



As students, many of us may not be entirely sure about our futures. Some are lucky enough to have a certain career in mind that is positively right for the path for which they are headed with confidence and experience. Others, however, do not.

Decidedly, I fall into the "others" category. Many careers are eye-catching, but broad and diversified interests can generate uncertainty about which talent leads to what possibility, and once discovered, how each possibility can lead to a given career.

What is needed amongst this confusion is some helpful direction. Heather Davey of the Counselling Services Career Centre suggests that each student who has an idea about the attraction of a given job should FIND OUT ABOUT IT. The first step is some background research at the Centre's Career Library, in order to clarify your idea and find out more about the job you have in mind. The second step is what the career counsellors fondly refer to as "the Information Interview".

Broadly defined, the Information Interview is talking with another person in a low-key situation for the sole purpose of gathering information about a particular field of interest. One of the best ways to gain knowledge about an area of work is to talk to people doing that work, and the knowledge you acquire can provide the following benefits:

- You learn what happens on the job beyond the understanding possibly gained through course work.
- Information gathered is first-hand and current.

- You gain a perspective of work that goes beyond job titles such as "Engineer" or "Journalist" to the skills that are used. This allows much greater flexibility in planning options.

- Because Information Interviews are informal and low-stress, you gain self-confidence in talking with people while learning what you need to know.

- Because you are asking only for information, the person you interview will be more open, direct, and honest about his or her career, its functions, assets, and drawbacks. This helps you evaluate its potential for you as a valid possibility for your future.

- Setting up an Information Interview is surprisingly easy: simply call the Counselling Services Career Centre to help give your ideas concrete direction and get you in contact with a UNB alumnus, or other Fredericton-based person employed in your career of interest. A counsellor will coach you, make suggestions, and generally lend a helping hand and a sympathetic ear.

Even if you know what career is right for you, Information Interviews are useful for narrowing down your options to a specific angle. It is impossible to be aware of all the areas and categories hidden under a given job title, and you may be overlooking the very one perfect for your skills and interests.

Heather Davey recommends that you interview at least three people in a particular field to get a more complete view, and to give you the chance to connect with someone you're excited about. Alumni have shown an overwhelmingly positive, friendly reception, so if you know of someone, "get on the phone and call them! After all, you'll be asking them to talk about their favorite subject: - themselves!"

Next: An information interview with James H. Appleton, B.A., L.L.B., University Lawyer.

## Civil Engineering Exchange

The engineering students of the University of Calgary will visit Fredericton on February 12th to the 18th and are to be billeted with the University of New Brunswick Civil Engineering students. During their stay, both groups will take part in

social, cultural, and technical exchanges. Some of these events planned include: exposure to Acadian cultural displays in Moncton, a visit to Kings Landing Historical Park, and tours of the Mactaquac Hydroelectric Dam, the Point LePreau Nuclear Generating Station and the dry docks in Saint John.

The University of New Brunswick Civil Engineering students are hoping to travel to Calgary for a five day visit with their host on February 19th to the 25th.

For further information on this group or other group

exchanges telephone 454-3658 or contact

Open House Canada - a program which supports reciprocating exchange visits across Canada for groups of young people, has offered the Civil Engineering students of the University of New Brunswick the opportunity to participate in a similar exchange with the engineering students of the University of Calgary. Ap-

proximately forty students from each university will take part in the exchange which is planned for the mid-term breaks of each university.

House Canada Citizen Participation, The Department of The Secretary of State, Ottawa, Ontario - K1A 0M5.



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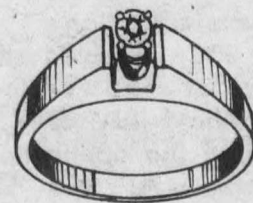
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