

Employers needed for C.S. Co-op

"Co-operative education, it's like motherhood; nobody could disagree with it."

This was how Bud Veniot of the N.B. Electric Power Commission described the new computer science co-op program at the Fredericton campus of the University of New Brunswick. Mr. Veniot is the supervisor of Andrew Forestell, one of twelve UNB students who are now on work-terms in industry, complementing their academic education.

Although this is UNB's first co-op program, the co-op concept has taken hold in many universities across the country. The largest program so far is at the University of Waterloo.

In the basic system a student would study in university for four months and then work for four months, with the cycle repeating itself over a five-year period. A student would take a year longer than usual to complete a degree, but would accumulate two complete years of relevant experience along the way.

UNB has modified the basic system slightly to allow students two consecutive study terms at the beginning and end of their university program, as well as two successive work-

terms at some point.

Students at UNB are divided into two streams; students in the hardware section study and work with the technicalities and design of computers, while the other section specializes in data processing and writing computer software (programs.) To optimize the use of UNB's computer resources, the streams are staggered, with one group out on a work term while the other is studying on campus.

The UNB program only got underway in May, but already Dr. Wasson reports very positive response. He says the

eventual plan is to have 30 students from each stream enter the program every academic year, which means he needs a larger roster of prospective employers.

Andrew Forestell, a second year student from Fredericton, believes that the co-op experience will help him determine which of the wide array of computer specialties he will ultimately pursue. Despite a suggestion in some quarters that co-op students cannot easily stay involved in extracurricular activities, Mr. Forestell hopes to participate in sports wherever he spends

his work-term.

For the employer, the advantage of participating in the UNB co-op program is continuity - a steady supply of students is assured, although individual students will not be encouraged to remain with one employer throughout their degree program.

Further, "hiring a co-op student makes simple economic sense," Dr. Wasson notes. "A

beginning co-op student earns about half what a graduate computer scientist would earn," he says, no small concern in tough economic times.

Dr. Wasson encourages prospective employers to contact him and discuss their requirements. He can be reached at the UNB School of Computer Science in Fredericton, 453-4566.

POSITIONS VACANT ON THE APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Two positions which must be filled by members of the Student Representative Council.

Two positions which are open to any UNB student who has paid Student Union fees. Applications will be received until 3 p.m. on Friday, October 1st, 1982.

Please apply to the Applications Committee, room 126, Student Union Building.

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