

# Living in a "plural society"



Making the visit a reality. (l-r) Indo-Canadian Representative-Himu Mukerjee, High Commissioner - Sashi U. Tripathi, Dr. Daniel Coleman - Dean of Administration.

India/Canada continued from Page 1

Dean of Administration, Dr. Daniel Coleman, believes Tripathi's visit fits well within the international aspect of the faculty.

"We have a very vibrant Indian community here," said Coleman.

Tripathi has a long list of achievements including a degree from Cambridge as well as a Masters in English literature. After Mukherjee, had finished his introduction, the commissioner joked there was not much else to say because her "whole life had been made bare."

Tripathi likened the Indian-Canadian relationship to a marriage in her speech,

describing the ups and downs of their countries' relations.

"Wise people say, in marriage it is only the first 50 years that are difficult," said Tripathi.

Multiculturalism was discussed in detail upon comparing the two countries. The commissioner said it is one of the main ties between them.

"[India and Canada] are both sincerely multicultural," said the Commissioner.

"India has always been an open society," said Tripathi. "One of the oldest Synagogues is in India."

Furthermore, there is an increased

need, feels Tripathi, for keeping that "multicultural social fabric intact."

Between India and Canada, Tripathi mentioned other ties being the commonwealth as well as democracy.

The High Commissioner also described her traveling as allowing her to appreciate India for its traditional nature.

"Where else can you see women wearing the same dress which was carved on the temple walls 2000 years ago," said Tripathi. "[India is] an old civilization, but a new country."

In 1996, Jean Chrétien visited India with 300 entrepreneurs and seven premiers, one of which was New Brunswick's. On this visit he expressed his want for friendship between the two countries.

In speaking to Tripathi, Chrétien said how "Many can think of India as an old friend to Canada," which she cited in her speech.

As the event progressed there were discussions on the value of the Canadian dollar to the Rupee as well as an offer from an audience member to export some snow to India.

Moreover, the Commissioner fielded a question on the preservation of Mahatma Gandhi's minimalist ideals.

"India is a big country," said Tripathi. "In the villages, small is still beautiful. You can find people who have one or two cows."

The most satisfying part of her job, according to Tripathi, is the ability to meet so many people and see so many cultures at "such close quarters."

"I get to play a small role in making friends for my country."

# Is the Student Union going postal?

Revamp of Canada Post system could lead to uphill movement

by T.J. Essensa

Wouldn't it be great if there were a post office in the Student Union Building?

There may be good news to those who said yes.

UNB Student Union and the Canada Post have been discussing introducing a low traffic franchise outlet to the Paper Trail along with the services already offered.

Canada Post is offering a five-year contract with a clause for a 180-day notice in the case that the SU decides to terminate the contract.

They have decided to phase out the old retail stores like the one in the basement of the old arts building, which is run by the UNB Physical Plant/Campus Mail.

When the Post went through this "image overhaul," they had a chance to franchise the new system, but the UNB physical plant declined, stating the current location is not suitable.

Once denied, they began searching for another, more accessible, location. The first location approached was the campus bookstore after which they proposed the idea to the Campus Shoppe in the SUB but neither one had enough space.

Now they have approached the Student Union to see if there is a

possibility of moving into the Paper Trail where "there is an abundance of extra usable space," according to Fane Dezan, VP Student Services of the Student Union.

The post office handles three primary tasks; outbound mail, student loan processing, and campus mail. Campus mail includes residence, faculty, and student union mail.

If this proposal goes through there will be no charge to the "campus mail," but outgoing mail would be processed at the Paper Trail. The store's staff will be trained properly for the service and the mail will be picked up twice a day by courier.

The Student Union tabled the proposal at their weekly meeting on Tuesday. It will remain tabled until they are shown more information including an exact scale layout map of the Paper Trail once it is in, a five year business plan, franchise operating costs, and a marketing policy.

The Student Union also wants to know if adding the franchise will mean there will be rental fees, if seasonal hours are an option for the summer months, and they want to send the contract to a lawyer to make sure everything follows to plan.

The informal date to bring the Canada Post into the SUB is April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Memorial and Acadia Universities also have these franchises at their schools. Acadia has recently signed a contract renewal and a full image upgrade.



Brendan Doyle/The Brunswickan

# Alumni tap into the e-age

by Andrew Hill

From briefcase sized cellular phones, circa 1973, to portable phones smaller

than your hand, these modern marvels have paved the way for a new communication.

Throw the World Wide Web into the mix and you get the advent of wireless technology.

One group is following this trend of mass availability of ideas through wireless technology. The Brunswickan Alumni Association, a volunteer-based network of past *Brunns* staff members, is currently working on giving students the option of browsing in a new way. Not only the publication's text on personal cellular phones but its graphics will be viewed as they are on the web

(SEE ALUMNI, PAGE 3)

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