

# Center's funding must be carefully looked at

by Allan Carter

In just over a year and with a budget of only \$8,000, the UNB Teaching Center has dealt with over 300 teaching assistants and 300 faculty members.

Reavley Gair, director of the Center feels that funding for the

center has to be carefully looked at.

The Center is presently funded by the university and UNB President Dr. Robin Armstrong maintains that despite any university budget problems, he will not support reducing financial support for the Center.

However, the \$8,000 figure will not be enough for the Center if it is going to expand its services.

Gair points out that at other universities, teaching centers are supported by funding by students, faculty and alumni. Gair believes that such a situation is "a highly

desirable thing since it is to everyone's advantage, particularly to the undergraduates since the better the quality of teaching the better they are served."

"The Student Union has been very responsive and it seems to me they have a vital role to play in the encouragement of teaching development," Gair states. Such support, describes Gair should not only come in merely supporting the general principles of the Center, but also in financial terms.

Additionally, Gair believes that the Graduate Student Association also has a direct stake in what happens because training of graduate teaching assistants at the Center gives these students "a distinct professional advantage".

Anna MacDonald, VP Administration of the Student Union, believes that if the university is planning to continue its support for the center, it may be possible that funding from the Union could be added to the university's financial support.

MacDonald believes that the Union would have to explore the whole issue and "look at services we would be funding and whether or not they maximize our funding dollars."

"There is no doubt we [The Student Union] will become more involved [with the Center]," MacDonald added.

MacDonald presently represents the Student Union on an advisory committee to the Teaching Center.

## MacNutt Memorial Lecture

(UNBPRI) A noted Canadian literary historian will give the 1992 W. Stewart MacNutt Memorial Lecture on the Fredericton and Saint John campuses of the University of New Brunswick.

Gwendolyn Davies, a professor of English at Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S., will give a talk called "The World is Hers": Maritime New Women and the Literature of Social Change Before World War 1, in

Fredericton, on Monday, Nov. 23 at 8 p.m. in Room 105 of Tilley Hall. She will give the lecture in Saint John on Wednesday, Nov. 25, at 5 p.m. in the Faculty Room of the Ward Chipman Library. Both lectures and the receptions that follow are open to the public and free of charge.

Dr. Davies will discuss early Maritime women writers of social concern, such as Marshall Saunders and Amelia Fytche, with particular emphasis on the "new women" writers of the 1880s and '90s who used fiction and poetry as a means of articulating their vision of social change and suffragism.

Following her early education in Ontario, Dr. Davies earned a bachelor of arts degree in English and History at Dalhousie University in Halifax, N.S., through the University of King's College. She went on to earn a master of arts degree from the University of Toronto and a doctorate from York University in Toronto.

Reflecting her academic background, Dr. Davies' scholarly pursuits have frequently combined her interests in English literature and history. She has lectured and published on



Gwendolyn Davies

Canadian literature, written many articles, books and parts of books, and contributed to an improved understanding of the literary roots and traditions of the Maritime provinces.

The MacNutt Memorial Lecture was established in 1980 to honor the late W. Stewart MacNutt's many contributions to UNB. A noted historian, Dr. MacNutt was instrumental in developing the study of Atlantic Canada history. The lecture is funded in part by UNB's Associated Alumni.



## Crime of the Week

Sometime between the hours of 9 and 10:30 am on Friday, the 13th of November 1992, a person or persons unknown removed a lap top computer off a side chair in an office in Bailey Hall.

This lap top computer was a Zenith Master Sport 386SX, Model-Serial No. 5139EC119558 valued at \$2,000.

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In order to make the profile of teaching higher, Gair is attempting to persuade the various faculties at UNB "to take much more seriously the teaching done for them by their teaching assistants so they [the assistants] may get direct encouragement and advice to improve their teaching."

However, Gair points out that research is very important to a university community. "If we don't require new information, how can we constantly progress human learning? Yet at the same time we have overemphasized that, at the expense of the ability to teaching and conveying well."

Gair believes that the "balance is starting to shift back towards a more even relationship between research and teaching." He feels that this balance should be recognized "in the promotional structure of the university." "People should be promoted on the basis of teaching abilities as well as on the basis of their research abilities," Gair adds.

Recently, a forum at Bridges House was held where students were given an opportunity to voice their concerns with teaching methods at UNB. Gair suggested that perhaps the Student Union may wish to organize such a forum on a larger scale and the findings could be summarized in *the Brunswickan*. Gair says that the only condition he places on such forums is that faculty member's names are not used in order to protect reputations.

Gair says that the major improvement he would like to see in regard to teaching at UNB is that professors eventually move away from teaching in the standardized lecture format. Gair believes that class time should be a mixture of lecture, problem solving and responsive situations between the students and the professor.

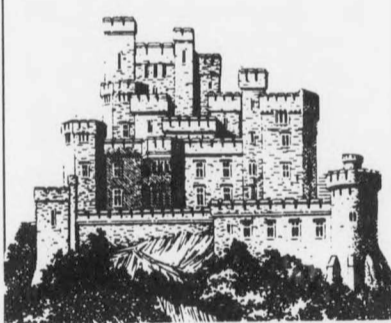
In such a situation, argues Gair, the professor "becomes more of a facilitator and less driven by the power trip of talking all the time."

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