

Accessibility on campus examined

By JOHN KNECHTEL
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In the modern era minority rights have become a provocative issue, stirring fierce debate and riots throughout society. There is, however, one minority on campus and elsewhere that is, through our ignorance and that of our predecessors, consistently discriminated against.

1981 is the International Year of Disabled Persons and two UNB physical education students have prepared a report on the barriers on campus which a handicapped person must deal with. The students, Franci Dunn and Susan Collis, centered their report on the many and frustrating barriers built into our campus, and on the quality of services at UNB for disabled students.

The reports findings show that, in general, the university has a great potential for being accessible to persons in wheelchairs. A survey of each building on campus, however, showed that many structures are extremely restrictive to a wheelchair student due to

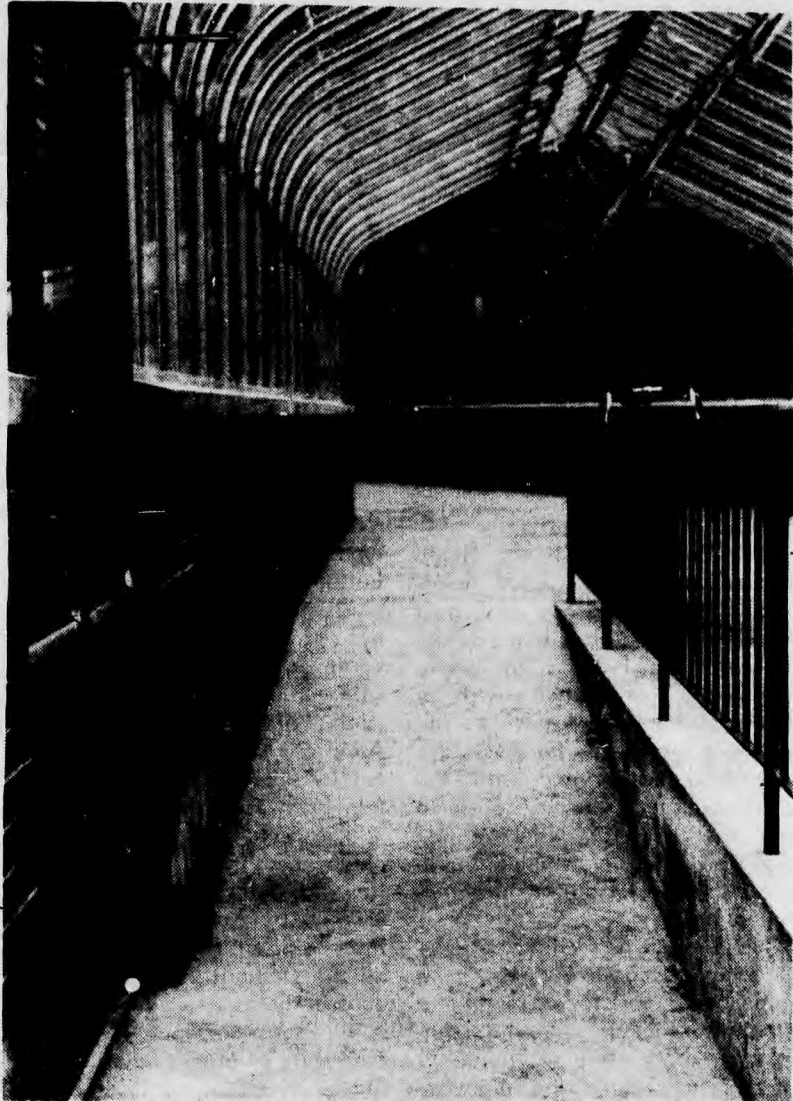
architectural restrictions. A wheelchair can be extremely unwieldy on a steep staircase or in narrow doorways, buildings with these structures such as Memorial Hall and the Old Arts Building were rated in the report as "not accessible."

Copies of the report have been requested by Barry Thompson, Dean of Students, and Eric Garland, Vice President of Administration, both of whom were approached by the researchers for comment and information. Susan Collis, co-author of the report, expressed her hope that the recommendations would be seriously considered by the administration.

