

SRC executive report

The Following report was presented to council by President Gerard Finnan at his regular meeting Monday, January 18.

The purpose of this report is to inform the council and the general student body of the goals and expectations of the present executive. While all of us have settled into our respective offices with little or no problems, there are many aspects of our jobs which have been heightened by the problems surrounding this Union.

Most of all, the image of this Union and that of our council has been greatly tarnished because of pointless and sad inner bickering! Also, the manner in which council has ignored the many problems that face our student body has led many to believe that our Union functions for the benefit of a select group of students.

While resident students are troubled by the many problems and costs of residence life, off campus students are troubled by the problems with leases, apartments and the general high cost of living. Under age students feel cheated and left out because of the lack of activities and events which they can participate. Most students worry about the possible cutbacks and sky rocketing tuition increases that cloud their futures.

For this executive, the problems of the general student body will take priority and it is our hope that this Union and this council can work together in solving these problems. This executive plans to give this Union a sense of direction and purpose in the coming months.

At the same time, day to day problems are faced by every student. These students need this council and this executive to speak and act on their behalf through dealings with government and university. For these students our office will be open and we are happy to offer our services in anyway we can.

It is also the goal of this executive to work co-operatively and diligently with the SRC in solving problem in such areas as academic work etc. At the same time we would like to send the inefficient manner which council has been working. Personal ambitions and obsessions are not the aim and goal of the SRC but it is the ambitions and concerns of the general student body for our existence. Let's stop this bickering and get on with the job.

One of the major goals of this executive is to update and improve the services of our Student Union. With our duly enacted company, Campus Services Ltd., we hope to broaden and improve in this area. While our executive ponders many options, we are committed to improving UNB's entertainment selection. By this, we hope to bring many big name bands to this campus. Within week's, we plan a major survey of the student body to see what types of bands, etc., this campus would like and what price they are willing to pay. With CSL, we hope to bring to our Union a service much desired and needed.

Another goal of the executive is to change the rep-at-large seats and give them a clearer defined area of representation. By this we intend to seek councils approval of making one of the seats responsible for resident students only and the other two seats to represent all off campus students. We feel the rep-at-large seats are important in assuring that not just the wishes of a particular faculty are met, but that the wishes of the general student body are considered when council makes a decision.

This executive wishes also to see that council becomes more responsible for representing its constituents. In the past, the SRC has appeared to lack in this perspective and it is our goal to give council a chance to better represent its constituents.

To better involve itself with the problems many students face, we are recommending that council enact and set up a SRC study committee to review and make recommendations on various issues and areas of concern. One of the areas will be the renovation of the Student Union Building.

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Yaffe pro-nukes

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE
Brunswickan Staff

Newspapers are the major cause of the swing in public opinion against nuclear power, said Dr. Leo Yaffe in a lecture Monday at UNB. Yaffe, who is president of the Chemical Institute of Canada, explained numerous facts, statistics and studies that point to one conclusion—nuclear power is one of the safest methods of generating power.

Yaffe, who has been doing nuclear research for 40 years, said the "China Syndrome" is impossible. He said that in the case of a reactor breakdown, the molten cores would only sink a few feet in the ground. "That is a long way from China," he said.

He said the only danger from a nuclear reactor might be the leakage of limited amounts of radioactive gas into the at-

mosphere. This actually happened at Three-Mile Island, and curiously enough a leak was going on in New York State the day of his lecture. He said at the very maximum, two people might have the statistical probability of cancer from the Three-Mile Island leak. The probability of dying in a car accident is thousands of times higher he said.

Yaffe also said that there is much radiation in our environment. He said one place in Asia has bedrock of almost pure thorium, which gives off very high radioactivity; nevertheless, people still live there.

Yaffe said much more radiation would be contracted from the coal at a conventional power plant if one lived next to it than one would contract from a nuclear plant, as the fuels are safely contained.

He said that nuclear wastes pose no real problem as they

can be safely encased in ceramics, and buried with no possibility of leakage.

Yaffe said all power plants are engineered taking into account the possibility of earthquakes. He felt that no threat was posed to the Point Lepreau plant.

Professor Yaffe, who is a member of the faculty at McGill, said the public wants to read horror stories. He said this is unfortunate, because now, public opinion is firmly biased against a source of power which could keep our energy needs satisfied when we run out of oil, and before we develop fusion power.

He explained in the lecture entitled, "The Health Hazards of Not Going Nuclear," that if we run out of energy it will be far more serious than any danger from nuclear power conceivable. He also explained that "reactors are not bombs."

Armstrong predicts demands for engineers

Canada's oil and gas industry will need one thousand engineering graduates per year for the next several years. That prediction came from John Armstrong, former chairman and chief executive officer of Imperial Oil Canada Limited. Speaking to engineering students earlier this week, Armstrong predicted a "strong demand for engineers" in the next several years. He advised engineering students to be "prepared to be mobile if you want to succeed in our industry."

Armstrong said Eastern Canada's offshore oil exploration will deliver "a strong shot in the arm for the region." Supplies and the infrastructure required to develop the energy potential of our region will create many new jobs.

Armstrong cited this region as only one of several developments that must be further explored if Canada is to reach its goal of energy self sufficiency by the 1990s. Further developments in Western Canada and the Beaufort Sea are needed to achieve this goal, Armstrong said.

The former chief executive of Imperial Oil also predicted energy self sufficiency by the mid 1990s. But he said agreements between the oil industry and various levels of government must be reached before Canada can be on the road towards self sufficiency.

Armstrong said the taxing provisions contained in the federal governments National

Energy Policy are holding up energy development. "We are also no way near agreement with the federal government so that several megaprojects in western Canada can proceed."

Domestic oil production is expected to drop by the year 2000, Armstrong said. Today Canada produces 1.4 million barrels of oil per day but by the year 2000 production is expected to drop to five thousand barrels per day. "It is absolutely essential that domestic oil production be increased by further exploration and development or our dependence on foreign oil will become even greater," Armstrong said.

Other alternative sources of energy are available besides crude oil. Hydro power, which supplies 25% of this country's energy needs, is not expected to grow Armstrong said. This source of energy does not have much growth potential and by the year 2000 hydro power will still only be producing about the same percentage of our energy needs as it is today.

Natural gas also has limitations, but Armstrong said the expansion of the natural gas pipeline to the Maritimes will make energy prices in this region more competitive.

Armstrong predicted ex-

panded production for the coal industry, but environmental factors will constrain its growth potential.

The exploration and development of oil and gas in Canada will depend to a great extent on what Armstrong termed "Canada's political will." The will of the federal government and industry to cooperate will be a determining factor. Exploration from an oil company's point of view requires that each project be what Armstrong termed "politically acceptable" and that it "further government objectives." The project must also be economically acceptable and enhance the well-being of people in the region where the project is to take place, particularly in the Arctic.

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