

NEWS

Deadline: Wednesday at 12:00 noon. News Desk: 453-4983

Student's work force readiness studied

by Erin Campbell

New Brunswick's Universities are presently evaluating their role in preparing their students for tomorrow's labour force.

The New Brunswick University Partners in Labour Development study, directed by Jeff MacLeod, will assess the School's success in offering training courses and career consultation to students. The project will also determine how well they are helping in the transition from student to worker.

The study is funded by the department of Employment and Immigration as part of a new federal job strategy. Although

UNB is hosting MacLeod, the project has the support of the other universities located in New Brunswick. MacLeod believes the project holds a "Significant opportunity" and could not have come at a better time. He states that with the changes in the labour force and the increasing emphasis on higher skills, it must be determined how well students are being trained and prepared.

MacLeod has already met with representatives of business and of government during his stay at UNB and admits there are concerns that universities are not properly preparing students for their futures. While it is generally accepted that universities are

doing a good job of educating potential employees and are an excellent source of workers, there is the belief that there is room for improvement. MacLeod says that employers are of the opinion that "not all students appear ready" upon graduation. He states that employers are concerned that many lack such qualifications as computer, teamwork, writing and oral skills.

MacLeod is currently looking for input from the universities

themselves. Although he has spoken to various professors, administrators and deans, MacLeod has had very little contact with students. He is hoping to create awareness of his study in the student population whom he sees as an important source of information. As students attend universities "with hope that the education will get them a job" MacLeod says it is essential to hear their opinions on the preparation they receive.

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- MacLeod

Students interested in participating in the study can contact MacLeod by telephone at 453-4646 or 453-3572 or by writing to the Department of Extension and Summer Session.

UNB Debating Union competes

by Rajeev Venugopal

On a blustery New Year's Eve, after countless hours of fund-raising, organizing, and preparation, three members of the UNB debating team, Jennifer Legere, Marc Lefebvre and Rajeev Venugopal, boarded a KLM flight to London, England, which would take them to the 13th annual World Debating Championship in Oxford, England, January 3-10. Hosted by the acclaimed Oxford Union Society, in the timeless and historic University of Oxford, the competition was academic, fast-paced, and highly competitive.

Drawing teams from universities and colleges from around the world, including teams from Tasmania, Singapore, and India, the tournament attracted a greater number of English Second Language (ESL) teams than in previous years. In addition, teams from the universities of Yale, London, Dublin and Australia were in attendance. The final round eventually yielded the Harvard "B" team as the winner, in which they were in opposition to the resolution, "This House is no God."

Debate was in the British parliamentary style, in which there are two proposition teams and two opposition teams. These teams argued the merits and downfalls of resolutions as difficult, (and sometimes nebulous) as the use of military force in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the justification of censorship, the nature of constitutional monarchies, and the future of feminism.

While the arguments were tightly constructed and extremely aggressive, the U.N.B. team of Lefebvre and Venugopal proved to be a strong factor in their 9 preliminary rounds. Though narrowly missing a berth into final rounds, the pair put forth a strong international showing for U.N.B., and strengthened U.N.B.'s reputation on a Canadian, and North American basis.

Acting as an adjudicator, Legere was charged with the responsibility of assessing the performance of teams. Also taking part in the public speaking competition, Legere had the opportunity to exercise her oratory prowess in a public forum. The public speaking event was eventually won by a speaker from the University of New Delhi, who captivated the audience with his eloquent and impassioned speech in the final round.

U.N.B.'s strong presence at the Worlds earned it a number of invitations to tournaments all around the world. However, without the help of our numerous sponsors, this trip would have been impossible. Special thanks must be given to the Office of U.N.B. President Robin Armstrong, and the Honorable Vaughn Blaney of the New Brunswick Department of Advanced Education and Labour. It was through their generosity that U.N.B. was represented in this international gathering of debate and oration.

The U.N.B. Debating Union is now undergoing a great number of changes. In the very near

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Pictured is Fred Magee House, one of UNB's off-campus residences. Kevin G. Porter photo

Cutbacks made to UNB's Off-Campus Housing

by Jonathan Stone

Wanted: Reliable person to perform secretarial duties and to oversee the operations of Off-Campus Housing Director.

The previous employee, Helga Stewart, has taken early retirement, and a replacement is needed.

The catch is that the new job will be part-time as opposed to full-time.

The previous position, which was .8 full-time (four days a week), has been whittled into a .5 part-time (five half-days a week).

According to Roy Brostowski, Director of Housing and Food Services, this cutback will not affect students searching accommodations.

"The services that were provided before will be provided now," he said, "Instead of four days a week, it will now be five days, but only a half a day each of those five days."

Brostowski explained, "It's a budget adjustment. I thought that it (the previous position) could be replaced with a somewhat downgraded position."

The new part-time position remains to be approved by the administration prior to any hiring and any salary set.

Brostowski acknowledged that the salary and benefits will not be the same as before.

Stewart's salary was also un-

available to the media.

The Off-Campus Housing Director gathers information from property-owners, compiles lists of these properties for students, and answers the telephone.

They are also responsible for MacGee House, an off-campus residence on Montgomery Street.

Off-campus housing lists are still available for rooms and apartments.

LDH Dance-a-thon

Proceeds to benefit UNB Libraries

by Nicole Gamble

Last January, the women of Lady Dunn Hall raised over three thousand dollars for playground equipment for the "Women of Transition House".

Continuing their generous efforts, this year, they are holding another Dance-a-thon due to the success and fun of the one last year. The ladies have decided to direct the funds to another organization greatly in need of financial support - the UNB library system.

Budget cuts and increasing costs have made the libraries struggle in their efforts to obtain and keep quality resources on hand which are up to date and adequate in number. Hopefully the women of Lady Dunn Hall will make future information seeking efforts more successful for everyone - students and faculty.

The ladies will be dancing for

twenty-four hours straight in teams of six starting at seven o'clock on Friday, January 22. They extend an invitation (or bribe) to their fellow UNB campus houses to participate either by dancing in their own teams or by donating money. For their efforts, the house with the largest donation will win a VCR (obviously Lady Dunn is excluded).

Once again "The Hype" will be playing from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and there will be a voluntary admission fee of three dollars. The ladies invite everyone to participate either by dancing and collecting sponsors, or by sponsoring a dancer. Prizes will be given out over the twenty-four hours as well. Finally...the date again is January 22 ending at seven o'clock January 23; the place is Lady Dunn Hall Cafeteria.

Be there or be...a sponsor.

Correction:

In the January 8th issue of *The Brunswickan* "Appeal Court Overturns Burnley Decision" our news article said UNB Vice-President James O'Sullivan gave reasons for dismissing former Assistant Comptroller Donald Burnley "which included insubordination, job performance and conduct considered inconsistent with University policy, procedures and organizational effectiveness." In fact O'Sullivan dismissed Burnley for conduct "inconsistent with The University's organizational effectiveness." He was originally suspended for insubordination, job performance and conduct considered inconsistent with University policy, procedures and organizational effectiveness.