

Studying science at UNB in 1861 was difficult

By SUSAN MILLER

Students attending Professor Richard A. Jarrell's lecture on "Studying Science at UNB in 1861" learned of the struggle to establish a foothold for science in the classics-oriented King's College of the mid-1800's.

Professor Jarrell, who lectures on Introductory Astronomy at York University, is interested in the historical and philosophical aspects of science, and has done some extensive research in the history of its instruction at UNB. This story began in 1837 with the appointment of the first two science professors at King's College.

"Science", said Professor Jarrell, "was taught as part of a liberal education; to introduce the student to God's creations, and help him appreciate them." Although the science faculty at King's College in 1861 was as good, or better, than any in Canada, it is still surprising to realize just how little there was of it.

The entire college consisted of four professors and 32 students. President Bridon-Jack and Loring Bailey assumed responsibility for the science instruction, which included all math courses as well. The other two professors taught

Greek and Latin Classics; and modern language and literature, including French. Students at King's College were subjected to entrance exams, frequent recitations and exams during the year, and a daily evaluation of their attitude and proficiency. A deep personal interest was taken in the student's religious life; all his extracurricular interests or activities had to be approved.

The science student went through a rigorous three-year course, more or less memorizing long, involved texts. "A great deal of this", said Jarrell, "was quite irrelevant to a New Brunswick student". As far as laboratory work or research was concerned, little, if any, was considered necessary. The observatory contained a good collection of surveying instruments but the students rarely used them. Courses in botany, zoology and chemistry, which now require lab work used only a few models and basic demonstrations. Physics and astronomy, exciting courses as they are taught today, were dealt with then a very mechanical sense. Mathematics was still at modern high school level.

According to Professor Jarrell, the student who wished to obtain an

honours certificate had a very rough time of it indeed. "He was assigned extra books on the subject of his choice. He read these, memorized them, and was examined on them. Most of these were weighty tomes of about 600 pages, similar to his textbooks. Very few

students attempted an honours certificate."

Part of the college's problems was due to an extreme lack of funds (a familiar theme). The province itself was in difficult financial straits, and New Brunswick citizens were not eager to

finance such a godless institution as King's College.

"By 1900", said Jarrell, "the instruction of science had fallen behind the programmes of other Canadian colleges. The modern science faculty was a post-war development at UNB".

Slane presents native folklore

By MYRNA RUEST

Charles Slane, a native of the Miramichi, gave an interesting and humorous concert on the folklore of the Miramichi. He clearly revealed his pride in his birth place as he told stories about the woodlands. He had brought along such woodman's tools as various types of axes, bucksaws, and an old, well-used pulp hook. Some of the songs he sang included, Bruce's Log Camp, Peter Emberly, The Miramichi Fire, The Jones Boys and the Jam on Jerry's Rock.

One of Slane's stories and songs was the Legend of the Dungarvon Whooper which was told so convincingly that even if you have never believed in ghosts or goblins you might start believing.

Slane also brought along a moose calling horn which he used



Photo by Bob Boyes

Miramichi native Charles Slane gave a concert on campus of the folklore of his region. His appearance was sponsored by the UNB Anthropological Society.

to tell a story. I am sure the concert was enjoyed by all present. The music varied, was light and

joyful to songs for those who had died creating the history of the Miramichi.



Photo by Bob Boyes

Professor Richard A. Jarrell, of York University, described the studying of science at UNB in 1861, to students on campus this week. Jarrell has done extensive study on the subject.

Students should get to know candidates

By TOM BENJAMIN

Keith Manuel, SRC Arts representative, said he hoped to help his faculty by increasing communications between faculty, students and SRC.

Manuel, a third year History major from Oromocto, said he wants to accomplish much through his work on the Arts Liaison Committee. One of his main aims, he said, was to "break down barriers" between the faculty and students. He also said he hoped to bring Arts students in contact with the various departments of the faculty.

Manuel also serves on the Elections Committee and said there should be a longer time period for the students to get to know the candidates. He said this would also be more convenient for the candidates, and allow them to plan a better campaign. He added that students have a lack of knowledge of SRC election procedure, a situation which should be remedied.

"I'd like to see more student participation on SRC committees," said Manuel. "It would be of benefit to both the committee and the students."

Manuel continued saying he agreed with press coverage of the names of students fined by the Student Disciplinary Committee. "The press has the right to release this information to the public," he said, "its part of the consequences of breaking the law."

Parking areas allotted to students are unsatisfactory, said Manuel. He said he felt there was no excuse for existing parking conditions.

There should be an effort to get students involved and familiar with issues that are relevant to the student body, he said.

Margaret Miller, SRC Physical Education representative, said she ran for office because she was interested and wanted to get involved.

Miller, a first year Physical

Education student from Montreal, spoke out against references that have been made to a "Montreal Mafia" at this university. Students from the Maritimes have as good a chance of being elected as those from Montreal, she said.

She said she felt the lack of student participation at his university is "really sad," especially with regard to elections. She complained about people who don't vote because they say they are unfamiliar with the candidates, but make no attempt to find out about them.

Miller said the Phys Ed faculty is very closely knit, but needs more involvement with the SRC.

She said she does not agree with the SRC withholding honoraria as it has done in some cases. This does not encourage student participation, she said.

"There is a need for better student housing," said Miller. She stated she felt something should be done to help students find housing at reasonable prices.

Salt may be damaging UNB's trees

By FORREST ORSER

It is possible that salt used to prevent ice build-up on roads and walks on campus is being washed onto lawns, damaging both grass and trees, according to Dr. Douglas Eidt and Dr. G. A. VanSickle, scientists at the Federal Forestry Laboratory.

Eidt says that it is difficult to prove what and how much damage is caused by salt since many factors such as amount of snow

fall, amount of rain, and amount of frost in the ground at the time of thaw can affect the damage done.

He believes, however, that the evidence points toward salt as a main cause of damage.

He feels this is largely the result of poor drainage and refers to the area between the Memorial Student Center and the Lady Beaverbrook Gymnasium as an example.

In this area, water washes

across the road and down onto the lawn. In winter this water freezes on the road and is heavily treated with salt. At the next thaw, Eidt believes, the salt is washed down with the water.

Department of Physical Plant Grounds Supervisor Victor Porter feels that drainage on campus is efficient in general, and that in the area mentioned by Eidt most of the water goes down through the campus gates.

According to Eidt a European Bronze Beech growing in this area is just holding its own against what he believes to be salt damage. He feels it is a very valuable tree. It is the only one of its kind growing on campus.

Porter believes, however, that any damage to this tree is probably the result of insects, and points out that no trees have died in this area.

VanSickle says that each year long strips of grass have to be replanted beside roads and walks. He feels this is at least partly the result of salt damage.

Porter admits that salt maybe partly responsible for some of this damage, but thinks damage from snowplows, and from people walking on the lawns are more important causes.

According to Eidt urea, a chemical fertilizer used at many airports to stop ice build up, would be less harmful to plants than salt.

Porter says that urea has been tried, but was found to be too slow acting, especially for this campus, since there are a large number of hills here.

Also urea costs about fifteen cents a pound, whereas salt costs one cent a pound.

Most damage to trees on campus, Porter added, is the result of vandalism.



Photo by Bob Boyes

Two scientists at the Federal Forest Laboratory say that it is possible the salt used on the roads is damaging trees and lawns on campus.