

# Leadership conference suffers from poor attendance

By GORDON ROGERS

The second student leadership conference of the year suffered from poor attendance as only about 25 students were willing to give up their Sunday morning sleep-in to talk student affairs for six hours.

The conference was held on Sunday, February 23, in the Faculty Club of the Old Arts building. These conferences are sponsored by the U.N.B. Alumnae Association, and are held periodically to give student representatives and group leaders the opportunity to come together and discuss issues of interest to everyone on campus.

Those present included Warren McKenzie and Wenceslaus Batanyita, newly elected SRC president and comptroller, as well as representatives from CHSR, Rap Room, the Nursing Society, the Senate, Aitken House and Tibbits Hall.

Warren McKenzie, acting as moderator of the conference, initiated discussion by bringing up the topic of the new joint faculty-student committee to seek student opinion on academic performance of faculty members, and asked for comments and suggestions about it. Rick Scott, student senator, said it was a big step forward for student input at the departmental level, but that planning should be begun now, if the system is to be implemented within a year.

The next issue to be raised was a rather hot one on campus, that of 24 hour open rooms in the women's residences. Warren McKenzie suggested that this would be a good time for a trial period of open rooms, since room-mates have been living together for six months, and know what to expect of each other, thus some of the friction that may be encountered at the beginning of the year if open rooms were in effect could be avoided. It was then pointed out that a trial period now would be unfair to the girls who had paid their residence fees expecting restricted hours. Then Barry Harbinson, proctor of Aitken House, said that if enough girls in a house were against restricted hours, the house committee and proctors could refuse to enforce them, and any problems worked out internally, as is done in the men's residences. Harbinson concluded, "As long as you're saying that girls can't handle the same problems that guys have, you're saying that girls are less responsible and mature than guys."

The next issue raised was the present and future state of off campus housing. With the opening of the new hospital, up to fifty percent of student beds will be taken up by hospital staff, with no replacement in sight for the students. Also, the deplorable conditions that some students have to live in now, with almost no rights as tenants, was pointed out by Gary Stairs, SRC vice-president. He said that he was acting as a go-between for students in this predicament, and that anyone with complaints about their living conditions should see him in his office.

This issue led to a discussion of students' rights and privileges as a large consumer group. Reduced taxi rates for students was suggested as an easier means for students to get around town. The

idea was put forward by Chris Pratt, who said that students form such a large consumer group that the move would be beneficial to taxi companies and students alike. Warren McKenzie said that another step being taken to protect the student as a consumer is an inquiry into the prices charged by the Smoke Shoppe in the SUB. He said it may be feasible to set up a student run venture in place of the Smoke Shoppe, to keep prices down. A third aspect of consumer protection of students is the food survey in the SUB. A survey is currently being conducted on students' opinions of the quality of the food service in the SUB cafeteria. Batanyita said that firms, such as banks and breweries, regard students as potential life-long customers, and should make every attempt to please them. He argued that students should realize their power as a large consumer group and should get the most out of this position.

The final topic of the morning was the issue of course evaluation. Rick Scott pointed out that the present system is inadequate in that it is optional for professors to take part, and if they do, they don't have to release the results. He said course evaluation would not be effective unless its implementation was mandatory for all professors and the results were published. He added that the evaluation forms would have to be drawn up carefully to avoid subjective degradation of professors by disgruntled students. As long as this possibility exists, the university administration would not be prepared to help fund the cost of the survey, and the SRC will have to underwrite its own survey.

After a hearty roast beef dinner, the group began the afternoon by discussing the pressing issue of student aid. Warren McKenzie complained that the New Brunswick government is making it harder for students to go to college by raising the loan requirements to \$900 before a student is eligible for a bursary. He argued that if students are faced with the prospect of graduating with a three to four thousand dollar debt to pay, fewer will consider continuing their education, hurting the province of New Brunswick ultimately. Gary Stairs countered with the argument that if a student wants an education, he should be willing to work for it. He argued that as long as students prefer office jobs and refuse to take menial but high-paying jobs — such as ditch digging or lawn mowing — student loans should not be made easier. McKenzie retorted that this year the N.B. government will have over \$300,000 left over from their loan fund, which is designed to help students, and is not being used for this purpose. The discussion concluded with an agreement to research the relevant figures more thoroughly before making a presentation to the government.

