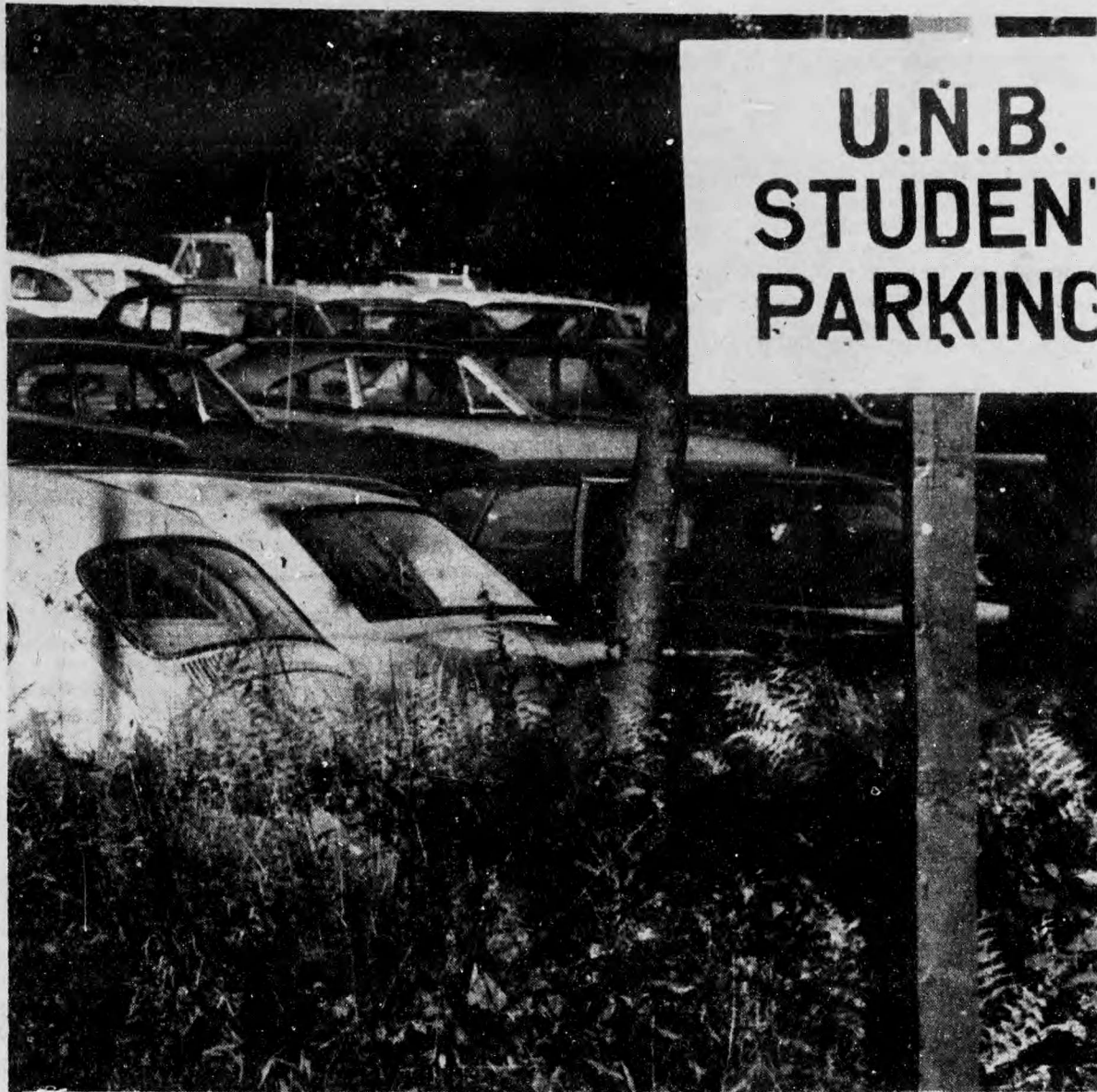
Without a facile means of

disseminating information, our Student Services, regardless of their suitability to the needs of the University community, can enjoy only limited success. Those of us with something to say about Student Services should be in touch with Frank Wilson, Dean of

Students.

