

Science library smells

By J. DAVID MILLER

In the past several weeks, users of the science library may have noted an acrid smell coming from the ventilation system. This smell is not noticed by everyone, and yet causes fairly serious effects in others such as watering eyes and respiratory track irritation. Oddly, the odour varies both in occurrence and the area of the library affected.

In mid-February, the library contacted Physical Plant about the problem. Due to the sporadic nature of the problem it was some time before the ventilation man could actually smell it.

Soon after this Assistant Vice President (Administration) Eric Garland was notified of the problem. He decided to change a previously

scheduled visit of a health department inspector from one particular area of the campus to the science library as a priority. In addition, Garland wrote the chemistry department and asked if any chemicals were in use which could be released into the outside air, then to be picked up by the air intakes of the science library ventilation system.

The report of the chemistry department indicated the smell was too regular to be the result of any particular research activity. Furthermore, the smell was noted during the March break, so undergraduate labs equally could not be at fault. The report of the health department essentially indicated the cause could not be determined.

On the basis of this information and further

consultation with the chemistry department, Garland arranged for analytical chemists from the Research and Productivity Council to assess the problem. The results of their visit this week were not known at press time.

One member of the library staff who was very sensitive to the odour has been advised by her doctor not to work there until such time as the cause is known. There are not reports of any other individuals being seriously affected, although a number of librarians have reported a feeling of fatigue possibly caused by the smell. Various suggestions have been made as to the possible nature of the smell, but these are speculations. Garland stated that efforts would be made to determine the cause of the smell and prevent its occurrence.

Downey expects tuition increase

By NANCY KEMPTON
Brunswickan Staff

Government grants to universities will increase 10.3 per cent next year, but UNB President James Downey said he thinks this will not cover the school's increased expenses.

"It seems to be reasonable to expect at least that much of an increase in tuition fees," he said.

The 10.3 per cent figure quoted by the government falls short of UNB requirements. The Association of Atlantic universities made known to the MPHEC that they require an absolute minimum 12 per cent increase to maintain present standards of education. The

10.3 per cent is considerably less than the cost of living increase. UNB non-salaried price index for books, scientific equipment, etcetera has, in turn risen more than the cost of living level.

Downey said although he can appreciate the government's tight financial position, students and the public must understand how difficult it is for universities to operate at high quality as a result. However, the university will launch no formal protest of government action, as all those who are able to affect such a decision have been communicated with.

The board of governors will decide March 26 what the

exact tuition increase will be, and an announcement will be made in early April. However, Downey said he does not expect any decline in enrolment as a result. UNB students currently contribute only 13 per cent to the cost of their education, as compared to approximately 38 per cent in 1960. Also, all universities will be faced with similar fee increases, so the student will have little opportunity to pick and choose.

Downey did warn that a dramatic increase in tuition could result from the federal-provincial government negotiations commencing this summer. The federal government may remove its transfer of

monies to provinces for post-secondary education.

Residence fees may also increase but these costs are unpredictable as they depend largely on external factors such as labor contracts, oil prices, etcetera.

Downey's personal reaction to the government grant is relief. It was conceivable, he said, that less than a 10.3 per cent increase could have been approved. Downey said he wonders how the grant will be allocated to the various universities in New Brunswick. He also expressed concern as to whether UNB will receive additional funds for non-space and alterations and renovations accounts.

Downey stressed the importance of quality effort in all facets of university life. "The administration, faculty and staff will do its best to



Dr. Downey

ensure that the economies that have to be affected will be affected sensibly and reasonably, and we will attempt to maintain a high quality of education and service at UNB," he said.

CHSR-FM elects new director

Bob Mersereau is the new director of CHSR-FM. He was acclaimed to the position at

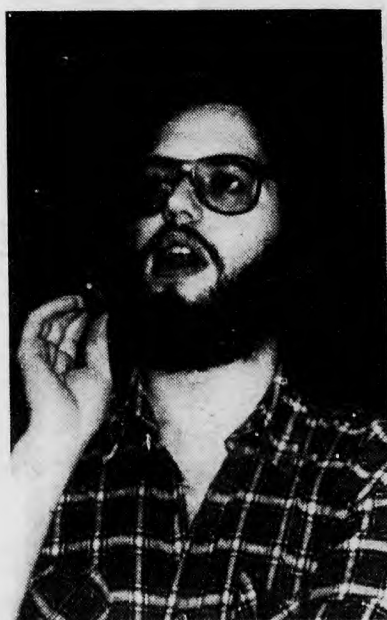
the station's regular meeting Wednesday and succeeds Doug Varty. Mersereau has

been involved in various capacities with CHSR and CHSR-FM for three years, most recently as acting station manager.

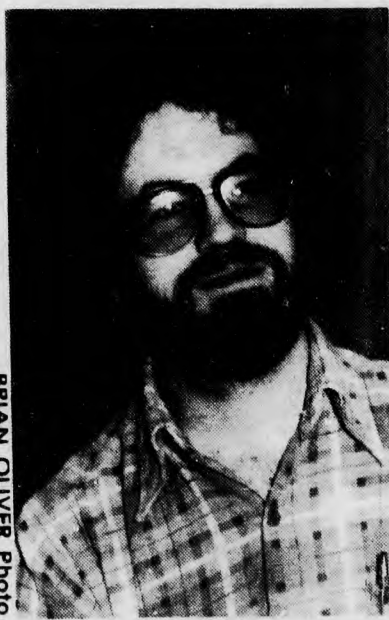
Meanwhile, Paul Buckley was elected station manager. The remaining positions -- all acclaimed -- saw Tom Kovacs assume the position of news

and public affairs director, Andrew Secord as program director, Vernon Robichaud as business manager, and Bill Hamill as chief engineer.

A motion was made at the meeting by former station director David Miller to split the position of news and public affairs into two separate positions. This motion will receive further consideration at the station's next regular meeting March 25.



Bob Mersereau



Paul Buckley

BRIAN OLIVER Photo

Search continues

By LYNN REICKER
Brunswickan Staff

By the end of April the university community should know who the next dean of students will be. The present dean, Barry Thompson, will be vying with other interested individuals for the position.

Chairman of the Dean of Students Search Committee Robert Burridge, vice-president Academic, had hoped for an earlier conclusion to the search, but feels the previously set date of April 15 will now be difficult to meet. This is due partially to the late placement of an ad scheduled to appear in next week's

Brunswickan, but also depends on the number of applications and nominations received.

Burridge wants the decision rendered "before the students leave" so that they will have the satisfaction of knowing who their new dean is.

Burridge stresses that it is important for applicants and nominees to take special note of the fact that the university "intends to review the role and function of the position" of Dean of Students in the very near future. A committee will be set up to look into the matter which "could result in the separation of student ombudsman and student administrator."