

NEWS

News Editor - Julie Hirschfeld
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AIESEC: A Unique Experience

AIESEC, the International Association for Students of Economics and Commerce, officially announces that its International Congress will be held in Quebec City from February 22 - March 4, 1989. The Congress, which takes place at the Quebec Municipal Convention Centre, will be attended by more than 500 students from 67 countries. Together, these nations will meet under one roof to perform an international exchange of traineeships.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The Congress, which represents a significant honour for Canada as the host country, will permit the exchange of

approximately 6000 students or recent graduates. For Francois Pintal, President of AIESEC Canada, the International Congress and its exchange program represent "the ideal occasion for the students of the world to acquire practical experience in business and to play an active role in the world economy."

Under the banner of "Target 300", AIESEC Canada has aimed its ambitious campaign at the Canadian business community with the intent of creating 300 traineeships. For each traineeship offered by a Canadian company to a foreign student, the program allows a Canadian student the opportunity to work within a foreign business.

"AIESEC Canada provides, in

Target 300, an innovative way to develop the future leaders of Canadian companies. In addition, this program supplies business with an international experience and dimension", emphasizes Claude Beland, President of Le Mouvement Desjardins and a member of the Board of Advisors of AIESEC Canada.

AIESEC Canada received the support of such prominent corporations as IBM, Le Mouvement Desjardins, Alcan Aluminium Ltd., the Royal Bank of Canada, Northern Telecom and Canadian Airlines International, to assist in welcoming its guests.

LOCAL PARTICIPATION

The AIESEC organization at

UNB is pleased to announce that 5 students will be participating at the International Congress in Quebec. UNB's delegation to IC is the second largest in Canada, excluding the Quebec

universities. This gives many students the opportunity to work and live in different societies throughout the world. They are able to share the international feeling of the business world.

Engineering spirit

Steve Bonham
E.U.S. President

Frequently, we engineering students at the base of the hill like to communicate with the rest of the UNB population, to alert them to the fact that engineering spirit is alive and kicking, and ready to let loose without the slightest hesitation. One such example has arisen, to be remarked on later.

The first point of interest

concerns the C.C.E.S. (Congress of Canadian Engineering Students). Recently, the Engineering Undergraduate Society sent seven intrepid travellers (four delegates and three observers) down to Halifax, where the Congress was held. The event spanned six days, and was comprised of a mixture of technical seminars, tours, and workshops. It drew delegates from the engineering faculties of 33 out of 39 universities across Canada, and provided a perfect opportunity for informal exchanges between the different societies. It was a rewarding experience, not only technically but socially as well. More than one night during the course of the week the lifting strains of the Engineering song could be heard echoing through the city streets, emanating from numerous local watering-holes.

The next item concerns the example of spirit mentioned previously. The plan was confirmed at the congress, and is being formulated at this moment. The event is "National Engineering Student Week". This is a major event, and universities across Canada are preparing for it. The object of the week is this: engineering students everywhere are going to support a local charity of their choice through performance of a service or function. The E.U.S. of U.N.B. has decided to hold a food drive to support the Fredericton community Kitchen. A bin will be set up in the Head Hall lobby to receive all the non-perishable goods that the students (and professors) can muster. Local media will be notified about this event, as well. This is a great chance for students to show that they care about the underprivileged. It doesn't hurt to show off out spirit, either!

Computer virus at UNB

By NADINE MURRAY

Two of the most prominent issues of the 1980's are virally transmitted diseases and computers. Now the two are combined - computer viruses. Computer viruses are not new, they are just becoming more notorious.

Computer viruses are very similar to biological viruses. David MacNeil, of computing services on campus, describes a computer virus as "a program which attaches itself to other programs and then propagates around the system. Usually the virus attaches itself to the computer's operating system and copies itself onto other disks."

According to the January 1989 issue of Discover, a virus infection has three phases. First, it gathers information about the computer it is in and the software programs that it runs. Then whenever an infected program is run, the virus replicates itself. Sometimes viruses have a delay so that it replicates many times undetected before it starts doing its damage. When the delay is over, a computer virus is capable of erasing disks, destroying programs, rearranging data, or whatever it has been programmed to do. Some viruses are not destructive, but just a nuisance. It may flash a phrase such as, "Hi,

I'm here!" on a computer screen and that's all.

