

Faulkner outlines universities' role in bilingualism

The honourable Hugh J. Faulkner, Secretary of State, addressed the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations November 21 on "A University Response to The Language Situation".

Faulkner feels that an issue of central importance to the future of this nation is the language situation and the effect that bilingualism is having and will continue to have on our development. What then is the role of universities with regard to the bilingual imperative? The work of any university, regardless of its preferred position of independence, eventually comes to be regarded in part as a national resource, a national intellectual property leading to immediate and long term results of value to Canada, he said.

In Canada, university affairs cannot be bounded only by institutional interests or by provincial pre-occupations. They have a federal perspective too, which should influence those who make their life work the university, just

as their work should command an appropriate degree of federal concern and support. The universities have not remained uninvolved. Indeed, there have been commendable achievements, Faulkner said. However, those often depended largely on federal initiatives and funding. Some of those achievements should be noted.

Research on language and culture provided a blueprint for the linguistic restructuring needed but the work is far from finished, Faulkner said. Increased interest in language training and the Summer Language Bursary Programme enabled 5,000 students a year to take special language courses. The Second Language Monitor Programme placed university students in high schools as language guides. Language training centres have been established at several universities. Three special French language colleges in Alberta, Manitoba, and Nova Scotia have been strengthened

with federal help. The University of Saskatchewan deserves special mention, said Faulkner, for progress in using the other language as a language of instruction. Language training initiatives have been undertaken by the University of Western Ontario with its summer school at Trois Pistoles and by the University of Western Ontario with its course at St. Pierre. The computer-based Terminology Bank at l'Universite de Montreal came into international prominence last September. The Laval Centre for Research on Bilingualism provides reference services, documentation, and publishing. Six universities offer degrees in translation, Laval, Ottawa, Montreal, Moncton, Laurentian and l'Universite du Quebec a Trois Rivieres.

"The universities have given full cooperation to the implementation of several other federally-funded programmes for advancing bilingualism. The second-language

study fellowships enable students to pursue their studies in their second official language for one year. Teacher bursaries assist language teachers to take short refresher courses to improve their skills. Travel bursaries help post-secondary students to get university training at centres where their first official language is the language of instruction," said Faulkner.

Having reviewed what has been done, the Secretary of State then went on to suggest things which universities could do in the future. Bilingual studies could be initiated to consider language policies in Canada, their development, and their implementation. Researchers might examine language retention problems or the broader sociological implications of the existence of the two language groups in this country. Pedagogical improvements in language training are needed, he said, and there are probably better ways to learn than presently available (e.g. immersion courses or early exposure to a second language). To determine ways of making the learning of a second language attractive researchers might follow the lead of Western Ontario's work on aptitude and attitude in French language learning, Faulkner said. The need for greater coordination of work in applied linguistics has not been satisfied. The development of French

language terminology is a crucial element in our coming to terms with bilingualism. As a country with two official languages, Faulkner said, we constantly face the problem of determining what is the logical and acceptable equivalent in one language of a term or expression in the other. It is a problem of great importance in industry, business, legal affairs, and particularly in science and technology. The first step is to standardize the terms in a way that carries authority; the second is to gain wide acceptance for the use of these terms in a relevant context. L'Universite de Montreal with its Banque de terminologie has done pioneer work in this field.

Adult education, French-Canadian literature, the publishing of translations of university work within Canada and a working level of bilingualism among the teaching and research staffs at universities are other areas which deserve more attention, the minister said. Perhaps the universities could expand and codify our knowledge on bilingualism, he commented. Some might undertake regional studies of bilingual development, examining what is happening to French-Canadian culture in New Brunswick, Manitoba or Northern Ontario. Progress in understanding and achievement of some solutions to some problems will be a worthwhile goal for Canadian universities, Faulkner concluded.

Presidential candidate attacked

Arts representative on the students' representative council and presidential candidate in the last student elections Chris Pratt was attacked by three persons last Saturday, November 22, as he was entering the back door of Neville House.

Pratt said he had just finished speaking at the presidential candidates' forum in Bridges House and went to the Student Union Building for a coffee.

While walking from the SUB to Neville House, he said he heard three persons say, "Let's get Pratt."

Pratt said he ignored them, but was overtaken, beaten to the ground, and jumped upon for several minutes.

The three then got up and took off into the darkness, he said.

Pratt said one of the attackers had red hair and another had a moustache. The other had brown

hair and three days growth of beard.

