

University concerned with student illiteracy

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

The literacy or rather illiteracy of university students was one topic discussed at a meeting of the University Senate on Tuesday night.

It appears that there is "widespread" feeling among members of the University community that substantial num-

bers of students cannot meet minimum demand in the area of oral or written communication. It also appears that there has been many complaints from outside sources concerning the inability of university graduates to either read or write correct and effective English.

The Academic Resources and Policy Committee of the Senate

established a special committee in April of 1976 to consider this problem.

The committee members, Professors W. Hamilton, J.W. Blasingame, A. Dickson, and A.R. Donaldson reported in May of 1977 and their report was considered by the ARPC.

An ad hoc committee was then appointed to formulate some

solution or response to the problem of illiteracy. After consideration of the report submitted by this special committee, ARPC preferred various solutions to the problems.

The one which received the most obvious support consisted of the instigation of a standardized test of facility in English to be taken by all incoming students. Students who failed to pass the test would be required to take steps to ensure they raised their competence to an acceptable level.

In addition, a test for students wishing to graduate would also be instituted and students would have to pass this before achieving graduation. The third suggestion would involve the faculty and staff of the university accepting a personal responsibility in ensuring their students have an acceptable level of English proficiency.

Should the recommendations be

adopted an English Language Co-ordinator would be hired who would be responsible for the implementation and co-ordination of the program.

The matter was tabled until further study on the matter, but the consensus in the audience seemed to favour the instigation of this program or one of a similar sort.

The other item which provided some discussion was the question of the instigation of a bachelor of science in data processing at UNBSJ. The program would entail giving the student a working knowledge of mathematics, statistics, and computer science, and interrelating the three disciplines.

A graduate degree in Drama at UNBSJ was also discussed but did not receive much encouragement from most senators.

Neither matter was resolved but both were tabled for further investigation.

Library hrs to stay same

By JON LEES

Dr. Gertrude Gunn university librarian feels the library hours will stay "status quo" until the budget for the library is improved.

She feels the library hours were cut back on Saturdays for valid reasons. The library decided to save money from under-utilization by cutting service on this day. These cutbacks were instigated last year. Statistics taken last year

show that there were 21 percent less people in the library and 49 percent less borrowing done on Saturday mornings and nights that on Friday nights.

One of these times had to be cut back on so Saturday was chosen. Dr. Gunn said that you could "count the people who leave on Saturday nights on one hand." She maintains that there are other

been up to 25-30 percent.

Dr. Gunn feels that the Harriet Irving Library has had a good collection of books but that gaps are starting to show. 600 subscriptions to periodicals and newspapers have been cancelled since June 1977 from the 4,372 journals the library then subscribed to. The University purchased 34,268 printed books last year. Dr. Gunn said that the annual purchase a few years ago was 40,000 printed editions. According to Gunn "The bills for the (600 cancelled) journals were too high. They were eating up money that could have been put into books."

The university is expanding its course offerings next year. Dr. Gunn says this should require more money to buy necessary resources for these courses. She is not sure if she will get it. Dr. Gunn says she will be "spreading the existing dollars (for books) more thinly over more courses."

libraries open on the campus past the Harriet Irving's hours. And that it is very expensive to keep a library open when nobody uses it.

The budget for the library is not out yet but Dr. Gunn is "hoping the budget is at least the same" as last year. She did not know if it would be raised, lowered or remain the same. In an upcoming session with the Budget Board three budgets will be presented for the library, one of which will be 75 percent lower than that of this year.

The budget hasn't been lowered for this last year, but it hasn't gone up either. What budget the library gets is becoming less and less effective as its purchasing power drops along with that of the dollar. Many of the books purchased are done so from foreign markets where the Canadian dollar doesn't go too far. While inflation is at 8.9 percent that of purchasing has been 13 percent for the last several years. This year it has

Brian Davies- watch out!!

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

The seal hunt is not inhumane, according to third year Forestry student Bruce Armstrong and the 30 or so protesters who marched on the office of International Fund for Animal Welfare and Brian Davies last Friday. But Davies was in Europe.

The marchers were protesting what one organizer, Bill Clarke, termed the "unfactual and misrepresentative" manner in which Davies was portraying the seal hunt and, ultimately, Newfoundland.

They objected strongly to the large anti-seal campaigns which have been launched in the United States and Europe due to Davies' instigation.

