Action Corps Performs Special Service

One of the least publicized groups on campus is an organization called Action Corps.

The Corps has sixty active members on campus whose sole purpose is to provide tutors for the nearby Indian Reserve.

1969 was the starting year and . . .

The Action Corps at the University of Maine served as model. It started in October 1969, inconjunction with the Indian non-Indian Goodwill Association. The ACTION CORPS consisted of three groups, one for each evening. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evening, at 6 p.m. At the SUB, each of the groups met to leave for Kingsclear where 40-50 Indian students were tutored. Both students and tutors derived a great deal of satisfaction from the work. The place of tutoring varied per evening; sometimes it took place in the Reserve school building, and sometimes at four of the homes on the Reserve. In many instances, personal contact developed between the tutors and the students. Some of the students received special attention whenever necessary. Each home on the Reserve had a 'specialist' in Math and French while the remaining tutors provided assistance in spelling, reading, social studies, or just simply encouragement.

The tutoring as well as the organization itself of the ACTION CORPS was as informally as possible. No funds were solicited from either the SRC or from any individual members of the CORPS. All contributed to their own capacity in whatever manner they felt necessary. The ACTION CORPS plans to resume its activities next fall, when much of the valuable experience gained will be put to effective use. It may very well be that next year, some other aspect of community service, if it's educational, will be provided bu the ACTION CORPS. Membership of the ACTION CORPS was drawn from all Faculties, and the three campuses. The Constitution of the CORPS will be presented to all thre SRC's of College Hill.

The coordinator, Will C. van den Hoonaard, said that "without the members, ACTION CORPS would have been a dead letter." "They provided the ideas, time and effort, which was sometimes sacrificial." The Thursday evening group, under the leadership of Dan Horsman, TC student, was the most active in the second term; they also had the highest turnout. The Wednesday evening tutors braved the trials that beset them from time or time and the Tuesday tutors were particularly successful in the first term. One member, Ruth Cunningham, tutored on all three evenings, every week.

SCM Close to Church

The Student Christian Movement of Canada (SCM) has for some time been plagued by an identity crisis – somehow it has been seen as either a purely religious organization, a purely radical one, or both. Much of the confusion has been caused by the desire of SCM to put the ideal of pluralism into practice, to include as many different ideas as possible. Thus the local units of SCM reflect a great variety of interests, from Bible study to radical social change.

One thing, however, SCM is not, and that is an instrument to abolish the churches. Contrary to the statement in the January 30 issue of the Brunswickan that: "One of the main objects of the SCM is to overthrow the church, because the members firmly believe that the established church is of no relevance in our society", SCM is vitally concerned with the church. It was originally established as an arm of the churches on university campuses. Since then it has been concerned with both theological and social questions, For example, one recent issue within the SCM was political theology, as reflected by an SCM-sponsored conference. on "Theology and Social Change". The constitution of the local SCM unit states: "The Unit is part of an open movement of students founded upon Christian priciples." SCM units throughout Canada rely heavily on church support; many of their staff members and advisors are ministers, university chaplains and theology students.

While SCM is concerned with social change, this is not radical change of a leftist variety. There are leftist students within the SCM, but to state that SCM as a movement is in essence left wing is simply ridiculous. The social concerns of SCM are best seen in its programs. On this campus these have included teach-ins on such topics as: "The Morality of Violence", "Sexuality", and "Christianity" and "Revolution", and a conference called "Values, Change, and Action." Last fall SCM was co-sponsor of an Atlantic student conference on the prerequisites for Atlantic development. On the national level SCM has held conferences on such topics as China and "Man's Future and the New Society", and has also sponsored a China study seminar in which Canadian students spent several weeks in Japan. Present concerns of the National SCM include the question of Quebec and the position of Canadian Indians.

Thus the SCM is a student organization which encompasses a wide variety of people and ideas, and its emphasis on pluralism may save it from the present trend among Canadian student groups – dying out.

Fredericton's New School

The School in The Barn

A small black Volkswagon full of children beetles along the road to Harvey Station. A family picnic? No, it's The School in the Barn, the new independent school in Fredericton. The driver, Mrs. Anne Hunt, is also the school's one teacher, and the six children in the car are her entire class. They wondered about woolen rugs — so Mrs. Hunt bundled them into the car and took them to the wool mill to buy wool to make their own rugs.

"With only six children," say Mrs. Hunt, the attractive wife of Saint Thomas University English Professor Russell Hunt, "all kinds of things become possible. For instance, we all go shopping on Mondays to buy food for the week's lunches, and then everyone takes turns with the washing and clearing up. We go out to the public library every week. Just because of the size of the class, we have trmendous freedom."

Ranging in age from four to ten, the children all work together, the older one helping the younger in a modern cersion of the little red schoolhouse. The curriculum follows the children's interests, but covers the same ground as the regular schools — which allows the children to re-enter the regular schools later on. The school goes out to the *Gleaner's* printing plant — and brings in novelist Margaret Laurence and the National Film Board's Gordon Martin to discuss stories and films. Volunteer teachers offer French, art and drama. Recently the Halifax Woodwind Qunitet gave a special concert in the school, letting the children try their instruments afterwards and then chatting with the children and their parents over a lunch the children themselves had prepared.

The School in the Barn began when a group of friends, largely UNB and STU faculty members, wondered whether a school more flexible than the public schools couldn't be established in Fredericton, one which could pay more attention to the individual needs of the children.

"The only way to find out whether it would work was to try it," grins Dr. George Woods, a UNB psychology professor and chairman of the board of Directors. "Some of the others who had school-age children were eager to try, so we did. And it's working just fine."

Why the name? The school's temporary home is in the Unitarian House on Charlotte Street, But Dr. Woods explains that an old barn on his property will house the school permanently, after renovation this summer. When the school moves in Seotember, it expects to expand to fifteen or twenty children with an additional teacher.

How did the New Brunswick authorities react? "They've been great," says Dr. Woods. When the school was nearly ready to open last January, the board of directors prepared a brief and took it to Education Minister W. W. Meldrum, who was very pleased to see a private group taking an initiative in adication, and assured them of his moral support. And several Fredericton merchants have donated equipment: a tape recorder (Consolidted Supply), a camera (Harvey Studios), furniture (Medjuck's), supplies (Hall's . Bookstore), clocks (Chalmers Jewellers).



Jim and Pete, two students at "The School in the Barn" thoughtfully view specimens of two year old Brook trout at the Mactaquac Fishery. The children, ages eight and ten, are part of a class of six which attend classes at the Unitarian House on Charlotte Street. Educational trips, like the one to the Fish Hatchery, are organized ôr give the children a knowledge of life

RELAXED ATMOSPHERE

The low student/teacher ratio and the relaxed atmosphere especially suit "the exceptional child," as the brief to Mr. Meldrum puts it. The exceptional child, it says, has special talents, physical disabilities, an unusual ethnic background, or simply serious academic problems. In the lsst month alone, the school has attracted twenty-one interested visitors, many of them students from TC and the UNB education faculty.

At the moment the school enrols chiefly faculty children, but that will change in the fall. The board is planning a concerted drive this spring and summer to raise scholarship funds for children who parents can't afford to pay fee:

The children's opinion? They're campaigning to have school on Saturday too.

by
occasional
staff