Another relevant issue that came under discussion was the "progress" of the Aitken University Centre. The problem is that the original plan, which was to cost \$2,500,000, is now estimated at at least \$3,000,000. So in order to trim costs, some of the multi-purpose aspects of the project, such as proper acoustics and electrical system for bands, were axed. The SRC and the users committee

severely criticized the two planners involved, Dr. John Meagher and Eric Garland, for making such drastic changes without consulting anyone else who was involved in the planning or use of the centre. Representatives from the Alumnae Association, which is donating \$500,000 to the project, were upset by the news and expressed the hope that it was not too late to influence the way their money was being spent. It was decided to organize an open forum with the planners explaining their actions

to students and alumnae alike. The final topic of discussion was the trimming of athletic budgets, which is resulting in several sports, such as skiing, curling, rugby and track and field, losing their status as varsity sports. This means that they will be forced to finance completely their own equipment and travel expenses. It was asked if this university places so much emphasis on spectator sports, such as football, hockey and basketball, the some funds cannot be spared for more

participation-oriented sports, such as those mentioned above.

The conference closed with the students expressing their thanks to the Alumnae Association for the use of the Faculty Club and the opportunity for some useful discussion. The next conference will probably be held in the middle of September, with a greater effort on the part of the organizers to encourage better attendance. It was suggested that a good way to do this is to publicize the delicious dinner and the free bar...

## Speakers, pubs scheduled for March

Gary Wood, UNB entertainment chairman is busy trying to schedule speakers and pubs for UNB to be held from now until Mid-April.

The scheduled appearance of Dick Gregory has been cancelled by his agent, but talks are continuing with them to try to fit him under a new time period so that he can appear by the end of the year.

In March, the entertainment committee will be hosting "two or three consecutive pubs" according to Wood. One idea that is being looked into by Wood is the possibility of holding a Cabaret with food and live entertainment with "Mandrake the magician."

Reliable sources indicate that at least two pubs will be held at McConnell hall before university recesses for the summer months, and the band High Octane is one possibility being looked into to perform.

Guest speakers that are being investigated for possible appearances here include Pierre Berton, Leonard Cohen, Dick Gregory, and Bob Hope.

It is not known whether these speakers will be appearing at UNB but contacts have been made with their respective agents and negotiations continue.

Wood is hampered by being forced to operate at a break even point. The original entertainment budget was scheduled for a \$1,200 loss, but as this was used up on the

first three pubs held at the start of the school year under different management it "makes the job difficult at times," according to Wood.

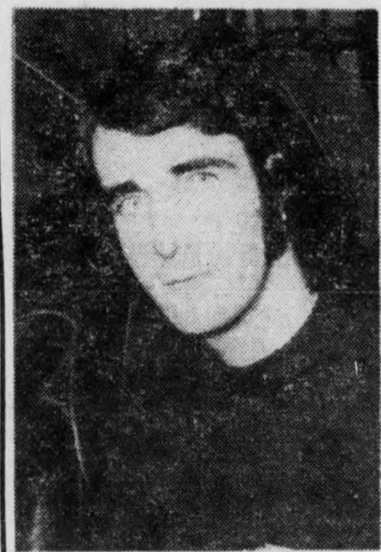
## 'Heavenly twins' discussed



Dr. Marvin Rintala

Dr. Marvin Rintala, Professor of Political Science at Boston College, recently visited UNB and gave a public lecture on "The Heavenly Twins: David Lloyd George and Winston Churchill." The lecture was co-sponsored by STU and UNB Departments of Economics, History and Political Science. Dr. Rintala obtained a B.A. from the University of Chicago in 1954 and an M.A. and Ph.D. in international relations from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1955 and 1958 respectively. Dr. Rintala's publications include a definitive study of Finnish Politics and he is presently working on a book concerning the political careers of David Lloyd George and Winston Churchill. Professor Rintala's lecture was well received by a large audience who were later entertained by his conversation at a reception.

## SRC honoraria report to be resubmitted



Gordon Kennedy

By TOM BEST

A report tabled earlier this year on the SRC honoraria situation

was rejected but may be resubmitted sometime in the near future. The report was compiled by the SRC Special Honoraria Committee, and contained proposals for criteria for the awarding of honorarias to council members.

The report recommended that a committee should be set up to consider the "submissions of councillors in accordance with the criteria for SRC honoraria." The criteria for the submissions was also laid down in the paper. The number of points necessary for an honoraria was to be ten except in the case of representatives who served only a half term who would require five.

Council members would have

received five points if they had attended 80 percent of the meetings and points for other activities connected with council such as serving on a committee.

If a council member concurrently served on the executive of an SRC Associate club, that person would receive points in accordance with the position held. These associated activities include the undergraduate societies, CHSR, Carni committee and The Brunswickan.

Council member Gordon Kennedy, who chaired the special committee, indicated that he may resubmit the report so that it can be reconsidered. He feels that there are usually "several people who get an honoraria who don't deserve them" and that with guidelines similar to those in the report, this situation could be eliminated.