

IVCF sponsored forum held

By KATHY FORD

On February 13, the UNB Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) group sponsored a public forum entitled "What is the purpose of a university education?". The four panelists participating in the forum were Dr. Nancy Nason-Clark, professor of sociology at UNB, Dr. James Downey, president of UNB, David Haney, district director

of IVCF for NB and PEI, and Michael Bennett, Vice-President Academic. Chris Ward a leader in UNB IVCF, acted as master of ceremonies for the evening.

Many of the questions centred around issues raised by the book "The Great Brain Robbery" by David J. Bercuson, Robert Bothwell, and J.L. Granatstein. The panelists were asked to respond to the book's assertion that the value

of a university education is deteriorating, as well as discuss the purpose of a university education, student involvement in their education and on campus, who is responsible for the quality of education, and the purpose of the university in society.

Nason-Clark stated that a degree may be qualitatively different now than it was perhaps 20 years ago, but it is also available to a much wider proportion of the population, and not simply to white middle class males. She conceded that mediocrity may have replaced the elitism that once existed, but that neither is desirable.

Dr. Nason-Clark, using examples from her own Christian persuasion, discussed her views on the purpose of the university in society. The university must teach its students that knowledge and social responsibility go together. Students must be taught to analyse and to think critically about every realm of life, said Nason-Clark. Also, the university must be a role-model in practising the ideology that it claims to support.

Dr. Downey asserted that a university degree holds value for both the recipient and for society. He felt that the quality

of a university education has not declined, but that the university accepts the best of those who can afford to go. The purpose of the university, according to Dr. Downey, is "not to dominate, but to stimulate", and he would like to see more joy, interest, and engagement on the part of students.

David Haney founded his reasoning on the belief that the purpose of a university education is to learn about the world, so that one can serve the world with understanding. Mr. Haney placed a high value on a liberal arts education that was committed to teaching the major world views of both the past and present. He felt that philosophical materialism is presently the major underlying assumption of the university, and that the university does not welcome other world views, such as Christian theism. Mr. Haney stated that such an attitude is of great import since the university, as an institution, has such an incredible impact on society and the world.

Michael Bennett stated that a degree is incomplete without the student gaining a general knowledge of the arts and sciences, specific knowledge in

a chosen area, and life skills to cope in society's institutions. He felt that mediocrity in education was partly due to poor secondary education, professors with poor teaching skills, and lack of effort (in some cases) on the part of the student. Mr. Bennett went to considerable length to explain his views on student involvement in both academic and non-academic affairs, and ended by stating that the university must strive for academic excellence, must equip its student with both knowledge and practical experience, and must practice what it preaches.

After the panel's presentations, the floor was opened up for questions. The forum was very successful, in that good questions were asked, and the views expressed by the panelists varied greatly. The audience continued to discuss the issues raised after the evening's events had ended, and many found the forum thought-provoking. The only general criticism of the evening concerned Mr. Bennett's insistence on using current campus controversies as examples in an otherwise objective discussion.

Campus Briefs

ANTHROPOLOGIST TO SHOW CARIBBEAN FILMS

The Anthropology Society film series continues on Thursday, March 6, on the University of New Brunswick campus with two films focusing on the Caribbean.

In the Name of Democracy and Grenada: The Future Coming Toward Us initiate three nights of film on the Caribbean region. The films are free and open to the public. They will begin at 8 p.m. in Room 106 of Carleton Hall.

In the Name of Democracy is an investigative piece on the El Salvadorian elections of 1984. It attempts to show that the elections were marked by fraud and discusses the U. S. role in this small but important Central American nation.

Grenada: The Future Coming Toward Us explores Grenada's history since 1979 when the country chose the path of a participatory democracy.

The anthropology film series will continue on Thursday, March 27 with the film *When Mountains Tremble*.

HARRISON SHIELD IS PRIZE IN ANNUAL MOOT COURT

Third-year law students at the University of New Brunswick will vie for the Harrison Shield at the law school's annual moot court competition Wednesday, March 12.

The moot court will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be presided over by Justices Ronald Stevenson and Patrick Ryan from Fredericton and Judge Patricia Cumming from Woodstock. They will hear an appeal that a prosecution should not have taken place.

The competition is open to the public. Organizers expect the topic to be of interest to everyone, especially those interested in courtroom procedure. The case will examine whether or not the Attorney General and Crown Prosecutors are immune from civil court action in instances of unfair prosecution.

Third-year law students compete for the Harrison

Shield each year as part of their training for the law profession. The Shield was presented to the University in memory of Judge Harrison who was the first dean of the UNB law school.

Contact: David Seabrook INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

March 8 is International Women's Day, a world-wide celebrated day of recognition of the needs of women of the world. In communities across Canada and in all countries of the world, ceremonies to recognize International Women's Day will be taking place. In Fredericton, International Women's Day will again be celebrated, says Shauna MacKenzie, spokesperson for the local organizing committee. "Arlene Mantle, a singer, songwriter whose work as a politician-artist-educator is notable for its optimism and exuberance will be leading a night of song and celebration in concert." Ms. Mantle believes that peoples music and labour are no strangers and through her music she sings about the need to work together for world peace.

This International Women's Day Event will take place on Sunday, March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Marshall D'Avery Hall.

Contact: Shauna MacKenzie
(458-8537)

BALLROOM RENOVATIONS

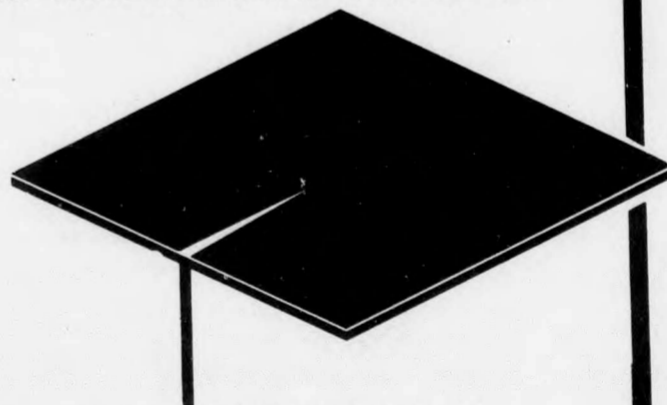
By CHRISTIAN LEVESQUE
Brunswick Staff

The SUB Ballroom is currently being studied concerning the feasibility and cost of improvements to the acoustics and general appearance. The five member implementation committee consists of three students and two professors knowledgeable in this subject.

The first study was initiated in April, 1985 after student groups submitted suggestions on possible improvements. Kim Norris, SUB Director, said the ballroom, in which both

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