

The Foreign Student

by Dirk Visbach

UNB is a surprisingly cosmopolitan campus. For the 1966-7 academic year there were 267 foreign students from 39 countries registered at UNB, comprising 9% of the 3596 students registered that year. This year's figures show that 260 foreign students from 44 countries are registered on the main campus alone, exclusive of those attending UNBSJ and excluding American students, whose numbers in particular may conceivably have swelled considerably since last year.

The statistics showing the

number of students from each country for 1966-7 and 1967-8 are as follows:

COUNTRY (1966-7)	ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES (1967-8)	
	1966-7	1967-8
1. Basutoland	1	.....
2. Bermuda	1	5
3. Brazil	1	1
4. British Honduras	4	.....
5. Ceylon	1	.....
6. China	1	.....
7. Czechoslovakia	2	.....
8. Egypt	1	.....
9. France	1	1

10. Germany	5	3
11. Ghana	1	.....
12. Great Britain	10	6
13. Guyana	6	16
14. Honduras	6	6
15. Hong Kong	13	23
16. India	36	37
17. Indonesia	2	2
18. Iran	1	1
19. Ireland	2	2
20. Kenya	14	12
21. Korea	2	3
22. Libya	1	.....
23. Malaysia	23	18
24. Netherlands	4	7
25. New Zealand	2	2
26. Nigeria	20	21
27. Norway	1	.....
28. Pakistan	6	2
29. Philippines	1	3
30. Portugal	2	.....
31. Rhodesia	3	.....
32. Seychelles	1	.....
33. Singapore	1	6
34. South Africa	1	.....
35. Sweden	1	.....
36. Switzerland	1	.....
37. Taiwan	18	22
38. Tanzania	3	2
39. Thailand	3	2
40. Turkey	1	.....
41. Uganda	6	7
42. United States	37	unknown 7
43. Vietnam	5	5
44. West Indies	28	37
45. Antigua	2	.....
46. Bahamas	1	.....
47. Barbados	4	.....
48. Dominica	1	.....
49. Grenada	2	.....
50. Jamaica	9	.....
51. Montserrat	1	.....
52. St. Kitts	1	.....
53. St. Lucia	1	.....
54. St. Vincent	1	.....
55. Trinidad & Tobago	14	.....
56. Zambia	1	37

TOTAL COUNTRIES
1966-7 — 39

TOTAL FOREIGN STUDENTS
1966-7 — 267

TOTAL COUNTRIES
1967-8 — 44

TOTAL FOREIGN STUDENTS
1967-8 — 260

SELDOM TO BE SEEN

The word foreign surprisingly, is used because this considerable sector of the university population keeps itself inconspicuous, especially those who are obviously foreign — the Africans and Asians, and those with colored skin. One sees them in residence, or in classes, or in McConnell Hall, but one seldom sees them in the student centre, or in the Brunswickan office. In short one does not see them socializing, except themselves. Is it possible that in Canada, more specifically in Fredericton, more specifically at UNB, there is DISCRIMINATION? Horrible thought!

But the problem is there. There is discrimination. There is discrimination in housing. Those students who prefer living in apartments in Fredericton are scarce, but should they be more scarce for students with dark skin? On last year's student housing questionnaire, sent to perspective landlords and landlords, there was a question asked whether foreign students were acceptable as possible renters. Monika Abicht, secretary of the UNB Group for Human Rights, has worked with Dr. Noel Kinsella of the Provincial Human Rights Commission to right the wrongs of discrimination, with little positive results to show her efforts. Mrs. Abicht sent a letter to the president of UNB asking that the above-mentioned section of the questionnaire be deleted. This was complied with, and the new questionnaire asks only for preference toward male or female, and for "any other preferences".

ONLY THE FIRST STEP

This, however, she considers as only the first step, and thus sent a subsequent letter asking that those who have discriminated, be officially dropped from the accommodations list, thus depriving these landlords and landlords from renting their rooms

or apartments to any students. This suggestion has met with the argument that New Brunswickers are not used to foreigners, and that in order to not upset or "shock" them, they should not be forced into accepting foreign students, as the new Human Right Law would decree they should, and that those particular people should not be deprived of renting accommodations to Canadian students.

Mrs. Abicht then composed a letter to all foreign students at UNB, requesting that they bring all complaints concerning discriminations, to the UNB Group for Human Rights or the Provincial Human Rights Commission, and asking that they co-operate in composing a list of discriminating landlords or landladies. In informal discussion with Mrs. Abicht, Dr. MacKay agreed to lend his name to the letter on a completely personal basis, independent of the university administration, to eliminate any possible fears of reprisals against students taking action. However, when Mrs. Abicht sent the letter to Dr. MacKay for approval he denied that he had sanctioned the letter, and an O.K. was not forthcoming. Dr. MacKay then phoned Mrs. Abicht telling her that his secretary would make another appointment for further discussion concerning the whole problem and advising that a revised letter not be sent to the foreign students for fear of waking Mrs. Abicht see — silly. As yet, nothing further has been done.

OTHER PROBLEMS

There are other problems. Many foreign students have trouble finding employment, and when they do, they receive only minimal pay. The departments in conjunction with External Aid usually find work for foreign students in line with their students, but this is not always entirely satisfactory. Students who have been here for years may desire to go home during their summer holidays, for many have wives and children at home, rather than work or study, but financial and legal problems bar their way. Legally, there is very little written in the form of regulations. The handbook given out by the External Aid Office says, in part "summer vacations... should therefore be used for credit courses, supervised study programs, or practical attachments such as teaching assistantships or field placements to supplement your academic work... You should neither need nor seek other sources of income." There is a conspicuous lack of regulations concerning employment other than that in line with "academic work". The only regulations of any sort found by this writer were in the Civil Service Handbook of the Department of Immigration, which stated that a student in the External Aid Program must

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