

UNB's travel office offers students better service

By LILLIAN RIOUX

After two years of speculation UNB now has a temporary but working travel office.

Two years ago the idea was formed by Mrs. E. J. Stocker, the overseas student advisor. She talked to Dean Wilson on the advisability of having such an office in existence. A letter was sent to SRC president Roy Neale who meanwhile was making his own efforts for student travel. Last year Neale was trying to get bookings on charters. However it was too much with his responsibility as SRC president to give a full effort to the job.

Pat Flanagan was put in charge of advertising the travel office and screening of applicants. J. D. Allingham of Allingham's Travel Agency, also did the screening and gave his professional opinion to interested people.

It was hard to get information on travel and an office was set up temporarily last fall. It was started late which hindered advertising efforts and the office was concentrating on coping with the Xmas rush. The rush grossed almost \$13,000 in mostly student bookings.

There are bookings already this term for overseas travel this coming spring.

Gid Mersereau was offered the job as SRC Travel Officer last fall and he is still occupying that position. He is going to a conference in New York City next week. At this conference, organized by American travel people,

there will be people from Canada, the US and Europe who are concerned with student travel, especially in Europe. If this conference turns out as planned there will be a wealth of information coming in about contacts, places to go and other general information.

Roy Neale will be going to Toronto to meet with people from the Association on Student Councils (AOSC). This meeting will be basically to change their constitution. The AOSC was formed as a charter organization some years ago and are affiliated with other Universities across Canada. This organization is also involved in student travel.

The travel office is now gearing itself for the students travel needs that are upcoming, such as the Quebec Winter Carnival, March break travel and spring and summer travel both domestic and international.

Mersereau said that the office doesn't run in a smooth everyday flow but has spurts of business for travel, especially during breaks.

It is hoped that by mid-February there will be more information coming in on youth fares, charter information, information on international student IDs, student hostel cards, hostel handbooks and various other travel handbooks. The handbooks will be on sale as soon as they arrive.

Mersereau also stated that the travel situation has changed but that it is not due to the energy crisis. There were negotiations between Carriers and the Interna-

tional Air Transport Association (IATA) and it was decided that it would be better if the youth fare were more expensive (approximately \$1 more) than the one way fare.

It hasn't been decided yet if the office will be open this summer but it will be open in the latter part of August. With the office open then, there will be more time for a more extensive advertising campaign as well as to prepare for the next fall term.

To make the university more aware of the office there will be posters up, letters sent out to faculty and staff, some air time on CHSR and the editor of The Brunswickan, Chris J. Allen, has agreed to have a small column put in the paper. The air time on CHSR and the column will include various advertisements as well as various rates of travel etc.

Mersereau will probably go to Europe this summer to get information on situations the office encounters between now and the next term.

The travel office is also concerned with gathering a lot of information on overseas study. Mersereau has been talking to extension services officer, John Morris and they have mutually agreed to supply each other with relevant material on the subject that they both want and could use. They also wish to investigate various departments on campus on study abroad in certain degree programs and subjects. Morris and Mersereau want to co-ordinate all this information together and maybe set up a department to deal with overseas study exclusively, with another person in charge of that.

The situation with Swing Air hasn't changed too much. To be eligible for Swing Air you must still be under 22 years of age, to be eligible for youth fares you must be under 24. However in the United States there is a service for charters that you can be eligible for if you are under-31.

Mersereau stated that the travel office can't charge less but they can try to give better service.

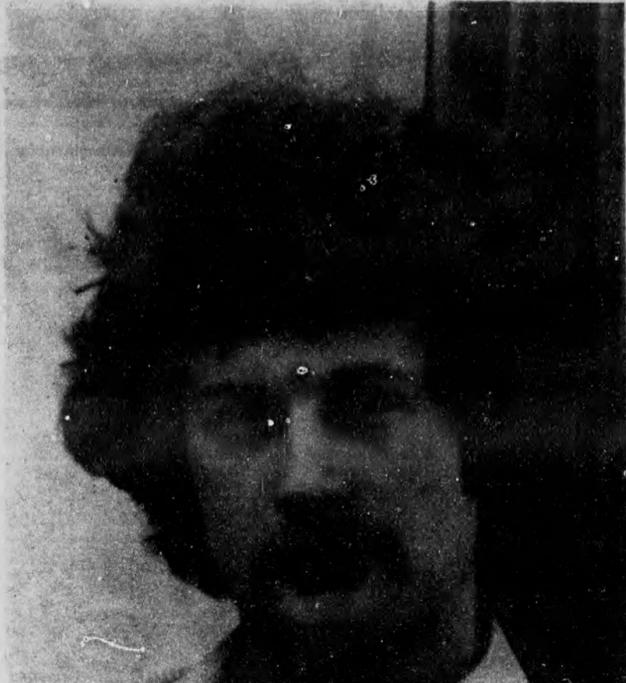


Photo by Kevin MacLaughlin

Gid Mersereau, UNB's travel officer, can help you arrange your travel plans.

Janitor's employers cautious

By LORNA PITCHER

As the janitors threatened work stoppage approaches, the campus cleaning companies are cautious about making statements to the press. Custodian Services' President and Vice-President were both not available for comment, and the Branch Manager of Mccern Building Cleaning was also not prepared to make a statement.

A spokesman from one company did say, however, that "they do what they have to and we do what we have to," — presumably, to keep bids low in any way possible.

"They can legitimately fight for higher wages but companies can't always do what the employees say."

He conceded that, "they're going at it the right way, in my opinion," and advised, "all three parties involved in this dispute (UNB, the contractors, and the janitors) will probably be prepared to make policy statements, later as we get closer to the deadline (February 1)."

He closed by asking the press not to push for policy statements because "God knows, I've got enough problems of my own."

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