

## deficit budgeting popular at UNB ????

# a financial page

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

UNB's \$387,000.00 budget deficiency heralds a new era of considerably bad news for this university, and the ramifications include some increased costs, austerity and new restraint.

The deficiency is attributed to the decrease in full-time student enrollment. President John Anderson says the shortfall resulted over concern for adequate housing, changing attitudes about education and to the prevailing economic situation.

UNB's operating budget is derived from the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission per capita grant and tuition fees. A shortfall in projected enrollment produced money shortages in both the commission grant - \$30,000 and approximately \$357,000 in tuition monies.

Full time student enrollment at UNB for 1976-77 decreased only

marginally from last year, but fell 482 students short of that projected for the universities budget purposes.

There was a net drop of 25 students as of December 1 of the academic year. The decreases were noticeable in the faculties of Arts, Science, Nursing, Physical Education and Recreation in Fredericton. Arts, Business, Physical Education and Education were also affected on the St. John Campus.

There was an increase in enrollment in the faculties of Bachelor of Business Administration, Computer Science, Engineering, and Education with St. John having a small increase in Computer Science.

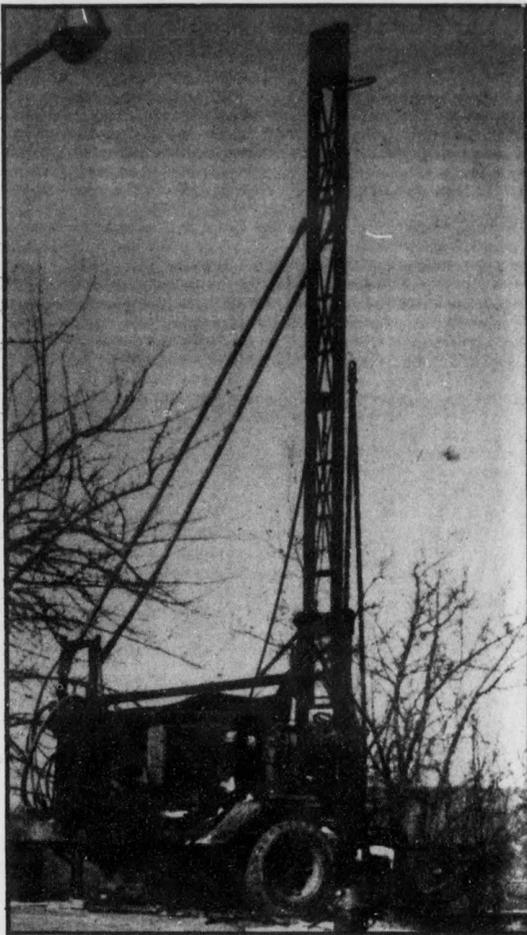
Two thirds of the decrease is attributed to those students who failed to return having already taken a year or more at university with freshmen composing only one third.

"We are testing these suppositions in questionnaires to those students who did not return this year" Anderson said, "and to those who indicated they were coming to UNB and failed to enrol at registration time."

President Anderson said that UNB's enrollment prediction in the past have been pretty much on target. "In fact," he said, "our record in this regard is enviable."



Dr. Anderson



Well, maybe they will strike oil.

## residence, maybe tuition fees to rise

Dr. Anderson expects enrollment to decrease again next academic year. Due to this, he said, that "residence fees will increase" also because of the increased cost of food. He also expects tuition fees to rise but added that he would take every precaution to avoid this measure.

Commenting on the deficit this year, Dr. Anderson stresses that the operating budgets of the faculties would not be affected, but there would be cutbacks in other areas including funds which have been allocated but not yet used.

One such fund is the non-space fund, a fund allocated for the purchasing of equipment. "We will not purchase any new equipment" said Anderson. Another area which will be affected concerns the appointment of part-time staff. Stringent measures will be taken to avoid this.

Anderson added that the contingency budget will be "drastically sliced."

He emphasized that it would be the faculty and staff who would be affected and not the students.

SRC president Jim Smith commenting on the expected decrease in enrollment, said the result would be increased tuition fees, a rise in residence rates and the likelihood of differential fees being imposed on foreign students.

Smith said that "students can't afford any more".

Faculty members available for comment prior to press-time had varied comments regarding the deficit budget situation on this campus.

Dr. Anderson attributed the decrease in part to the incorrect assessment of the housing shortage. "There is not really a housing shortage" he said, citing

the inability of the university to fill Victoria House as an example. In relation to the high tuition rates of UNB, Dr. Anderson said "our tuition fees are comparable to other universities in the Maritimes". He does not believe that this is seriously affecting the enrollment of either undergraduate or freshmen students.

Commenting on the shifting amount of students in the various faculties, Dr. Anderson felt there was a trend towards more career oriented jobs as opposed to general degrees, due to the lack of job opportunities. "This is the worst possible reason for choosing a course" he commented.

Dean of Students Barry Thompson said the decrease in student enrollment is only temporary due to students financial difficulties. He added that "it's only temporary

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## round two AUC

The University of New Brunswick's administrative vice president, James O'Sullivan, has given assurances to the university senate that the money to pay off the Aitken Centre's capital debt won't come from operating funds.

The three-million-dollar centre has a debt of between \$400,000 and \$600,000, said Mr. O'Sullivan. Money to pay off the debt is expected to come from campaigns aimed at alumni and businesses as well as from the sale of name

plates for seats at the centre.

But the vice president adds that the money needed immediately to pay off debts must come from cash on hand at the bank. The venture is expected to be operating on a break-even basis within a few years.

The general contractor for the centre placed a lien on it last September but withdrew this after the university agreed to pay more than the original estimate because of the increased costs of the building.

## Discreet fund-raising "systematic corruption"

# Author provides insight into NB politics

By DERWIN GOWAN  
Managing Editor

"Politics in a lot of ways hasn't changed very much in New Brunswick," said UNB Alumni director Arthur Doyle, author of the recently published *Front Benches and Back Rooms* to the UNB history club last Tuesday.

Doyle said it was "tough" for politicians to have to raise their own money to fight elections with. Politicians were "left to their own devices" so long as the general public showed no interest in

politics and taxpayers refused to fund electoral campaigns, he added.

As long as there was no public funding of election expenses there would be corruption in New Brunswick politics. Doyle said about the characters in his book, "You really couldn't trust any of them completely." The parties were led by a few people who decided what candidates run in elections. The taxpayers showed little interest, he said. "It's certainly difficult to see how politicians could act much differ-

ently," Doyle said.

He said both major New Brunswick political parties reported around \$1.1 million spent in the last provincial election and most of this came from "two or three dozen" national corporations.

Modern New Brunswick politics is much more sophisticated and fund raising more systematic than in the 1920's, he said. "Today," he said, "they know where the money is coming from and they already have it." He called this much more discreet method of fund-raising "systematic corruption."

Doyle described New Brunswick politicians of the 1920's as "a bunch of boy scouts" learning how to organize political parties.

"The power that the leaders in the parties have is very hard to exaggerate," said Doyle. "A political leader that doesn't want to go will almost destroy a political party," he said, referring to the difficulty the federal Progressive Conservatives had in ousting John Diefenbaker.

Doyle said the Acadians are "a whole new force" in New Brunswick politics, possibly rivall-

ing the old power centre, the Saint John River Valley.

Doyle also said the New Brunswick press changed since the period he covered in his book, 1912 to 1927. He said the press in the province has "backed away" from playing an active political role. Today, he said it would be a scandal for a New Brunswick newspaper to accept support from a politician, but as late as the 1950's, this was common and accepted practice.

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