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UNB fund-raising at work

By CAROLE VASIL
Brunswickan Staff

While proposed cutbacks and fee hikes at UNB have many in an uproar, few realize there is a group of people working on stimulating fund-raising campaigns on the regional, national and international levels. The group is the University Development Committee, headed by President James Downey.

This committee, consisting of university faculty and members of the public sector, is currently collecting ideas which will be developed into packages to tempt donors. Said Dr. Downey, "People are no longer giving money to universities just like that."

The UDC's job is not an easy one. So far, the department heads have been contacted, and, hopefully, will have come up with some feasible proposals by the time they report back to the UDC in December.

Basically, there are seven programs which the UDC is seeking funds for:

1 Cultural Activities
2 Athletic Activities
3 Endowed Academic Chairs; positions on the faculty paid for by the interest earned from sums of money which have been set aside or invested.
4 Lab Modernization, and
5 Program Enrichment, so that UNB's facilities can be updated to meet the growing educational needs of graduates.
6 Research
7 Scholarships and Bursaries

According to Dr. John Meagher, vice-chairman of the UDC, (7) is the top priority program. He said he hopes the UDC will be able to raise the funds to keep the scholarship and bursary programs growing faster than university costs are rising.

Dr. Downey, in a recent letter to the editor of the Brunswickan, asked for the support of the faculty, staff and students in trying to do something about preventing drastic cutbacks which could harm the university. However, some people may not be clear on just what is expected of them.

In early September, over 2,000 letters were sent to department heads and various campus groups, clubs and organizations by the UDC. These letters were supposed to explain some of the plans and goals of the UDC to the general university population.

There are six categories of possible donors and UNB/STU students head the list. Dr. Meagher said he is hoping that all students are concerned enough to try to help themselves. While not exactly sure of what form it will take, the UDC is looking to the students to provide some portion of the funds raised in the planned campaigns. In fact, as an added incentive, Dr. Meagher told the Bruns "For every dollar that the students contribute to a campaign project, at least two, and hopefully more, additional dollars from campaign receipts will be assigned to student scholarship and bursary program." So, not only will students help the university when they support the campaign programs, but they'll also be helping fellow students.

Also, faculty, staff and alumni have been marked as possible donors. A regional campaign will be directed towards Atlantic Businesses and corporations, and the UNB Third Century Fund Campaign (UNB ends its second century 1984-85) will be launched nationally along with an international campaign.

It will likely be the spring of 1982 before the campaigns will get underway. The UDC has to study submitted proposals and develop packages which will attract donors. The campaign will run from the Spring of 1982 to 1987 and donors will have the option of splitting their contributions up over that five-year period. Other universities are trying a similar tactic, allowing the UDC to learn from THEIR mistakes and to pick up some good ideas too. The UDC wants very much to have students INVOLVED in this campaign, as it is truly theirs. Dr. Meagher urges groups to try to come up with ideas and get them to the UDC.

FNBFA presents brief

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE
and JOANNE FOURNIER
Brunswickan Staff

On October 8, the Federation of New Brunswick Faculty Associations (FNBFA) held a press conference to outline details of the brief they were to present to Premier Hatfield and Opposition Leader Joe Daigle later in the afternoon.

The organization is comprised of university professors and librarians from the campuses of UNB, U de M, Saint Thomas and Mount A. The president is Dr. Claudia Whalen of STU.

They had six basic proposals; the most important of which was to divest the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) if its role in financial planning for post-secondary education in New Brunswick.

The MPHEC was established seven years ago and it was only two years after that when the FNBFA first voiced concern in their annual brief to the premier. At that time, Hatfield said the commission was only young, and he told the federation to give it a chance.

The FNBFA, however, is still not satisfied. They said the MPHEC has not succeeded in making higher education a priority. Dr. Whalen said the premier who is now responsible for the commission, is too busy and is "not doing his homework." The federation recommended the MPHEC become involved in the political process, and thus accountable to the public, by presenting an annual report in the legislature; and it also recommended that the financial planning be done by a new government department.

With regard to the possible federal funding cutbacks; the federation wanted the premier to consult with their organization during the renewal of the Established Programs Financing. The FNBFA opposes cutbacks and they said they would expect the provincial government to provide money, if the federal government cuts funding.

Another major recommendation released at the news conference was a desire for the provincial government to increase research assistance. It was pointed out that "This is where the provincial government has really fallen short," with one-fourth the relative funding of other provinces.

When asked whether the recommendations had the backing of university administrations, the reply was "it is not our business to discuss policies with administrators or student federations." But Alan Sharp of UNB indicated that president Downey was present and supportive when the FNBFA made a presentation to the Breau Commission on higher education funding.

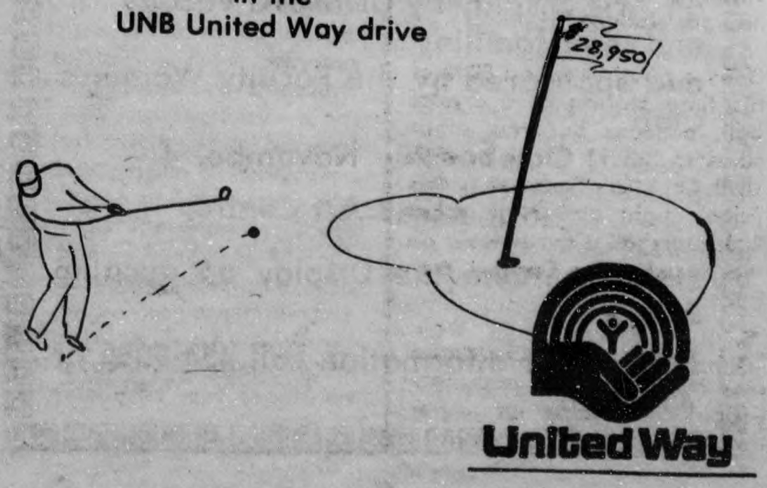
FNBFA Executive, left to right: Jim Clair, treasurer, UNB' Gerard Lavoie, Councillor, Edmundston; Claudia Whalen, President, U. de M.; Alan Sharp, N.B. representative to the Canadian Association of University Teachers, UNB.

Artists respond

BY DAVID MAZEROLLE
Brunswickan Staff

Bruno Bobak, director of the UNB Art Centre, was asked recently for his position on the controversy surrounding proposed budget cuts to the Arts at UNB. He said he felt it was not a controversy, as the situation had been cleared up by President Downey's letter to the Bruns last week. He stated that, as said in Dr. Downey's letter, the Art Centre never was in jeopardy. When asked if the jobs of the resident musicians were in trouble, he replied, "You'll just have to ask them."

The musicians themselves said they had no comment at all, or that they were hearing the same rumors as everyone else. However, Paul Campbell, violinist with the Brunswick String Quartet, said he in no way felt slighted by the university. The idea that, as Filip Vanicek stated in a recent letter to the Bruns, the musicians are the victims of a "conspiracy", was refuted by Mr. Campbell.

"There is no question of anyone being victims," he said. "There are budget cuts going on everywhere, but it is unfortunate that the Arts are the first to feel it". Mr. Campbell has faced the possibility of being budgeted out of a job, but insisted there are no bad feelings anywhere.

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