

Anderson looks back over term as prez.

By KATHRYN WAKELING

Students have a greater sense of purpose in education today according to outgoing president Dr. John M. Anderson. In an interview last week Anderson said students still have fun but they are taking their studies more seriously than they did six years ago when he first became president.

Anderson said his term of office has been "exciting and personally rewarding. It's been the high point of my career". Anderson felt that university itself has improved although "changes don't happen overnight but are evolutionary". He said there has been a noticeable trend towards more research and scholarly work. This increased involvement in research has been healthy for the university according to Anderson, who said that despite "tight financial years budgetwise" research monies coming into UNB have been increasing through grant councils and research contracts.

Anderson was concerned with faculty unionization and said that opinions differ on the advisability and effects of this move. He said some feel that unionization will improve UNB's standards while others feel it will decrease the quality. He emphasized that changes will not occur overnight and "unionization is too young for any changes to be noticed."

University staff has remained relatively constant and Anderson attributes this to the constancy of the student population. He said that there has been little staff turnover or retirement because during the 1960's there had been a hiring "explosion" of staff, all of whom are still relatively young.

Anderson said that the various departments themselves have undergone changes, citing the Department of Education's change from a teachers college into a faculty as an example. He said that there was a sudden explosion of staff into the faculty when UNB absorbed the college and not only has the population grown but also the quality of its operation. Anderson said that research has increased dramatically in this faculty. He also pointed out the rapid growth of the UNB Saint John campus which has increased its program substantially over the past few years.

The School of Business Administration has continued to grow at an "amazing rate" according to Anderson, more so than any other faculty. He said the Business Faculty was originally a department which has grown into a school, a change which Anderson attributes to the growth in numbers of students.

Anderson said the student population as a whole has remained relatively constant but there have been increases in some areas, such as the increase of females who are attending university. Quebec student enrollment at UNB has dropped according to Anderson. He said that "basically there have been no real surprises" in student enrollment except for 1975-76 when there was a substantial increase in enrollment. That freshmen class is now graduating according to Anderson who said this year's encaenia will be UNB's largest

grad class and will probably remain so until the year 2000.

Anderson said he has not seen any great change in UNB's student union over the years and has enjoyed working with all the SRC presidents. He noted that one change in attitude has been the recognition that the student population will not be increasing significantly enough to enlarge the Student Union Building. Anderson said the students "just won't be here", although he did see a need to make renovations on the existing structure.

Anderson said he was "delighted" about the decision to move the campus radio station off campus FM. He said that not only is CHSR a student operation and its good to see them succeed but by going FM the station will be providing a public service to the entire community. He said that he would like to see some faculty involvement in the project.

Government funding of higher education was better this year according to Anderson who said that the province found the funds to match their conviction to the university rather than realizing UNB's importance. He feels this is why the Maritime Province Higher Education commission recommendation of an 8.6 percent increase over last year's grant was accepted in its entirety. Anderson expressed some concern over the fact that the government has not given the university their non space and capital equipment fund and have not done so for the past three years. He said he is worried that this could mean that no funds are forthcoming.

Anderson said that funding has not been up to par for the past few years (with the exception of this year) and many of his colleagues felt this was due to lack of public support. When it became apparent that the public interest had to be "sparked", Anderson said he questioned his thinking on these ideas and wondered whether it was really pure speculation rather than fact.

He said he commenced investigation into the matter and discovered that no public opinion survey had been taken for some time. As a result shortly before Christmas a member of the department of Sociology and one from the department of Psychology undertook an experiment based on the hypotheses that the public was in fact more supportive of the University than was assumed. Professors Field's and Richardson randomly selected 5000 names and sent out questionnaires. Currently, responses are being studied as they come in and up until this point show that the public actually does support UNB. He said the report will probably be published sometime in June and he expects it to raise "a few eyebrows".

Anderson said that certain faculties were currently more popular than others but added that we must always be "responsive to our customers" and this means making even the less popular disciplines available. He feels this is in the tradition of true education. The general trend is towards the professional faculties according to the president, who said that universities have to



respond to the "perceived" interests of 18 year olds who really don't know the needs of the outside world. He pointed out that the graduate program is no longer that popular, and that only 500 PHD's (approximately) will graduate in Canada per annum. He feels this will cause a serious shortage of qualified PHD's in the future especially in the area of the sciences.

Anderson had good news for students with respects to the Business Office which has had several problems with its computer this year. Since Christmas Price-Waterhouse Associates have been working on the problems and things are now "cleared up".

He said the university will be turning out monthly statements for the first time in the university's history. Anderson said students would not have any problems obtaining information in the fall when needed.

Concerning the new president Anderson said "like a lot of people I have an idea as the usual grapevine is working but beyond that I obviously have no comment". He added that whoever it is, that person must be a person of many parts and skills. He said the job is more difficult than it has been in the past and that the administration of the university has become more complex. He feels the most important quality of a university president is to keep a sense of humour and perspective.

Anderson said that when he began his term he wanted the university to lean towards research and quality because he wanted to persuade both industry and government to use the university to help with their own problems. He visualized the university as becoming part of the socio-economic community which would close the gap which has named a university a separate part of the community. Anderson said the proposed forestry complex is his biggest plan and hopes that it will be off the ground within the next five years.

Memorable moments for Anderson include six consecutive years as a performer in Red and Black and the time in 1975 when the entire fireman class visited his home on Waterloo Row to sing Happy Birthday. Anderson said he intends to take a one year sabbatical and in the interim learn French. He said he will also be trying to "recharge his scientific batteries which are pretty run down right now".

Grad '79 looking good

Ticket sales are going well for Graduation '79, according to Graduation class president Tierney Ness. Ness said that despite the fact that many graduates are still out of town, sales are going smoothly. She said over 200 tickets have been sold for Extravagradza and the Encaenia formal respectively. Ness said she was surprised at the formal's popularity as the graduation executive were not sure how popular the event would be. She said they are hoping to sell at least 500 tickets (1000 people) but that ticket numbers are unlimited as the event is being held in the Aitken centre.

Ness urged graduates to obtain their Extravagradza tickets as soon as possible as this event is always popular. She said that while tickets are available to everyone, graduates have precedence. Ness feels the popularity of this event is partially due to the groups hired for this traditional Extravagradza. She said that the Cooper Brothers is one of the top three bands in Canada while the Irish Dancing Band, Sons of Erin, and Pierre Senecal are relatively well-known



and popular. Ness said the Encaenia Tea is sponsored by the university and is held after the graduation exercises. She said this year the Associated Alumnae will be planting a tree, beginning their campus "beautification" plan which is intended to replace broken or stolen trees around campus. Activity Awards recipients who can or will not attend the ceremony to be held on

Wednesday can pick up their rings at the SRC office, according to Ness. She said the reason for the ruling that only the recipients can attend the event is due to the expense. "We sponsor this event personally", she said, adding that asking another 20 or so people to attend would be too expensive.

Ness said the Graduation Breakfast ticket sales to be held in McConnell Hall are lagging and that the executive have run into some problems. Originally, a Bloody Mary was included in the breakfast menu but since then the executive have found out that no liquor can be sold before 9:00 a.m. Ness said that as the liquor was not included in the price of a ticket but was being provided free by the Grad executive, there will be no refunds.

Three trees will be planted this year in the traditional ceremony commemorating the Grads of '79, according to Ness. She said the first commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Lady Beaverbrook Residence, the second the 125th anniversary of the teaching of Engineering at UNB and third the 150th anniversary of Kings College.