UNB suffered the effects of a virus. Although it did not attack the main system, it attacked IBM PC's being used on campus. It was destroying people's disks and getting into the hard drives.

The virus, called merit, originated in the States and has been around for at least three years. A program was developed and made available to people whose disks were infected by merit.

There are also programs called worms which are different from viruses. Worms do not hide, but attack connected computers through communication lines. One strategy for worms is to try

a pattern of passwords, and, when successful, infect the computer. This is what happened last November in the States.

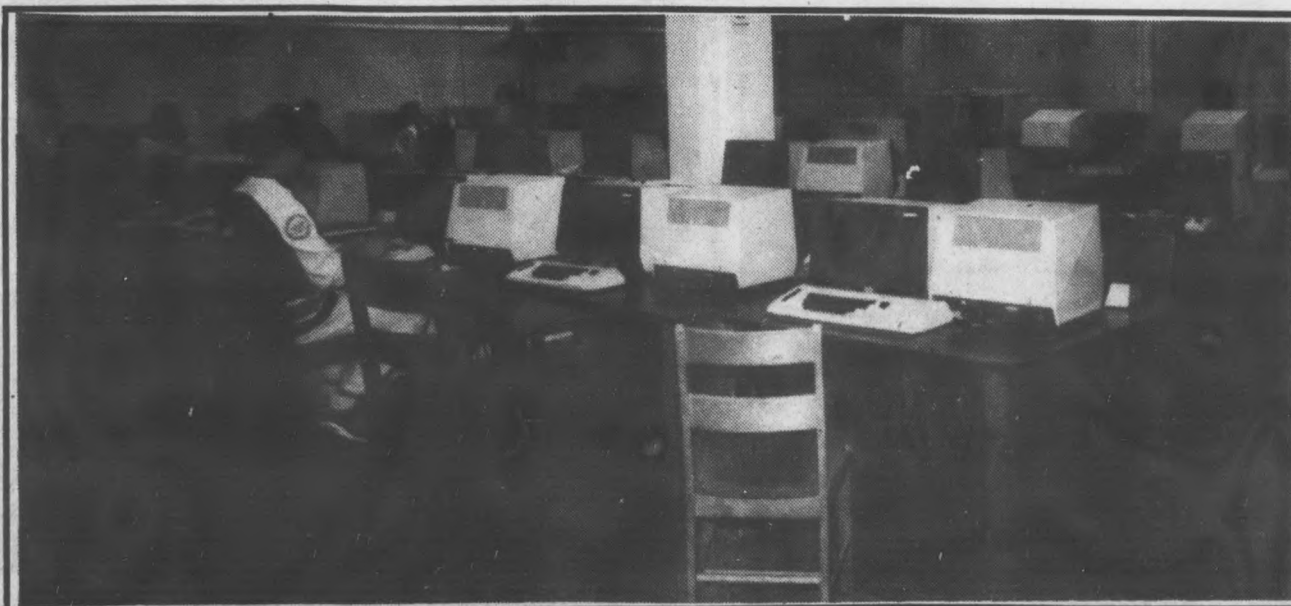
Computer viruses are generally being written as an undergraduate trick or by hackers. They are spread by sharing disks, or information gained from downloading information from electronic bulletin boards. David MacNeil calls computer viruses "a malicious act . . . you don't have to be very smart to write a computer virus; it's an act of vandalism and it's the same as poisoning a well or pouring sugar into somebody's gasoline tank: it just isn't very smart."

There is such a thing as an inoculation for viruses, but an

inoculation is only able to prevent viruses that have already been created. Someone writing viruses can get around it.

Like safe sex practices, there are safe computing practices: make back-up copies of system disks and files, do not use a disk unless you know where it comes from, do not borrow, buy, or copy programs made from electronic bulletin boards, and keep write-protect tabs on disks containing valuable programs or data.

Computers, like anything else, are not without hazards. You just have to have, as David MacNeil put it is, "good hygienic practices."



Computer viruses, a terminal condition!

Photo by Jayde Mockler