

## Engineering degree still a good bargain

By BARRY HARBINSON  
Education Rep

In last week's Brunswickan the editorial suggested that the new four year engineering degree would decrease in quality because of the rearrangement of some courses and the elimination of others. It also intimated that one of the primary reasons for the shortened length of the degree program was for monetary gains. As a follow up on the editorial, this article is on the faculty and student response to that editorial.

When I went to see Dr. Jaeger, Dean of Engineering, I found he was preparing a letter to send to The Brunswickan in response to the editorial. He did make a very interesting point, however, which I don't think he was going to include in his letter. It was that UNB had a four year engineering degree before 1950, and it was because of the low calibre of students that the high schools were producing which made it a necessity to institute the five year program. The consensus is that this trend has now been reversed and the high schools are turning out very capable students

and are forced to review some material when they reach university. Therefore the university thought it advisable to reinstate the four year program.

In an interview with Dr. Picot, Chairman of the Department of Chemical Engineering, on the new four year engineering degree he explained the new program and how it was to be instituted. Under the old system a student was to acquire between 4100 and 4300 course units in five years for his degree. Under the new marking system a student needs 180 credit hours to graduate. Dr. Picot stated

that one credit hour was equal to about 20 course units under the old marking system. If worked out, it indicates that there is a reduction of material by about 12 per cent.

He went on to explain that this reduction is to be achieved in the Chemical Engineering department by incorporating some of the material into new courses. Introductory courses in physics, electricity, graphics, mechanics and structural analysis are still given, but the total offerings have been somewhat compressed. The fifth year thesis work requirement has been reduced as well. The Chemical Engineering core courses have not been reduced in number or content. The reduction in time spent on the introductory courses was made possible because the students were leaving high school with a greater understanding in these areas. A previously required course in inorganic chemistry has been dropped from the required course list.

Picot felt that the insinuation that UNB was changing the length of the degree program for monetary gains was ridiculous since in all probability the freshman engineering student population would have to be increased in size by 15 per cent to keep the status quo of students in the engineering faculty.

Picot also stressed the fact that the student does not have to go into the four year program if he doesn't want to but can take up to a total of 16 terms if he wants to complete his degree with no stigma attached.

One reason he did give for the degree being shortened was tougher universities. Up until this year the only institutions that didn't offer a four year program were Nova Scotia Tec., UBC and UNB. (There was a possibility for students to do a four year program at Tec and its associated colleges if they could meet certain standards.) Therefore to make UNB attractive to the "good students", who could leave New Brunswick and get an engineering degree in four years, UNB decided that a four year program should be made available.

I interviewed one second year student who said that when he entered university he planned on taking four years to complete his degree and so he doesn't plan on going into the four year program. He doesn't feel there is enough flexibility in the new program for a student to follow our fields of interest while they are doing their degree. He does not feel, however, that the new program has hurt the engineering degree from UNB.

A third year engineering student said that the university was trying to make it equal to other institutions' engineering courses. He felt that the fifth year program makes the course much more relaxed and gives the student the chance to follow up in areas that are of interest to him both academic and extra-curricular. He stated that, "With a four year program schedules are cramped and inflexible. The four year program, in my opinion, is for those who came to university solely to get a degree and get out."

## Faculty continues unionization discussions

By DERWIN GOWAN

To unionize or not to unionize, that is the question facing the faculty at the present time.

They have looked into the question, held a symposium, had a few speakers in, and struck up a committee to come up with proposals. Chairman of the committee, Professor Joseph Rose of UNB, said that the matter is still being discussed and there is room for compromise.

The advantages of being organized include better pay and more fringe benefits. Rose said that faculty salaries have not been keeping up with inflation in the past few years. Also, there would be a guarantee that decisions would be made jointly with faculty, and not by the administration alone. The guarantee that due process would be carried out and a better grievance procedure would

be another advantage. He said the present grievance procedure is good, although it could be improved. In short, said Rose, the union would protect the economic and non-economic best interests of the faculty.

If the union is formed, it will be affiliated with the Canadian Association of University Teachers. They are already affiliated with this body through the Association of University of New Brunswick Teachers, but if they were to have a bona fide union, Rose explained, UNB faculty would be in a better bargaining position. The AUNBT name would be kept, but it would be reconstituted to give it legal recognition.

Rose continued that CAUT provides money for local groups, although they do not push the issue. They allow local groups to make up their minds. Rose said this is his policy also. He wants to look

objectively at all the facts, then let the people decide.

Doctor T. Unger of UNB is also actively involved in this committee.

"A union gives protection to the faculty worth having," he said. Although conditions are good at UNB, he said that most unions are not formed until a crisis develops, such as happened at Saint Mary's or Saint Thomas. The union should be formed before the crisis is upon us, Unger said. If a union is good in a crisis, it is good at other times too.

Unger was critical of the way the Board of Governors treats the AUNBT "light heartedly," as he put it. If the union were certified as per Labour Relations Board regulations, the Board would not be able to do this. According to Unger, UNB faculty already has the disadvantages of a union with none of the advantages.

Unger also said that someday, UNB faculty may have to bargain directly with the provincial government for salaries, such as happened in Quebec.

Although Unger described a union as a "good procedure", he said that this does not mean bad feelings exist between faculty and administration or that they will develop.



Doug Bearisto has been awarded the "silver cob" by the cast of Red 'n Black for his contributions as sound manager of the production.

## Red 'n Black honors Bearisto as sound manager

By KATHY RAMSAY

Yes, Red 'n Black has many traditions - but unlike the Jugband or the Kickline, there is one tradition that few people are aware of. It is the annual presentation of the "silver cob" to the person, who in the estimation of the cast, has contributed the most in the way of time, effort and enthusiasm to the show.

The cast votes during the final nights performance and later that evening (at the cast party, of course) the award is presented. The recipient of this year's "silver

cob" trophy was Doug Bearisto. Doug held the position of sound manager. A simple title but a tough job. It is the sound manager's job to co-ordinate all the acts to the sound effects. Precise timing is the key and no one was disappointed with Doug's efforts. Devotion and Doug Bearisto prove to be synonymous.

Working with Doug was a pleasure and on behalf of the cast and the audience, I'd like to thank Doug for helping to make the show the success it was.

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