

Gair heads UNB's new Teaching Centre

by Mark I Minor

The new UNB Teaching Centre, for which funding was approved in May, will occupy its new home (Room 08, in the basement of the Harriet Irving Library) no later than Friday, Oct. 25, 1991. At the helm is Dr. Reavley Gair, Professor of English.

In a press release dated October 17, 1991, Dr. Gair

stated that "The UNB Teaching Centre's mandate is to foster the development of a culture of teaching . . . I hope to pick the brains and recruit the energy of UNB's most respected teachers to help guide the centre's work".

He is also seeking input from sources outside UNB such as Dr. Ted Fenton who operates a similar programme at Pittsburgh's Carnegie

Mellon University.

On November 9, the Centre will hold a workshop involving twenty-five UNB faculty including President Armstrong and Vice President (Academic) Traves. This workshop will focus on how to operate the Teaching Centre, how to identify good teaching and how to improve teaching.

CAMPUS, the UNB Student Union, The Graduate Student's Association and all faculty have been invited to submit any input which they deem beneficial to the Teaching Centre.

Dr. Gair has tentatively scheduled another workshop for January. Issues such as approaches to lab demonstrations, troubleshooting and problems with marking will be discussed. Future workshops will deal with problems of extremely large classes, how to run graduate classes and seminars and thesis problems. These are but a few of the areas which will be addressed.

Next year, Dr. Gair plans to hold luncheon seminars as an ongoing medium for discussing emerging issues. Instructors, T.A's and students will be free to attend.

One special segment of the UNB community for which the Centre will act as a resource is the group of over 200 undergraduate and graduate teaching Assistants. Some of the ideas Dr. Gair address are matching novice T.A's with those more experienced, standardization of marking for specific courses and arranging T.A forums approximately twice per term so that those involved could brainstorm common and individual concerns. As well, faculty could monitor classes which the T.A's actually instruct. Monitoring would help to provide feedback to the T.A with regard to technique and effectiveness.

Another avenue which may be pursued in the interest of improving teaching and learning at UNB is a series of

surveys. Dr. Gair feels that course evaluations could have more meaning if administered during the first month of classes. Then, the instructor would be better able to make adjustments or modifications as required. The Teaching Centre is also surveying T.A's on questions ranging from work workshop effectiveness to usefulness of a T.A handbook including suggestions for handbook content.

Faculty who contribute to the Centre's activities will hopefully do so on a basis where they will be released from part of their primary duties. An arrangement such as this would allow the Centre to be as cost effective as possible.

Dr. Gair would like to minimize the factor of added cost to the University therefore causing little or no burden on the current budget. In this sense, it is felt that the benefits would surely outweigh the costs.



Reavley Gair David Smith photo

Health plan clarified

by Kirsten Burgess

There is much confusion among the student body as to the coverage of the student health plan.

This year, the university has negotiated a new contract for coverage with the Blue Cross insurance company. In previous years the coverage has been with the Mutual Life company. Blue Cross was able to offer the university better coverage and a 'quick pay' system.

The quick pay system will be a great improvement for students who will now be able to get a refund of 80% of covered medical costs immediately at Blue Cross rather than having to wait for three to four weeks for a refund by mail.

Under the Blue Cross plan, foreign students have slightly different coverage than Canadian students. They are covered for basic medical services that Canadian students have under Medicare.

All students should have received a pamphlet which describes the coverage of the plan in their registration kit. Information is also available at the Student Union or at the Business Office. All students MUST pick up their Blue

Cross coverage cards if they want to use the plan.

Jim MacGee, Student Union, stresses that oral contraceptives are not covered by the plan - although a suggestion to the contrary was published in the Brunswickan last week.

A referendum was held during last year's Student Union election to see whether or not students would be willing to pay the difference (approximately \$35.00 per student) to have oral contraceptives included on the plan. Only students who voted in the election voted in the referendum (only about 20% of the student body), and the vote showed only a slim majority in favor of having oral contraceptives included in the plan.

Hartley Morehouse, of the UNB comptrollers office, says that if the Student Union proves that there is a need for the contraceptive program, the university will renegotiate the plan with the Blue Cross representative. Morehouse also said that the university would pay the same amount per student for the plan, and the difference would be charged to the student as another student fee.

Woman alleging assault dissatisfied with residence investigation

by Aime Phillips

A woman on campus claims she was assaulted on September 28 during a residence social.

Some people describe the incident as a "scuffle" instigated by the woman and dealt with appropriately by the Residence's Student Disciplinary Committee.

The woman says while she was attending an in-house social at one of the male residences she was called in to a house member's room to settle a dispute between two women, a friend and the girlfriend of the room's occupant.

In settling the dispute the allegedly assaulted woman mentioned it was important she handle the dispute correctly as it would reflect on her job on the Campus Police.

According to the female student, the gentleman in the room then began taunting her with references to her capability as a member of the Campus Police.

The woman alleges the male student physically forced her from his room slamming the door forcibly behind her and that throughout the rest of the evening harassed her repeatedly with profanities.

When the female student went to leave the building she claims she was grabbed by the house member, leaving bruises on her neck and shoulders.

The woman claims she scratched the male student under his left eye in self defence, believing he was about to strike her. The two were then pulled apart, after which

the woman returned to her own residence.

The Student Disciplinary Residence Committee set up a hearing to evaluate the incident. The Committee consisted of Dean of Residence Mary Lou Stirling, Don of Tibbits, Don of Neill, Don of Bridges, Don of Mackenzie acting as Chair, a proctor of Neville and a proctor from Macleod. According to the woman the committee concluded she was the instigator of the incident. Dean Stirling says: "No fines were levied." The woman claims she must pay a "performance bond" to the Business Office. This bond will be returned to the woman in May if her performance, as judged by the Residence Office, is found satisfactory. The woman also reports she is prohibited from entering the male residence and one of the floors of her own House where the male student's girlfriend resides.

The male student involved declined to comment "about the incident that occurred that night" saying only "the Disciplinary committee heard her story and they heard my story and they found I wasn't at fault."

The woman says she is not satisfied with the procedures and decision of the Committee. She claims her witnesses were deemed unreliable because they "were not a part of the of the university community."

Dean Stirling states "each side was offered the opportunity to bring witnesses." In response to the woman's witnesses, Dean Stirling claims "I didn't know

they weren't part of the university community."

One member of the male residence says because of the incident which occurred on September 28 his girlfriend, a witness at the hearing, is no longer permitted in the residence. He claims Dean Stirling was aware the witnesses were not from campus because the Dean

notified them they were welcome on campus anymore.

The woman is also upset that she has been "suspended until further notice" from the Campus Police because of the incident.

Director of Security Rick Peacock states there were no charges laid against the woman "There have been charges laid against anyone through security."

The Don of the House involved, who was also on the Committee, commented "This was carried out according to the principles of justice. Both parties involved had the opportunity to state their case, they had the opportunity to call witnesses. I think in terms of fairness there is no other way to do this. Knowing the Committee heard both sides of the story and all the witnesses that could be reached, the final outcome is the decision of the Committee who had the opportunity to consider the credibility of all the witnesses."

Dean Stirling suggested the woman "write a letter stating she is unsatisfied if that is the case." The female student feels there is no point in filing an appeal as the Committee process will remain unchanged.