

## Education commission tables first annual report

By BILL SANDERSON

The first annual report of the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission was tabled in the New Brunswick Legislature this week.

The report contained the activities of the commission over the last year. The report also gave a forecast for the year ahead, as well as reports on various issues.

Studies commissioned by the Council of Maritime Premiers included such things as a study on French-language post-secondary education in New Brunswick, use of computers in universities, a

study into the feasibility of setting up a School of veterinary medicine in the Maritimes. While these issues can evoke much controversy, Commission Chairman Catherine Wallace says that the function of her commission is to research and report, not to introduce controversy.

The commission was set up a year ago "to assist the Provinces and the institutions in attaining a more efficient and effective utilization and allocation of resources in the field of higher education in the region." Basically this means that the commission acts as a liaison between the

governments and the universities. Wallace stated they are not set up to talk about issues but are set up to work to find out facts, figures and proposals. The next thing her commission does is turn the proposals and reports over to the government. As it is, she said they no sooner have one thing finished and reported on when another is on her desk to take its place.

The priority issue in the office at the moment is the formulation of a three year plan of higher education in the region. "We must have concrete proof to show the Government of Canada that the Maritimes have a totally distinctive pattern ..." in the field of higher education, said Wallace.

The first annual report of the commission mentioned a study commissioned to study Franco-phone post-secondary education. In particular, the situation regarding the declining enrollment at the College de Bathurst over the past few years caused much more concern in the New Brunswick Higher Education Commission in 1973. Therefore the NBHEC recommended and later the MPHEC concurred "that the status quo be maintained while a study is immediately begun by the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission on the future structure of higher education in the French sector of New Brunswick with special emphasis on the role to be played by the various institutions involved."

This study was organized in September of 1974. Judge Louis A. LeBel was appointed as Chairman of the committee. The LeBel Committee will be giving its report early in May. During the upcoming year the MPHEC will be giving advice and recommendations on the report of the LeBel Committee. Another study the MPHEC is undertaking is one on the use of computers in higher education. "The study represents the initial phase of a program for sharing of computer resources in the Atlantic universities." The study is being

made to facilitate the most effective use of computer time in Atlantic universities, both now and in the future.

There is a possibility the fourth Canadian school of veterinary medicine may be established and with this possibility the MPHEC is looking into the future and trying to get the school located somewhere in the Maritimes.

While these are the issues the MPHEC is working on Wallace

said she welcomes input from students and student organizations. She also commented that the value of joining a national organization cannot be told in only one year. She said it takes a year to get familiar with the workings of the organization and only then can any useful work be done. Regarding the National Union of Students she said that we should not get our hopes up too high in expecting a lot of results this year.

## Alumnae volunteer for middleman role

By DERWIN GOWAN  
News Editor

Alumnae persons at last Sunday's Alumni sponsored student leadership conference said they would like to act as a middleman between administration, faculty and students.

They said they are concerned about the "large three tier structure of students, faculty and administration" which is often impersonal and they said the alumni could act as a "beneficial outside force" which would "perhaps put the parties back together."

At their conference the weekend

before, the alumni decided they could provide lines of communication. "Everything can get very large and impersonal ... and the alumni can fill a need that maybe wasn't there five years ago," they said.

It was also suggested that a particular student could "have a day out" with an alumnus. Also, they said an alumnus could sometimes provide a better evaluation of a professor than an evaluation committee.

They said students should become aware the alumni is there and use them to solve problems.

## Housing problem said twofold

By DERWIN GOWAN

There is a twofold problem with respect to the student housing problem said Dean of Students Barry Thompson at last Sunday's Alumni sponsored leadership conference.

Primarily, there is a need for more apartment space and secondarily, there is a need for more residence accommodations, said Thompson. Housing reports from previous years suggest the university should provide 40 per cent of the student housing through the residence system, Thompson continued.

He said there is property next to McGee House that could be developed but a mortgage is presently too expensive. He suggested that some of this land could be leased to private investors on condition they provide student housing.

Thompson said student support is needed on these issues, particularly from the Students' Representative Council.

Another recommendation from

Thompson was that busing services by increased so that students could avoid themselves of good housing away from campus. He said some students will take sub-standard housing near the campus when the 'is good housing on the other side of the river. Thompson said the transit company in Fredericton would likely be in favour of the idea of issuing season bus passes.

Nelissen suggested the university consider constricting enrolment when a housing shortage is predicted as a short term solution but student vice-president Gordon Kennedy said the university tends to make short term solutions into long term ones. Others said the university was a public institution supported by taxpayers money, therefore it would be wrong to constrict enrolment.

The conference attacked university's method of handling the housing crisis this fall. "Being realistic," said Student Union Building Board of Directors chairman J. David Miller, "I don't think the university had any real plans for the housing problem."

The priority for residence accommodations, said Thompson, goes first to young students, then they are let on a first-come-first-serve basis. Other things being equal, he continued, applicants with higher marks will be given priority. Thompson said there were about 800 applicants for each of the men's and women's residence systems, but there are around 2,000 women and 4,000 men at UNB. Therefore, he said, women tend to prefer residence accommodation more than men, a trend which has been noted in the past.

Kennedy said around 200 beds off-campus are going to be lost to the personnel of the new hospital and about 130 residence spaces will be given to foreign students next year due to agreements with the Canadian International Development Agency.

A meeting was arranged between the National Union of Students housing committee and the Dean of Students housing committee.

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## To study swap

There is a committee presently discussing the "swapping" of UNBSJ and STU as suggested in the Deutch report on UNBSJ.

The decision will mainly be made on St. Thomas University's view of the situation. Harold Sharp, head of the Business Department and a member of the UNB Senate, stated he doubts this issue will be taken very seriously and most likely nothing will come of it.

He said there is property next to McGee House that could be developed but a mortgage is presently too expensive. He suggested that some of this land could be leased to private investors on condition they provide student housing.

Thompson said student support is needed on these issues, particularly from the Students' Representative Council.

Another recommendation from

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# THE BR

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## Local

By DERWIN GOWAN

Problems in student ment was one of the major last Sunday's Alumni s conference of student le

The major entertainm tion discussed was the at the Fredericton business more of the campus bus

According to Dean of Barry Thompson, the lo owners let it be known las that they were displeas business they were losi campus pubs in the Stud Building, residences, and ly, McConnell Hall. Brunswick Liquor Cont mission let him know they enforcing liquor regulati strictly that in the past.

"They told him they we "number of clandestine tions go by," Thomp However, he said, they continue to do this "increasing pressure" Fredericton businessme up.

We discovered we wer operating a bootlegging by their definition," said. Campus pubs bre when they show profits.

Thompson said he wa formulate a "package de campus which would university within the stri the law but still allow activities on campus to This would include th club, social club, stud pubs, and residence pub

Student union compr ceslaus Batanyita said owners were doing th student business, but "are united" the student have their own pubs. "be prepared to protect th students as such ... a swayed by tavern man said.

Thompson replied th inspectors have the righ any alcoholic event at an if the event is being run letter of the law, then nothing to worry about. he said, arrangements made to continue compu

Chairman of the Stu Building Board of Direc Miller said the NBL political organization tavern owners were rea on the NBLCC last year

He said New Brunsw laws, more than a province, are designed making. For example liquor could only be bo government outlets an "very illegal" to buy from the breweries.

Student Union presi Jim Smith said he an officer were looking situation and a me planned with the NB were particularly conc high school students on said.

One concession gran government last summ son said, was that resi be considered private that it will be legal t lounges and common ro