The university has always dealt with student on a one to one basis, says the report, and has always made every effort to comply with the requests of the disabled. When asked, disabled persons on campus expressed satisfaction on the administration's efforts.

Garland said in a statement to the Brunswickan that "There has not been a major effort to reconstruct university buildings due to the costs this would entail," but went on to comment that every effort is made to work with disabled students to allow them the most possible freedom. These are the report's recommendations:

1. The International Symbol of Accessibility should be displayed to indicate accessible entrances and washrooms and other facilities.
2. A student handbook for disabled students should be composed, showing routes and facilities.
3. An on campus transportation system should be seriously considered. This will be essential for winter months, with the icy hills.
4. Ramps must be constructed in accordance to National Building Standards.
5. A support service should be established for disabled students.
6. A committee should be established to effect these changes.



Ramps like those in the tunnel between the IUC and Loring Bailey Hall (above) make the disabled person's life on campus easier, while steps (below) can present a major obstacle.



ROBYN CHALONER Photo

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TODAY'S WORLD



"...and you say you watched Jennifer all afternoon and didn't boze off once?"

Cynic-at-large

By NANCY KEMPTON
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It is drawing near to that special romantic time of year when coloured lights sparkle in reflections off the veil of snow dusting the withered landscape. A time that reminds one of peaceful moments, boisterous frolics of joy, old friends, dear families. A time when differences seem to melt away as a new cloud of flakes is whisked down the street. Thoughts of carolers, majestic pines, sleigh rides, reunions, eggnog, fireplaces, ribbon, and fat jolly old men swamp our minds.

It is definitely not just a physical transformation of the environment but an emotional uplifting of spirit. Unfortunately, such a state of mind leave one vulnerable to the wiles of clever corporate advertisers. Christmas has provided the commercial world with the greatest opportunities for capital gains. And we are suckers enough to fall into their greedy grasp.

Santa Claus is no longer the kindly old soul whose belly jiggles its delightful rolls as he laughs a genuine glee. Today he is the local wino out to make an easy buck, whose gaunt face does not do credit to the pillows stuffed under his belt. He breathes alcoholic fumes at the sweet little brats who perch on his knees at the mall. The children gaze curiously at his drooping moustache glued awkwardly atop a thin, false smile. Any they wonder in amazement at the fact that they just saw him five minutes ago at another depot down the street. Yet it is good public relations for stores to offer such an exquisite sight for the kiddies. It helps boost sales and it definitely makes me laugh uproariously as I watch this sad creature force another halfhearted ho-ho from between his lips. But do not despair, folks. The latest attraction is a package deal- the child can sit on Santa's knee and get his photograph taken - all for the amazing low price of \$5.95.

Frenzied parents rush to the stores to grab the last full automatic Ayatollah doll from the store. If they fail to buy this wonderfully self-destructible little gadget, they face the wrath of their television-saturated children. The youngsters of today are deluged with commercials that insist their improved product will outdo any previous models. It has more buttons, more batteries, makes more noise, cries louder, wets its pants faster, sings the latest disco song, costs more money. Funky, man!

There is a pretty new movement afoot to encourage Christmas competitions. Try to get the most presents under your tree! After all, the more popular we are, the more gifts we will receive. Christmas has become a flashy neon Studio 54 of occasions. A disco of competitive pettiness, cheap shallowness wrapped in Ultra Brite smiles. The marketers of J.R. Ewing, the Bionic man and Urban Cowboy dolls wrestle for top spot in the Christmas sales arena. Which one will cruelly charm the kids into insisting on having that product? Will the real Mr. Claus please stand up?

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couple of weeks ago. The committee will also be wanting the viewpoints of the administrative peoples working under the Dean, and will be writing to the SRC to receive the views of the president and the members. The committee will also be placing a note in *University Perspectives* in efforts to try and reach all parts of the university community.

All views received will be treated confidentially by the committee

according to the rules. The views will then be summarized so as not to reveal the identity of any respondents. At that stage, the incumbent will decide whether he wishes to be reappointed. Whether he does or not, the committee is still required to invite other nominations and applications. After these have been received and accepted, the candidates will then be interviewed, and finally the committee will take its recommendation to the president.