

Lack of space, problems with SRC discussed at leadership conference

By DOUG VARTY
Staff Writer

Last Sunday the Associated Alumni of UNB hosted the second student leadership conference of the academic year. The purpose of the conference was to give students the opportunity to get together in a relaxed setting to discuss issues of mutual concern. It was open to all UNB students and was attended by about 20 representatives of residences, student clubs and the SRC.

Discussion began on the topic of student services. SRC president Perry Thorbourne, chairman of the meeting said the health centre and counselling services were hindered by poor locations, cramped quarters and bad working environments. He said the administration wants to move these services to the ground floor of the Alumni Memorial Building and this plan has been presented to the Alumni for their consideration. Alumni representatives present at the conference said the plan would not fit in with the original purpose of the building; that they had turned down previous requests of a similar nature; and that they were very concerned with the encroachment of offices on the space available for student use.

Thorbourne said counselling was not only there to help people with emotional problems but was useful in career counselling and job placement. Dean of Students Barry Thompson said UNB does a "fantastic job" in that area. With respect to the space problems, Thompson said he has received a pledge of \$40,000 to upgrade career counselling if it is relocated.

Thorbourne said many UNB students have the opinion that a university graduate applying for a job automatically receives precedence over someone with technical school or community college training. This is not always true,

he said. He said he felt students had to learn how to act at job interviews and present themselves properly. To this end, he said, the student union is looking into organizing group and self taught career counselling.

Most students felt the existing student services are poorly advertised. This point was argued by Dean Thompson who said considerable time and money is spent each year on publicity.

The idea of moving more student services into the SUB was nixed by Thorbourne saying there was not sufficient space. He said a minimum of 40,000 square feet are needed. Thorbourne said he felt the SUB rented too much space to stores.

With regard to renovating Annex B the present home of counselling services, Campus security and Manpower-Dean Thompson said it wasn't worthwhile, that the university "would be better off burning it to the ground."

It was agreed that our expansion of the SUB would be the ideal solution to the space problem but it was felt that funding is not available.

The discussion turned next to student activities and campus life. Thorbourne said the SUB is becoming more and more important to students as other buildings become unavailable for one reason or another. He acknowledged that the SUB is a poorly designed building and is in desperate need of major renovations but said we, as students are lucky here because the SUB is still a "building for students." He said the student council would soon be discussing plans to pay off the SUB mortgage and upgrade the building.

Thorbourne said he would like students to tell him what kind of entertainment they want. He said the student union was not offering much in this area and had concentrated too much on making money and not enough on providing

services in the past four or five years.

Louis Harvey, former station manager of CHVW said the SRC should stop playing junior bureaucrat and should channel money directly into student activities.

Thorbourne responded that a lot of pressure is put on the executive to do that but added, "I'm not creative. I think...sometimes."

He said he is fighting a feeling of mistrust of the SRC executive and that he is always willing to listen to the views of others. He said the executive is not getting feedback from council because they are uninformed, a fact he attributed to councillors not being accountable to anyone. Past executives have not done much for the SRC's public image, they had been "anything from tyrants to poofs," said Thorbourne.

On another issue, it was said that there is nowhere for students to turn to when they run into problems with UNB's bureaucracy. It was felt that it is up to students to do more than just complain among themselves, that they should take their problems to the SRC president or the dean of students or both.

Thorbourne then asked what activities the student union should provide that it doesn't now. Harvey said the SRC should delegate duties to the clubs on campus so the SRC should concentrate on more important issues. This view was shared by many of those attending. Harvey said the student

handbook should be more informative with respect to the student union. Thorbourne agreed and said the calendar could also include more information.

SRC Forestry Representative Andrew Wort said orientation is inadequate. Thorbourne said year-round orientation along with the establishment of self-help peer groups was being considered by the student union.

Those present expressed displeasure at the expected tuition hike for next year. Thorbourne said we shouldn't give up fighting the increase. Individual student unions can't do that much he said, but together they can have quite an impact.

Dean Thompson said the fee increase was an effort to bring student's percentage contribution to their education back to the level of the 1960's.

After a brief discussion of who should receive a university education, the group broke for lunch at 12:30.

Those in attendance were served roast beef dinner paid for by the Associated Alumni.

The conference resumed at 1:30 at which time Director of Alumni Affairs Art Doyle gave an explanation of the setup and goals of the organization. He said the Alumni want to play an increasing role in governing the university. He said they have strong opinions on how it should be run and a very clear policy on how the Alumni should distribute their funds. The Alumni is here to aid students—they give no money to faculty or administration he said.

"The Alumni has a great affinity for students" said Doyle, pointing out their increasing sponsorship of scholarships.

The consensus regarding on-campus pubs was that students

once had a workable system but they "blew it" by abusing their

privileges. SRC comptroller Steve Howes said organizations only want to make money. This generally means running alcoholic events and, as a result, those under 19 are left with nothing, he said.

Fake ID's are easy to obtain said Howes, adding that there are an awful lot of them "floating around."

Dean Thompson labelled NB liquor laws "ridiculous" and said that UNB will probably end up with a blanket license as is the case on almost every other campus. The administration would have control over issuing of permits to student groups.

Members of the Overseas Chinese Students Association said they were disturbed by racist slurs on washroom walls in Head Hall. Board of Governor student member Steve Berube said engineers were generally "pretty uncouth". Others downplayed the issue and indicated that it is not serious at UNB. It was suggested that racism is a type of ignorance and the best way to fight it is to educate people. Wort said cultural nights are very effective in doing this.

Brunswickan Advertising manager Gordon Loane expressed concern over the activities of the student union, saying activities co-ordination was very bad.

Thorbourne said the SRC may not accomplish all it sets out to do this year but it will at least set the wheels in motion to improve service to the students.

Thorbourne thanked the Alumni and the conference was adjourned at 3:30. Those in attendance found it to be a refreshing and productive exchange of ideas and are looking forward to returning next fall.

NOTICE:

B Ed STUDENTS

-who plan 3rd year Practicum and/or 4th year Internship in 1980

PLEASE ATTEND ONE OF THESE ORIENTATION MEETINGS

MARSHALL D'AVRAY HALL ROOM 261 AT 3:30 PM

Monday, March 17 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 18 3:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 19 3:30 p.m.

1980 Graduates will assist by providing information on their own experiences.

"BEWARE THE IDES
OF MARCH PUB"

FRIDAY MARCH 14th 9-1

SUB — BALLROOM

MUSIC AND LIGHTS BY
DISCO KID

Members .75
Non-member's \$1.50