

## Abraham looks at chairmanship

Mary Abraham was appointed Chairman of the Students' Representative Council (SRC) on March 15, 1982. She resigned as of December 31, 1982, saying in her letter of resignation that the confusion resulting from the shortage of chairmen - there are usually two - would make it very difficult for council when it attempted to return to the proper schedule, as set down in the Bylaws and Regulations. She felt if she stayed on, it would "result in chaos in the chairmanship, an overlapping of terms, and would undoubtedly raise difficult questions as regards two honoraria... It would be advisable to appoint a chairman to commence his/her term in January 1983".

The Brunswickan spoke to Abraham about the chairmanship and her plans for the future.

Mary Abraham's most important idea for future chairmen is better definition of the job. The chairman should be allowed to define the job according to Robert's Rules of Order, and if possible, the position should be better explained in the constitution. The president, vice-president, comptroller, and assistant comptroller's positions are all set down, and are quite specific as to their duties. Abraham feels the chairman should have a little more to work with, and should also be able to delineate his/her interpretation of the job. This could include a time limit on debate if the chairman felt it was necessary, imposed from the very beginning, rules on the behaviour of councillors, and better organization of the agenda and motions.

The latter two are vitally important in the smooth running of meetings. Since the beginning of this president's term of office, the agendas have been written up at the last minute, and gave no real indication of the business to be discussed. The chair is hampered by being kept in the dark, and cannot direct discussion away from the irrelevant and back to the matter at hand. This is possibly the most important duty of the chair, especially since council very easily loses track of the discussion, and runs off on tangents.

There is a similar problem with the motions. They should be written down, and presented to the chair. Last term, however, Abraham found herself directing debate on motion that had not been set down. Naturally, if the motion is not definite, discussion

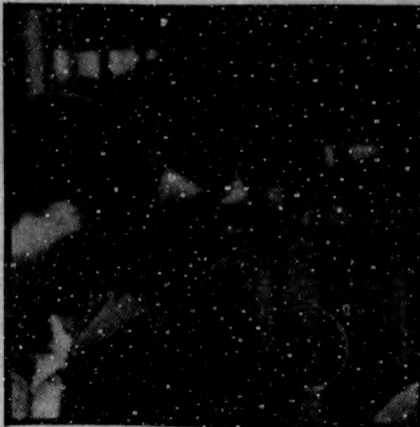
will be fuzzy at best.

Abraham said if the chairman sets a policy at the beginning of his/her term of office, and makes the position entirely clear, and enforces that self-made policy, much of the difficulty of the job would be removed.

Abraham also spoke at length of her own time in the chair, and she noticed how important it is to have cooperation between the executive and the chairman. She was first appointed when Gerard Finnan was president, but she was in the chair only twice, and had not become used to the duties at that point. She considers her term to have really begun under acting President Sue Lynch.

Every week, Lynch and Abraham went over the agenda before each meeting, and Lynch explained the background of each item to come up so the debate could be conducted properly. Abraham says she had some input at that time, and often helped to clarify points on the agenda, especially as regards constitutionality of motions. The whole time was marked by clear communication between the executive and the chair. It appears to her that the executive at present is almost the sole tabler of motions, whereas in previous years, councillors were much more inclined to participate.

When the present president, John Bosnitch, took office, Abraham noted an immediate change. Since October, when he was elected, the chair has been alone, and the job is more difficult than it needs to be. Abraham's major impression was one of confrontation instead of cooperation.



Bosnitch, she said, did the students a great disservice by blocking the chair. In not helping her out by outlining what to expect at each meeting, council was frequently bogged down by procedural wrangles. The students would be far better served by concerted effort within the system's parameters, rather than ignoring the boundaries and operating from outside the system.

Abraham described the term as a waste of potential, marked by a request for her resignation, which fizzled out after a strong vote of confidence (10-2-2), and no communication between various levels of student government. A notable instance was the introduction of question period to council meetings. Abraham first learned of it upon receiving the agenda, but the president's idea was not elaborated upon. At the meeting, the president revealed his plan to have a question period after the executive minutes, but only after each item had already been debated. Abraham points to this as an prime example of the lack of communication that seems to mark the present administration. Had the president outlined the idea to her, she could have introduced it and not wasted the time involved in doing everything twice at that meeting.

