6 The Brunswickan

October 26, 1990

524 donors at Red Cross

by Murray Carew

The Annual Red Blood Donor clinic which was held in the Student Union Building brought out 524 donors. Out of this amount 427 donors were accepted.

According to Catherine Giles from the Red Cross, the quota they were looking for was 600 donors.

She said the total amount of donors this time was close to past records but she says they are not reaching their quota and "with the number of members of the University we should be."

Gifts were donated by various businesses and Giles was hoping it would be a kind of incentive, but she says " they didn't help bring people out." Nevertheless, she thanks all the businesses that donated and gave support. She also appreciates having the use of the room in the SUB.

She said next time they will try a different angle. She has already talked to the UNB Red Devils hockey team and she is hoping both the UNB team and the STU hockey team will sponsor the next clinic.

Varsity Mania has sponsored the donor clinic in the past years and Darren Comeau of Varsity Mania says they try to get more people out from the residences for the inter-residence competition. r This year Aitken again won

the competition with 58 donors, behind them were Neil

house with 45 donors. Tibbits narrowly won for the women residence.

The Red Cross wants to

thank all donors plus the Youth Action team and the Health Service Society for all their volunteer work. If anyone is interested in the Youth Action Team they can get in touch with Tabitha Bainbridge at 455-7708.



Giving blood: Though 427 donors were accepted the Red Cross quota was 600.

(Photo by Randy Goodleaf)

Gaudet: government should protect against exploitation of humans

Press Release

The New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women has recommended that no public funds be spent on providing access to new reproductive technologies.

Instead, the Advisory Council told the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies in Moncton Friday that more should be spent to prevent infertility and to improve the quality of life for children. "About 3 to 5 per cent of couples are unable to have a child due to infertility," said Ms. Gaudet. Payments to surrogate mothers should be prohibited, said Ms. Gaudet, as well as the buying and selling of sperm, ova and embryo. Donors should have a right to anonymity but clients have a right to know the medical history of the donor and the race of the child in cases of insemination and fertilization.

Surrogate mothers should have three months following the birth of the child to decide whether they will keep the child, said Ms. Gaudet to the Royal Commission.

In New Brunswick, the only infertility clinic, located at the Georges-L.-Dumont Hospital in Moncton, performs artificial insemination on married couples using the husband's sperm. It plans to begin using donor sperm soon.

Grace Maternity Hospital in Halifax performs in vitro fertilization on women from the Atlantic Provinces. That procedure has a success rate of 2-3 per cent. Medicare does not cover the cost for N.B. women. Nin yo

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"New reproductive technologies will continue to be offered and developed - whether it's test tube babies, surrogate mothers, artificial insemination or other technologies. The government's role should be to protect against the exploitation of humans by these new technologies.

"Some experiments must be prohibited altogether, such as cloning, and others must be controlled," said Jeanne d'Arc Gaudet, Chairperson of the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women.

"Resources would be better spent on preventing infertility than on the extremely costly reproductive technologies. The known causes of infertility include sexually transmitted diseases, pollution, certain contraceptive methods and the more advanced age women have children.

New initiatives for people with disabilities announced

Fredericton (CNB) -- The chairperson of the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission, Constantine Passaris, has announced new initiatives to provide better services to New Brunswickers with disabilities and to enhance public awareness of human rights issues affecting them.

"I am determined to see to it the New Brunswick Human Rights Commission is sensitive and responsive to the problems and concerns as well as the hopes and aspirations of persons with disabilities in New Brunswick," the chairperson said.

He said that during the past year the commission has been developing a pro-active agenda designed to address human rights issues in the 1990's. "As part of the building blocks of that agenda, the commission will promote awareness of the abilities and resourcefulness of persons with disabilities through an educational

initiative," he said.

Under that plan, Janet Cullinan, director of the compliance branch, will review the commission's services in order to provide faster, more effective services to the province's disabled community. This means the complaint, investigation and conciliation process will be developing access to specialized equipment and services as required. For instance, access to braille, sign language interpretation, audio cassettes, image enhancers and T.D.D. machines (telecommunication device for the deaf/visual ear).

The commission's educational efforts will be coordinated by Karen Taylor, director of the education and development branch. Several initiatives are being planned in this area including in house commission staff training and awareness workshops. Taylor will also initiate collaborative ventures with government agencies and volunteer organizations working for persons with disabilities to enhance public awareness for human rights issues affecting them.

Passaris said many New Brunswickers are still not aware the Human Rights Act includes protection from discrimination on the basis of physical and mental disability and that effective mechanisms exist to combat this kind of discrimination.

He added that, while physical barriers to equality are being removed, attitudinal barriers still exist. "It is important that society stop dwelling on the perceived limitation of persons with disabilities and instead highlight their capabilities and contributions," he said.

As part of the commission's approach to combatting discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity for persons with disabilities, Passaris said the education and development branch will highlight the educational value of creating awareness of ability rather than disability in its community activities.

"While some progress has been achieved and some barriers have been overcome for persons with disabilities, our record is nowhere near satisfactory and much more remains to be done," Passaris said. "I invite all New Brunswickers to renew their commitment and heighten their determination to make substantive progress in ensuring the participation and equality of persons with disabilities in the mainstream of society."

Further information on the Human Rights Act and how it protects the rights of persons with disabilities, is available from New Brunswick Human Rights Commission office's throughout the province. Bryan

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