

# The Great Gastronomical Blunder

Last October 8th and 9th were harrowing deep if you were unfortunate enough to be living in the mens residences which dine at McConnell Hall. Versa-foods had apparently served spoiled food for lunch. During Tuesday evening the majority of men in residence contracted (to quote the Daily Gleaner), "intestinal disorders." Many students suffered cramps accompanied by loose stool and burning sphincter muscles. As per usual the administration was unaware of the extent to which the malady had developed or decided to keep the public at large unaware of the situation. Vice-President of UNB, Dr. B.F. Macaulay when interviewed by the Daily Gleaner stated: "I have heard that people had stomach upset. It was traced down to rancid gravy - and this is the only rumour that I heard. It certainly isn't of the magnitude that it has been regarded."

Well Dr. Macaulay, a census of the number of students who contracted the illness was taken in one residence - MacKenzie House. Out of one hundred people in the house, 89 contracted, diarrhoea and cramps. Several also suffered fits of vomiting. This would suggest that over five hundred of the students who live in mens residence had become ill. This is more than a rumour - a vivid case of the administration unable to keep in touch with the situation or an attempt to whitewash the fact that it was food poisoning.

The Versafood explanation to the Dean of Men's Residence, Peter Kent, was that the gravy, (hot beef sandwich), or the noon meal on Tuesday, was maintained at serving temperature too long. As a result bacteria developed in the gravy. Several students became ill without having any gravy on their sandwiches which suggests that the meat itself was to blame.

An interview with a nurse of the residence infirmary revealed that the cause of the disorder was indeed a bacteria introduced to the gravy, meat or whatever, (nothing was really tested), by an infected sore of the hand, dirty hands, hair falling into the gravy or any number of possibilities. People who handle food are required to wear hair nets but do not always do so. All hair should be under the net, no loose strings hanging out to please the aesthetic senses as is often the case. Also people with sores about the hands are supposed to wear rubber gloves. (This is the managers responsibility and any student who sees this not being done should complain to the food committee of his house.) The nurse went on to say that it was the noon meal because the pains by Tuesday evening were in the lower abdomen. Few students came to the infirmary she said. Student nurses at UNB were of the consensus that the food poisoning could have been staphylococci. This bacteria culture is sufficiently viral.

The most pertinent questions then are: will food poisoning occur and how severe will it be? The last wide spread case of food poisoning at UNB happened on October 26th in 1966, when approximately 300 students contracted moderately severe tomatine poisoning. Many of the Students had to be given hypos to kill the pain. Again an isolated case occurred in 1968 during Christmas Exams. Students of Lady Beaverbrook residence, who have their own dining facilities, suffered from food poisoning. Three of them were sick enough to miss several of their examinations. Let's not kid ourselves, the food we eat not only effects us physically but is very important to maintaining morale and thereby our studies.

It would seem that it will be only a matter of time before the inevitable happens again unless hygiene as well as kitchen inspection of all campus kitchens by the N.B. Board of Health becomes enforced by all

halls as sub-standard. Also you carry the responsibility of public conscience, (if there is one), and the public conscience can do without a student death due to food poisoning.

The Dean of Residence has

accepted the gravy explanation with the Versafood promise that it will not happen again. Students should press the food committee to request monthly kitchen health inspections.



Photo by Jomini

Two employees of Versa Food, McConnell Hall branch are seen here preparing yet another meal for the residence community

the campus food committees. The Brunswickan has been given good reason to believe that a monthly kitchen inspection by the N.B. Board of Health is not maintained in any of the kitchens on UNB campus. In fact, an inspection request has to be made to the N.B. Board of Health before an inspection is instigated. An inspection of McConnell Hall facilities has been requested by the administration, but it is still at a desk in the Board of Health office. Perhaps Versafoods needed time, (it's been over a week), to get itself up to par.

The inspector in charge of UNB is Mr. Estabrooks. It is suggested to your department sir, that you do not wait for a request to inspect the dining facilities here because the past history of food poisoning at UNB would rate the dining

## Tutoring Service Available

By J. A. Ritchie

The UNB tutoring centre is now operating.

SRC president Stephen MacFarlane explained the service consists of a co-ordinating effort on the part of the SRC office. Students requiring tutors merely phone the office and are referred to tutors who have registered in the respective subjects.

If no tutor has registered for the subject a student wants, the latter may leave his name, but must wait until a tutor registers of his own initiative.

Seven tutors have registered to date. Except for Dr. Norman

Strax, these include post-graduate and honours students.

No additional staff will be required to operate the service and consequently it involves no financial cost to the student body. Fees are set at \$3.00 an hour, but, Mr. MacFarlane added, this matter is between the student and tutor. Mr. Mac-

Farlane stated that the campus newspaper and radio would be able to publicize the service at no cost to the students. He was optimistic that the operation might be taken over by Rap Room, another campus organization that offers referral services.

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