As for the future, Abraham graduates in the Spring, and between now and then, she will be winding down her participation in the student government. There is one thing she would like to see before she leaves UNB, however. She feels that many groups have been victimized by the present administration and need some sort of a public

## NURSING NOTES

By Stephanie Preston

Welcome back to what was a tropical Fredericton, fellow Nursing scholars. Thought we were going to have to file away those flu facts - and, instead, look out for leprosy!

Seriously, though, you would think that Fredericton could have at least faked winter weather for awhile... with the "Winter" Carnival behind us, Nursing Week 1983 now awaits. Hope everyone has a great time. The forecast for the week follows:

Sat., Jan. 22 - Pub with Business Week promoters. Featuring "Street Legal" Advance tickets will be on sale - \$2.50 with CUNSA membership card and \$3.00 without. 9:00pm - 1:00pm in SUB cafeteria. 19 yrs. and over.

Sun., Jan. 23 - Ecumenical Service in the chapel of the Old Arts Building. 7:00pm.

Mon., Jan. 24 - Tea in the Pumpkin Room. 3:30 - 5:00pm.

Tues., Jan 25 - Dr. David Walters will be giving a lecture and slide presentation on "Herpos". MacLaggan Hall Auditorium - 7:00 - 8:30pm. Coffee and donuts will be served afterwards in the Pumpkin Room.

Wed., Jan. 26 - You've got to be behind by now, so, take the night off and WORK!

Thurs., Jan. 27 - Rose Dinner at Monsignor Boyd Family Center. The buffet will begin at 6:00 pm and Dean Leckie will be in attendance. Advance tickets are on sale from class representatives - \$7.00, \$6.00 with CUNSA membership card. A get together at the Cosmo will follow.

Fri., Jan. 28, 10:30 - 3:30 and Sat., Jan. 29, 10:00 - 4:00 - CUNSA Health Fair at Fredericton Mall. Booths for recording of height, weight, blood pressures, pulse, hemoglobin, vision and fitness levels will be set up. All Nursing students are encouraged to help out at these stations.

Fri., Jan. 29 - Nursing formal at Lord Beaverbrook Hotel. Featuring the "Thomists". Advance tickets on sale.

defender's office. Ideally, people who are familiar with the SRC, and are proficient speakers would provide a mouthpiece for those groups. Because they are independent of both the SRC and the concerned party, these individuals would lend objectivity to the arguments.

Abraham said she often felt frustrated at her inability to participate in discussion, but as chairman, she had to be

completely objective no matter how much she privately favoured one side or another. The confines of her position allowed her to show no emotion on the issues. Emotions have often clouded the relations between the executive; Abraham says, emotions should be set aside since professionalism on the part of the executive and the people they work with is the key to efficiency.

### SELF-HELP PROGRAM IN SOCIAL EFFECTIVENESS

- DO YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE IN MANY SOCIAL SITUATIONS
- Do you feel uncomfortable in many social situations
- Do you find it difficult to think of things to say to people
- Do you wish you had more friends

A one month self-help program, designed to help people cope more effectively in social situations is being offered at the psychology department, University of New Brunswick.

If you are interested in finding out more about this program, please leave a message for SHARYN POPE at the psychology department, Keirstead Hall, general office (ROOM 119) or phone the psychology department at 453-4707, 4708, or 4709 and leave your name and phone number for Sharyn Pope.

### Video games given their own place

by GERARD FINNAN  
Brunswickan Staff

Last year those machines which provide pleasure for a few and which frustrate many others, consumed 160,000 quarters. Video games may not be everyone's idea of a good way to spend their leisure time but, according to SUB Director Darcy Flynn, they are, "the third largest revenue producing service of the SUB."

On December 9, 1982, the Student Union Building Board

of Directors voted to move the video games from the corner of the blue lounge to room 102. According to Flynn, "a service which produces that much revenue deserves its own space and thus takes the wear off the blue lounge."

The move to room 102 resulted in a minimal expenditure to cover the cost of putting electrical stripping in to accommodate outlets for each machine. This was done in compliance with Fire Marshall

Regulations. With this move, a pool table and a few more video games were added.

The video games are owned by Percy Doucette who maintains the upkeep of the machines and splits the profit 50/50 with the SUB. Last year it was estimated that the video games brought in \$20,000 in revenue and Director Flynn says he is, "pleased with the present operation of the video games."