NDP organizing anti-spray campaign

By GERRY LASKEY

A meeting at UNB of concerned individuals on February 14 resolved to do all they could to halt or disrupt the spraying of New Brunswick airspace for the spruce budworm.

The meeting, organized by the campus New Democratic Party group and attended by about twenty-five people, was addressed by provincial NDP president, Jim Aucoin.

Aucoin said that there are too many unanswered questions about the effects of the various chemicals on people and wildlife to justify the spray programme.

Nova Scotia has cancelled its spray programme because the provincial government feels that a chemical must be proven to be harmless before it is used in the environment. The New Brunswick government's attitude seems to be the reverse. On this topic one person at the meeting pointed out the leading role of the Nova Scotia Medical Society and said, "Where the hell was the New Brunswick Medical Society?"

Several people at the meeting noted that Reyes Syndrome, the children's disease linked to the spraying is often diagnosed as encephalitis. Two Hampton children recently died of encephalitis after a spray plane flew over their school-yard last spring. Aucoin said the possibility of this being caused by the spray was reason enough to discontinue the programme.

Aucoin said that at the "information meeting" held by the government in Hampton following the two deaths the government officials did not want to discuss the spraying. He said a department of natural resources spokesperson said that they didn't have to worry as the area wouldn't be sprayed this spring anyway.

Aucoin said that in addition to suspension of the spraying, extensive medical and other research should be done. He said that besides natural cycles the budworm could be controlled if the forests were under a programme of silviculture. He said silviculture is not implemented now because it is not profitable to the companies involved. He added that the clear-cutting and stock-piling practices of the companies were driving the independent wood producers out of existence.

He said that "the forest sector is gone anyway," in reference to the justification of the spraying on alleged grounds of economic necessity. He speculated that the north of the province will be clear-cut of wood and then put into mining by the multi-nationals.

The meeting discussed several plans of action against the spray programme. The campus NDP group is the leading organizer behind the activities. It is co-ordinating all interested groups and individuals in the province who want to stop the spraying. The support of the provincial Concerned Parents group, formed during last year's spraying, has already been obtained. A general meeting of all forces has been tentatively set for March 31.

Decided upon already is the presentation of a summary to the New Brunswick government before the spraying starts. Further action will depend on the reaction to this. The NDP is committed to keeping the planes on the ground this spring and expects the government to react negatively to the report. Further action is being discussed and formulated and NDP leader, John Labossiere, has said he is willing to go to jail if he has to, to try to stop the spraying.

A protest at the Fredericton airport, where all the spray planes are kept, is a very definite possibility. It was said at the meeting that many spray-plane pilots are themselves opposed to the programme. The NDP is trying to contact them and get them to refuse to fly. In addition to moral grounds, the pilots may be sympathetic since the chemicals they use affect them and the effects may take years to manifest themselves.

Jim Aucoin noted the court decision in favour of Bridges Brothers Blueberry Producers who sued Forest Protection Ltd., the company that does most of the spraying, for damage to their crops. He said possibly a class action would be a good plan.

Another protest action possible is to find various laws that are being broken by the programme and initiating legal actions or even citizens' arrests. Research into various environmental and other laws that may be being violated is being done by the campus NDP group and others at present.

CSA participates in carnival

By J.M.

Well, Winter Carnival is finished for another year and all indications imply that a good time was certainly had by all. As promised, the Computer Science Association managed to enter a float in the Carni parade despite difficulties encountered with regards to school support in the construction of the float. Nevertheless, the float was constructed thanks to a lot of fabulous people from a cross-section of faculties and years.

Anyone who may have passed by Head Hall after Extravaganza Friday night may have seen our small group deligently at work. Those who participated on the float during the parade certainly showed no lack of spirit as evident in their rather overzealous actions throughout. The CSA would also like to thank the boys from Victoria House for making the parade what it was by rearranging our float early in the parade. It was great fun Vic.

Meanwhile the Mean Machine hockey team continues on their winning streak by defeating Phys. Ed. 3 last Sunday by a score of three to one. This Sunday they go up against the Business 3 hockey team in their third game of the playoff series.

Don't forget the game against the Canadian Pacific research team tomorrow (Saturday, Feb. 19) at three o'clock at the Aitken Centre. Admission is free and it could prove to be a fast-paced and exciting game. So, get out this weekend for some fast action on the ice and support your team!

Says McCurdy:

Everyone should have a club

By DERWIN GOWAN

The constitution of the Surveying Society of UNB passed last Monday's student council meeting despite the efforts of engineering representative Mike Bleakney to the contrary.

Bleakney opposed what he called the "fracturing of faculties into departmental societies which will then come to the student union asking for funds."

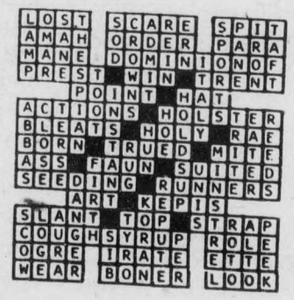
The Engineering Undergraduate Society already exists, he said, so a separate society for surveyors was a "duplication of services."

"I think it's time we took a stand on this," he said.

Vice-president internal Jan McCurdy took issue with Bleakney, saying, "I think that everyone that wants to have a club should be able to have a club." She said it was necessary for a club to be constituted before it could book rooms in the Student Union Building. This would not necessarily mean the club would be given funds, she said.

Bleakney said the surveyors could book a room under the auspices of the Engineering Undergraduate Society.

Other clubs constituted without debate include: UNB Wildlife Society, UNB French Club, UNB Women's Organization, UNB History Club and the Computer Science Association.



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