

INSIDE
 This Week

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Bruns Bits

- How to Know that you're a frosh**
1. You think being sober will ensure academic freedom.
 2. Funny, those plants don't look like your mother's ferns.
 3. You've never found condom wrappers in your room before. Mom?
 4. That mysterious chunk in the fridge, may or may not be yours. Dad?
 5. The ability to think becomes enclouded by the fact that you eat bacon
 6. The slippery floors in your bathroom are no longer caused by water

UNB President calls it quits

by Mark Savoie
 Brunswickan News

UNB President Robin Armstrong has announced his intention to retire as of June 30, 1996. *The Brunswickan* recently had the opportunity to discuss with President Armstrong the reasons for this decision and also some of his observations of his years at UNB thus far.

"When you come to a fork in the road, take it," commented Armstrong, quoting from Yogi Berra. "The fork in the road is the fact that I had a contract when I came here for six years." This contract gives Armstrong a total of thirty-five years in academia, a figure which he claims is the normal retirement years of service.

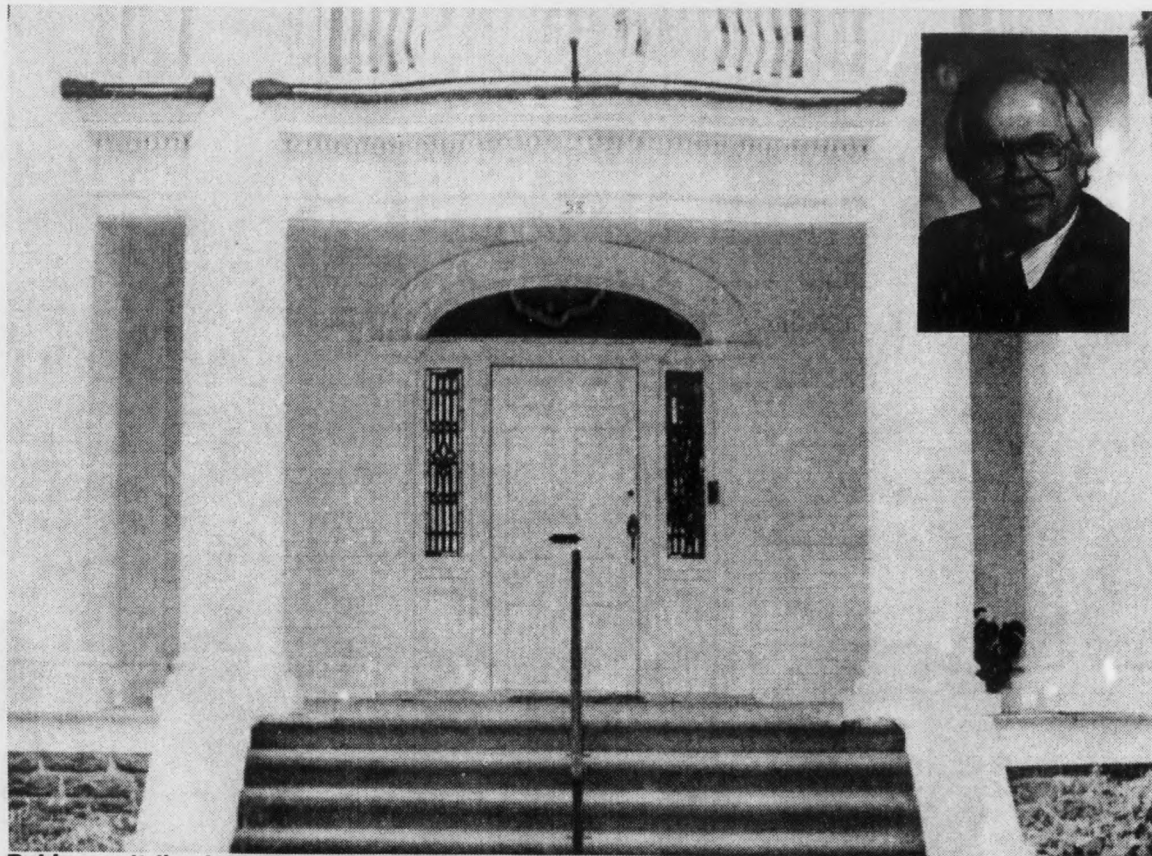
Another factor in Armstrong's decision to retire is the huge time commitment required of a university president. He observed that this is especially an issue in a community such as Fredericton. "In Toronto or Montreal, when you leave the university you more or less become anonymous. You don't in Sackville or Fredericton.

"I work sixty to eighty hour weeks and there's a seven day aspect to it. The thought of being a little more in control of how one uses one's time, rather than everybody else having control of it, is again the type of thing that one thinks about."

Although Armstrong describes his departure from UNB's presidency as a retirement, he does not intend to depart from academia entirely. He intends to continue his involvement in research, whether it be as an active researcher or administratively in the form of being involved in research policy. Among the organisations he mentioned as possible opportunities are the National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, and the Royal Society of Canada.