Pratt said he did not plan on pursuing the matter any further as

he was not hurt and the attackers seemed more interested in having a laugh at his expense than doing any harm.

Pratt congratulates Smith

By DAWN ELGEE

Christopher Pratt, one of the contestants in the presidential race for SRC desired to make a statement.

"As far as the election goes, Jim Smith should be congratulated for the fine campaign he put on. Some issues I raised during my campaign, I hope to bring to the attention of council. Council should give the senate's course evaluation committee its full support."

Pratt intends to try and get some

positive action from council to make sure the committee can function. He hopes to encourage interest within the student body.

Pratt thanked all those who voted in his behalf, especially since he captured the position of Arts representative by acclamation.

The BRUNSWICKAN is having its annual Christmas party on December fifth. All staff and friends save this date and check with the office for details.



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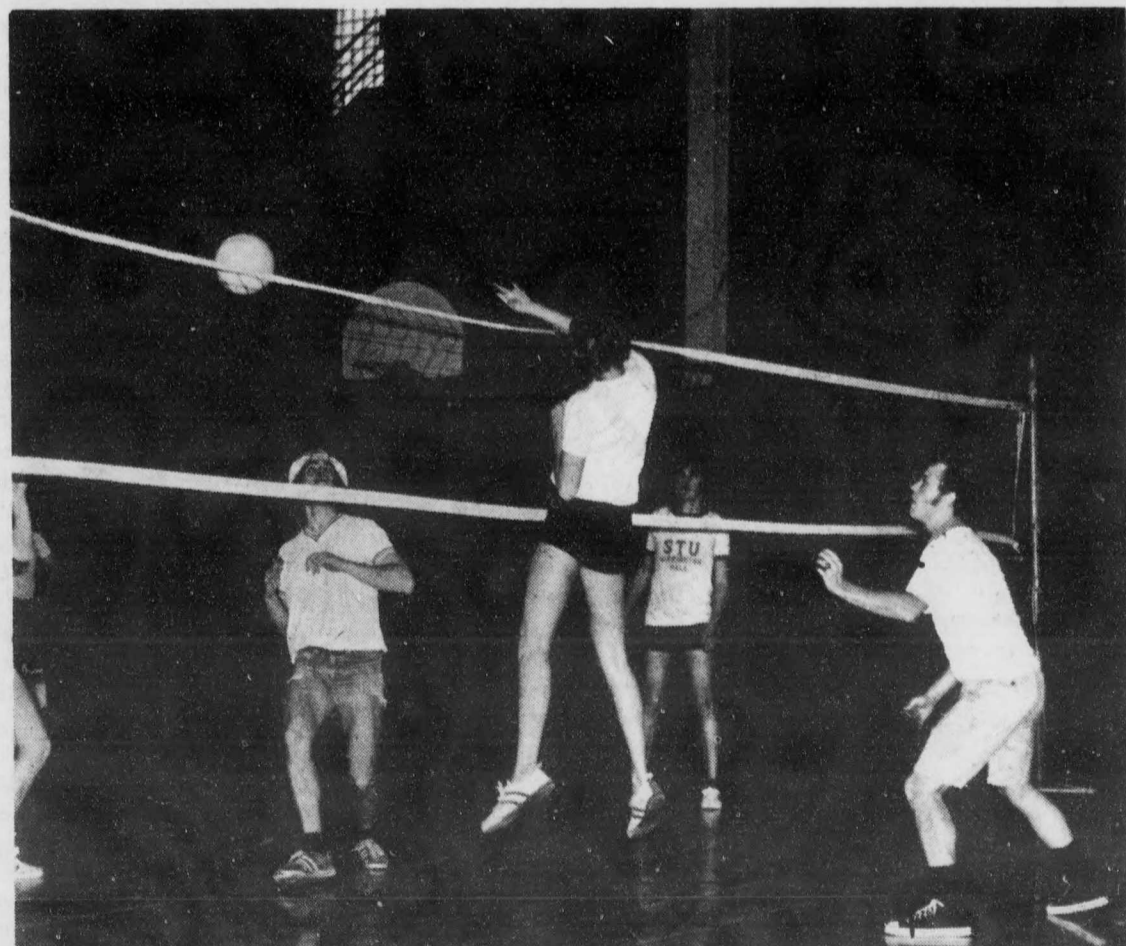


Photo by Steve Patriquen

Brun superstar Pat Kirk plugs another one down the throats of CHSR opponents in Volleyball action last weekend. Ron "Tourister" Ward looks on. For more info see page 24.

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