But, as in other areas of University life, involvement and input by students is important to the success of Student Services; student concerns about security, counselling, health care, accomodation, career counselling, SUB

programming, athletics, leisure time usage, food service and the other student services can be turned into contributing factors to the achievement of excellence at the University only through persistent vocalization and determined involvement of the students.



Parking on campus is just one of the many student services which needs complete examination of efficiency before the 1973-74 term. In this week's Forum, Frank Wilson, Dean of Students and Kevin McKinney, SUB Director discuss these student services.

We're in danger of being too slow in Student Services

By FRANK WILSON
Dean of Students

One year in the office of Dean of Students has been sufficient time to convince me and a number of persons working closely with my office in the area of Student Services that we are in danger of developing, in many areas, "Student Services of the 60's for the Students of the 70's". The history of the development of Student Services at this University has been one of ad-hoc solutions to pressing and immediate problems. The experience is not unique to UNB and is evident, as a normal evolutionary pattern, in most other universities. The apparent lag in development of Student Services at this University is a function of a particular growth pattern rather than reluctance of the institution to recognize the value of such services. However, if as we move to integrate and rationalize our services we are limited in our planning to the type of services already existing at other uni-

versities, we are indeed in danger of planning for the past. Many individuals and groups have a part to play in future development, but the major responsibility rests with students to ensure that existing student services meet current needs and that the structures developed are flexible and capable of adapting to future circumstances.

The University of New Brunswick was one of the last major universities to establish an Office of the Dean of Students, with overall responsibility for all major student orientated services on Campus, when the Office came into official existence on July 1, 1972. Most American universities established such offices decades ago with one of the earlier appointments being at Stanford University.

The major task for Student Services staff during the past year has been to cope with day to day demands of the existing services and attempt to revise several of these areas where pressing problems existed. Into this

category fall the Health Service, with the problem of shortage of doctors, the Placement Service with restricted staff and financial support, and the ever present Housing problem. While on this subject, I would like to tell those impatient journalists who are "still waiting" that we are sorry to keep you waiting but the importance placed on a proper review of changes, which could affect students long after you have left the Campus, weighs heavier than the fact that you might miss a press deadline. This is not a time for more ad-hoc solutions. Fortunately the deadline for the study committees and your own might just coincide.

The 'fire fighting' tasks of the past year must now be followed by a review and development of a plan for Student Services for the 70's. This work is essential if the requirements and demands of today's university student population are to be realized. What are the areas for change and why are changes required? One example

readily available appears in the Counselling Service where the demands can change from year to year and range from career counselling through personal counselling to the traditional psychological services. As admission standards to universities change so will the demands on the Counselling Service and closer ties will be required with those persons charged with the so-called academic counselling. Academic counselling in any university may vary from faculty to faculty. This item can rate top priority in one faculty and be virtually non-existent in another. It can be provided as an explicit service, or it can be implicit in the design of a general program provided by a particular department. Greater emphasis must be placed on this area as the Student of the 70's is faced with a variety of elective courses and-or programs

Representation by Student Services on behalf of the students at various levels of the University must change with each change in

University Government. Students must protect their rights to representation and see that these develop as the University develops.

What does the student have to offer to these changes? In my opinion the students are the ones who should chart the course for change in the Services offered to them and, we in Student Services are only here to assist them and provide continuity as the student population changes with each Encaenia and as each new freshman class arrives. At present, the work load is carried by a few students, who fortunately are both capable and willing in their efforts at student government, representation and committee work; therefore, unless more students get involved then somebody else will plan the changes. In this case you, the student, may not get exactly what you want. The question I'd like answered is: "How can student input to student services be obtained?"