However, Armstrong admits that he has yet to make any firm plans for after his retirement, pointing out that it is still eleven months away. "I have a very full agenda for the next while and that will fully occupy me, although increasingly I'll start to think about the fact that I can do some other things as of July 1, '96"

Although he was careful to point out that he had a lot of assistance from faculty and other members of UNB's administration, Armstrong was willing to mention a number of projects which he has considered to be successes during his time here at UNB. The first of these that he mentioned was the replacement of the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research with a Vice President—Research and International Co-operation. He feels that research and graduate studies were too disparate for one position, and that



Robin won't live here anymore. UNB President Armstrong will not reoffer for another term.

photo by Claire MacPherson

internationalisation is an important part of enhancing UNB's reputation as a research institution.

Armstrong does not see this as neglecting the student, partly because of the establishment of the Teaching Centre. "Teaching is important," said Armstrong, "and it's especially important that the provincial university in the province of New Brunswick be seen to have an interest in, have a focus on, education." The Teaching Centre offers a Diploma in Teaching for graduate students which will enhance their employability when seeking academic positions.

Among the other successes which Armstrong cited is the planning process which went behind the establishment of the Venture Campaign. This process resulted in the amalgamation of the Development and Public Relations offices, and also in the hiring of a Major Gifts Officer. He is also very pleased with his relationship with UNB's alumni, stating that the alumni are a very

important part of the Venture Campaign.

When asked if he had had any disappointments during his term as president at UNB, Armstrong pointed to just two instances, both of which involved individual members of the faculty. Although he was not willing to mention names explicitly, he made it clear by his identification of the individuals as a Math professor and an Economics professor that he was talking of Martin Yaqzan and Charles Waddell respectively. "In the one instance I learned how rapidly things can get totally out of your control, and indeed what we were doing got immediately distorted and altered as it spread from Fredericton abroad." It did, according to Armstrong, eventually have a positive outcome, specifically the When Rights Collide conference held last fall, as he quoted *The Toronto Star* as reporting that the ultimate winner of the conference was the University of New Brunswick. Nevertheless, Armstrong

was of the opinion that this was a hollow victory with which he could have done without. "I'll call it a very disruptive, tense period, and certainly one that I would have no regret not having the opportunity to relieve."

Armstrong is philosophical about the role of a university president. "Maybe the most important role of a president, in a sense, is providing support for good things and letting them happen, because a university is very much a bottom up place. I guess I like to think that I set a bit of a tone, in the sense that I was, I always have been, I continue to be, a successful researcher, and I have managed to combine [my] administrative career with the research career. I've always felt that, at least for a segment of the institution, that it's been a plus to have a president who is also a scholar. I've partly done that because of the satisfaction it's given me, and partly because it provides a kind of tone for the whole institution."

The Brunswickan jumps online

by Mary Rogal-Black
 Brunswickan News

For those who just can't get enough of UNB's weekly student newspaper, there is now a virtual version of *The Brunswickan*.

Internet surfers can access *The Brunswickan* online on UNB's World Wide Web site, which also contains information about faculties and other campus organizations, including CHSR-

FM and a cyber space tour of the university campus.

The decision to go online was made late last year, and became a reality over the summer. New articles from every section of the newspaper will be added weekly, and the online audience can also access back issues stored on the site.

"It increases our accessibility to people that are off-campus," says Mark Savoie, *Brunswickan* Sports Editor and

Internet enthusiast.

The potential audience for the student-run paper expands to an estimated 40 million people worldwide who have access to the WWW.

Students will find *The Brunswickan* online by entering <http://www.unb.ca/web/bruns/> at the location prompt in their Internet browser.

Netscape, the most popular browser for 'net surfers, is available in computer labs in Head Hall and around campus

Frosh show up in huge numbers

by Carman Acnoth
 Brunswickan News

UNB is welcoming one of its largest crops of freshmen in its entire history. It is anticipated that the number of freshmen at UNB for 1995-96 might well be the largest class that UNB has yet welcomed to the halls of higher learning.

Now the student body is forced to welcome well over one thousand freshmen each year.

Fortunately, UNB is well prepared to handle such an influx of students. Both the Administration and the Student Union have taken steps to ensure that Orientation will be a learning experience for first year students, but that their entire university careers will

be both fun and educational.

The Administration has taken great strides by introducing the Living to Learn philosophy to all but a very few residences. In addition to the social life of the residence system, each student in residence will be able to take advantage of their Academic Resource Person: their ARP. The ARP's job is to prepare students for the realities of both

residence and the classroom.

The Student Union, on its part, has produced an extraordinary contract with the student body which states the objectives for the upcoming year. Comparisons with the 'Contract Wit America' abound, but this remains one of the most exciting initiatives to be seen from the Student Union in many years.