The marchers gathered outside the University of New Brunswick Forestry Building where they picked up placards bearing such slogans as: "Baby seals are cute, but baby bi Africans were cuter"; "Let's save the pigs"; and "Newfoundlanders and seals have something in common, Davies doesn't understand either." Shouting "Let's save the swilers," and denunciations of Davies, the group marched along Beaverbrook St. to Smythe where they gathered outside the central office of IFAW.

Both Clarke and Armstrong, central organizers of the march, read quotes to an appreciative crowd, and then led the protesters in the Newfoundland anthem "Ode to Newfoundland."

One quote was from comments by Jacques Cousteau, the noted oceanologist, in which he said that the seals were not being exploited any more than pigs were, and those who wished to "save the seals" would be just as



well off by yelling "let's save the pigs".

The other quote was an excerpt from a letter from Ted Hughes, Ontario SPCA president, in which he said that the latest campaign against the seal hunt was the worst example of racial prejudice.

The two men on being informed that Davies was in Europe gave a special packet to general manager of IFAW, John Nye. The package included a booklet from the federal department of fisheries and environment on the seal hunt, a questionnaire on the seal hunt, and a can of seal meat "for his supper". Nye refused to comment on the issue and said any questions the protestors may have should be asked at the press conference (which took place Monday).

He did say that he felt his salary was not "excessive" and that he "was certain that anyone who went out on the ice flows earned any money they got from it, but it did not justify it" (the hunt).

photo—brewer
The protesters then cooked seal meat over a propane stove and offered it to passersby. They also passed out pamphlets and questionnaires to observers.

Both Armstrong and Clarke are native Newfoundlanders from Little Bay, Notre Dame Bay and have families who are involved in some manner in the seal hunt. Armstrong said the marchers represented about half of the Newfoundland students in Fredericton and that the others were unable to attend because of prior commitments.

"We have their full support, however," Clarke said. Armstrong said the march would probably be the only one to occur, as members of the group financed the entire proceedings "from their own pockets."

The protesters remained outside and around Davies' office until 5:30 p.m. and continued to chant slogans and hand out pamphlets to passersby.

Steve to speak

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

"A last ditch effort" to get at least a 1 percent increase over the 6.6 operating increase for university operating budgets is the reason for a meeting by several student representatives on March 21, with Premier Richard Hatfield.

SRC president Steve Berube said that students, Susan Shalala, David Somerville (UNBSJ) and possible Steven Hutchison (UNBSJ) will be meeting with the premier to push for a larger operating grant in universities and to discuss the possibility of getting the full amount of the alteration and renovation fund which the university has asked.

Berube said the plan to meet with Hatfield originated with himself and Dave Somerville and Steve Hutchison decided, as members of the Board of Governors and students elected to arrange the interview.

He said that the reason UNB is so heavily represented is due to this and that in the original plan, the Student Representative Council would not be that involved. He said when he was elected to the matter changed, but he wished to go ahead with the talk.

Berube said that the situation does not look good as it is "virtually too late." He said the Legislature has opened already,



and once the education budget goes before it there is not much anyone can do.

He does not feel the New Brunswick students demand of an extra one per cent is extravagant. He said it works out to about 1 million dollars, which is not much when you are speaking of budgets which deal in billions.

He criticised the Premier's cry of "austerity" when steps which Hatfield has taken in the past and recently are "anything but".

Berube also said that the interview has been a fight to get and that he has been in contact with the premiers office since January 31.

Berube also mentioned that a proposed meeting with Minister of Youth, Jean Pierre Ouellette fell through again. "Ouellette pulled out again" said Berube who considered the situation "deplorable".

In the past

It seems that today's college students have all but forgotten about the campus disturbances of the sixties.

A recent poll taken at Columbia University in New York City found that only three students out of the entire freshman class knew who former Columbia student strike leader Mark Rudd was. According to the poll, the Class of '81 seems to regard the campus protests of

'68 as "ancient history."

Meanwhile some students at the University of Florida recently held a "Sixties Revival Party," featuring peace posters, "magic" sugar cubes and flower children costumes. However, the party goers felt obliged to hire an older student, aged 30, as a consultant to make sure their "Sixties Revival" was authentic. (Newscript)

The Maritime Higher Education Commission will be meeting with interested audience (students especially) at 10:45 Friday morning (this morning) at the Peddicodiac Room of the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel.

It will be an informal question and answer forum and students are urged to attend.