

ENROLMENT AT UNB CONTINUES TO DROP

By ROLAND MORRISON

As everyone knows, enrolment at UNB in September, 1972, was down 100 students from the previous year. According to the Registrar, Dugald Blue, a further 100 students have dropped out since September. This decline in student enrolment has already caused the university serious financial problems, and if the trend continues, the university will have to seek additional funds, conceivably from the fewer students who will continue to enrol at university.

Financial difficulties seem to be the most important consideration of students who drop out, particularly the problem of student loans. Some students apply late for their loans, and naively request the exact amount of money that they will need. Consequently, when they receive their loan in late September, they find that it is much less than they had asked for, and they have no time to appeal for an increase. Stuck with insufficient funds, they have no choice but to withdraw from the university.

University courses are another major factor inducing students to leave. Coming out of high school, many of them find that their courses are being taught in what seems to be a foreign language. With a rather high student-prof ratio at UNB, those who are having problems may encounter greater difficulty in seeing their profs after class. Many of the courses seem to lack relevance to the particular field in which a student is interested, and many other courses are taught lackadaisically by indifferent profs. One often hears tell of "text-book" courses.

Another major cause of the increasing decline in student enrolment is the fact that many students are discovering that a university education does not lead automatically to a high-paying job. Students see statistics of unemployed university graduates in the newspapers everyday, while around them, the plumbers, electricians, and heavy-equipment operators are earning between \$12,000 and \$16,000 per year. Many more of them quit university in order to take a job now, rather than wait until after graduation, when the job may not be available.

Ever on the increase is the incidence of students who "take a year off". In many cases, the rising cost of a university education forces students to interrupt their studies to work for a year, and then to return to complete their degree. As well, some students take a year off to travel, to enjoy themselves before they are weighed down by commitments to family, job, etc.



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