

March break saved...barely

Students came very near to losing their full week's worth of March break at the regular meeting of the UNB Senate Tuesday night.

The academic policy committee presented the proposed school calendar for the next five years to the Senate. Because the senate committed themselves to a school year of at least 65 days a semester in a meeting last fall, the calendars eliminated the reading period before Christmas exams and reduced the March break from a week to just Thursday and Friday.

The Senate, determined to extend the academic year

without upsetting the school's standards, customs, and traditions, debated many ways of doing so. One of these was to shorten exam time on many finals from three to two hours in order to reduce the total time of the examination period. Another senate member suggested beginning Orientation Week before Labour Day, or squeezing the traditional week into two days. A third such plan was to register upperclassmen before freshmen so that frosh would not have to wait to start classes.

But the principal idea was still to shorten March break. One

argument against the week-long breather was that it would push the end of exams into May. It was then pointed out that on the proposed calendar, with a two-day break every year until 1984 no school year extended into May. So there was room for the holiday.

Someone argued the holiday would push Encaenia past its original place on the third Thursday in May. But the counterargument was: Why that particular date besides to continue an out-moded tradition?

Professor MacGill in defending the longer break said

the kitchen could close down for nine days then and save money. Reducing the break 9 days would mean serving food and additional 5 meals.

Another plus point was that though some students "want to go to Florida" many use the break to study.

The argument about school term length and division caused Prof. Patterson to comment: "I thought we aired this issue well Sept 4." Because of its complexity Member referred to the issue only half-jokingly as the "Bermuda Triangle."

Someone suggested hanging the whole thing around the Registrar's neck. Someone else asked: "Why the 65-day term? Why not less?"

To explain this, a senate member cited a study the History department made. Twelve years ago, they found, the average length of classes was 135 days a year. "There has been a cumulative erosion of teaching days," since then, he said.

Finally Senate passed a proposal with the same guidelines as the old one (before committee): a week's March break, and no 'at least 65 days in a term' clause. The vote was 32 in favor, 16 opposed.

Senate also discussed changes in curriculum. English 1000, a new course the English department wants, it to be part of the new English core program.

One member said in objection

to the class's title, Reading and Writing, "Doesn't that have a certain arrogance about it? What goes on in Kindergarten?"

After the senate voted the class back into the curriculum committee, a proponent said "It is not a remedial course."

Senate then discussed a class aimed at giving credit for Law students who write essays or articles of "publishable quality." One criticism was that as a logical extension, Brunswick and CHSR members would get credit for their work.

"I wouldn't compare the U.N.B. Law Journal to the Bruns," said the defender. "We're a well-respected journal. Most of the stuff published in the Bruns couldn't make it into this journal." Senate then voted in favor of the credit.

Dr. Downey announced that he was organizing a directory of faculty resources so that the media could have access to the opinions of those with expertise among UNB's faculty. He also said he would be visiting Fredericton's high schools starting tomorrow to drum up support for high school recruitment to UNB. "From the investment we make in the high school relations office we get a great return," he said.

In other business, the Senate approved PhDs in Mechanical Engineering, and a degree program in Geological Engineering.

Camp addresses students on writing

By NEIL DICKIE
Brunswickan Staff

"Writing," says nationally known political columnist and author Dalton Camp, "is like golf."

Unlike talking or body language, he explained to a UNB writing class last week, writing is not "a natural act." It is a learned thing, something you can get good at by study and practice, especially practice. Switching analogies, Camp said that "writing is very much like a muscle - the extent to which you use it is the extent to which it improves. The more you write, the better you write."

Camp, after a long career in the central Canadian centers of power, has returned to the Maritimes. In his farmhouse near Cambridge, he sits for several hours every day, portable typewriter in his lap, feet propped up in front of him, ample supplies of coffee and cigarettes within reach, doing what he has always wanted to do - write.

He confessed to the class, a senior level writing course taught by Professor Daniel Doerksen, that he, like most journalists and advertisers is "one of the worst procrastinators in the world. You have great flashes of insight when you're desperate."

Camp discussed the reasons for his success as a writer. First he said his complete immersion in politics gives him a confidence that makes him feel free to write about it. Second, he concentrates on writing to

entertain and provoke, rather than to "bestow wisdom" on his readers.

The writers that have most influenced him he said, are O. Henry, Ernest Hemingway and Norman Mailer. Henry, famous for the way he ends his stories with an unusual twist, has influenced his approach to writing political columns - he also tries to end in a novel way. "Hemmingway," he said, "was also the ideal of the writer. He was the consummate artist for dialogue, for recreating speech." Getting voices other than the author's into writing is an effective way of holding reader attention, he explained.

Norman Mailer has influenced him particularly his revolutionary coverage of the Republican national convention in Miami, coverage that was novel for "it's personal and retrospective tone," he said. He also said he has been much impressed by the political reporting of *Rolling Stone* magazine, which has an "uninhibited freedom that doesn't spill over into just self-indulgence. They have been very instructive to journalists."

In discussing his writing habits, Camp said he often starts with a metaphor or simile, "or a couple of sentences that please me," and builds upon them. The most important thing, he said is to start, "and then the lightning strikes."

"Sometimes I start a column on the House of Commons and then end up in the Senate or in Vancouver," he said. "I can't

wait until I get to the end so that I can find out what I'm going to say."

In commenting on journalism in Canada today, he said that there exists the phenomenon of "pack journalism," a phenomenon particularly rampant on the national scene. He explained that the national reporters are in the habit of deciding among themselves what the main points in an event are, usually in gatherings in favourite Ottawa watering holes, or on the campaign, in the backs of airplanes, between speeches. "they do feed on one another," he said, but later clarified that he did not mean it as a criticism. "I suppose it's a natural phenomenon."

He defended his use of "esoteric" words in his columns and books, saying "I love the English language and I love to use arcane, peculiar words - novel words." I you go in the other direction you get "communication in grunts." He said that new words have the effect of "keeping people awake."

When asked what he thought of the standard of literacy of journalism in Canada, Camp said he thinks it is "rather low." He cited two reasons: low standards in the communities many reporters work in, and a lack of emphasis on the professional training of Canadian journalists.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dalton Camp was editor-in-chief of the *Brunswickan* during the 1946-47 academic year.

Clubs, declare yourself!

By PETER F. KUITENBROUWER
Brunswickan Staff

The Students Representative Council has decided to give school clubs and organizations one last chance to come forward and confirm their existence, or they will not receive funding in the upcoming year.

The new executive, headed by Kevin Ratcliff, appeared dismayed at Monday night's SRC meeting that many of the 45 or so council-funded groups have not responded to two ads in the *Brunswickan* and one letter mailed to them. These notices asked that the groups meet with the SRC to present their revised constitutions.

The council decided Monday to extend the deadline for the clubs' response until the end of the month. The SRC will not fund those clubs that fail to appear.

In the president's message, Ratcliff said there were certain things the last council failed to recognize, such as student fees, changes to the academic year, and SRC fees. The SRC should be a leader of student problems, not a suspicious body, he said.

In other business, the council accepted the resignations of Bob Macmillan as editor of the *Brunswickan* and of David Kay as SRC Chairman. Also resigning are Carol Daley and Heather Ann Sandilands as recording secretaries, and Tom Parker as graduate student on the Student Disciplinary Council.

Council approved the appointments of Andy Young as assistant comptroller and Jeff Prince, Ross Libbey and David Barrett to the administrative board.

Councilors also agreed to hire a part-time bookkeeper for three nights a week.