

Lack of response shuts down Rap Room

By LINDA STEWART

An important group on campus is closing down shop, not only for the summer break - but for all time.

Rap Room is officially closing its doors as of April 3rd at 7 a.m., when the last all-night shift is over.

Scott Powers, who has assumed the role of program co-ordinator, said in an interview the reason the decision was made was because "response has dropped; there doesn't seem to be as much of a need for a Rap Room this year."

"Rap Room started approximately six years ago as a drug crisis centre. It turns out, the shift is going away from drugs to alcohol", Powers said the reason for this is that alcohol is the lesser of two evils. "There are more hard drugs in the high schools than on this university campus", said Powers.

"Most student volunteers working for Rap Room only have to put in a three-hour shift per week but when response is almost nil during their shift they start wondering why they are there", he said. Rap Room opens at around 3:30 p.m. each day and usually stays open until 12:30 a.m. unless there is a pub going on, or it's a weekend, when they have staff on all night.

Most of the response is from foreign students who are homesick. "They come in", said Powers; and "we usually end up talking about the difference in countries. The students who have been working at Rap Room for a couple of years and a few of the new students are going to miss it

because we've put a lot of time into it. Some of the volunteers have gone on their way, quit or the pressure of their course loads have made them drop out," he added.

"There are a couple of facts about Rap Room that the students and faculty of UNB can be proud of," said Powers. "One is that Rap Room is the last remaining University Crisis Centre in Canada and the second is that Chimo came about because of us."

When Rap Room first opened it was advertised on campus as well as in the city of Fredericton and soon the volunteers were receiving phone calls from non-university people who needed some advice or someone with which to talk to.

"Literally there are people on this campus, students who have graduated or quit, who owe their lives to us." Power was speaking about suicide attempts. "There are quite a few calls from people so depressed that they are contemplating suicide, but you always get your crank calls."

At the end of every scholastic year a report is submitted to the SRC, who debate the validity of Rap Room continuing.

"Because response is low, we've decided to go out on good terms with the SRC; this way we will have little trouble trying to get funds from them if we decide the need is great enough to start up again," said Powers.

Rap Room is not a counselling service. They listen but they don't dish out opinions or necessarily tell a person what they want to hear - they are there to talk to.

"Our main problem is that most students don't know we are here, until they see our door painted with The Man, and even then, they don't come in and find out what we're about; they just ask around campus and usually get the wrong answer," said Powers.

"What I would like to see is perhaps fifteen minutes during the evening when the frosh get the frosh packs in the SUB Ballroom to tell the students what we are all about."

"Some of the volunteers may be

going down to work at Chimo, but I believe there should be some place for students to go to talk. I would like to thank CHSR for their 'on the spot' help and for their broadcast advertisements and The Brunswickan for its help."

Brunswickan awards announced

By PAT KIRK

The Brunswickan held its annual awards presentation on Saturday March 20.

Approximately sixty staff members and invited guests watched on as the following awards were presented:

Keener of the Year, sponsored and presented by James O'Sullivan vice president of UNB, Finance and Administration, to Ed Werthmann, first year education student.

Feature of the Year - sponsored by Dalton Camp former Progressive Conservative Party President, presented by UNB President Dr. John Anderson, to Bev Hills 2nd year Arts Student for his feature on Student Aid.

News story of the year - sponsored by Dave Jonah Executive Director of Canadian Community Newspaper Association and presented by Dean of Students Barry Thompson to Dave Simms third year arts student for his Higgins-Northrup story.

News writer of the year - sponsored by Edison Stewart

correspondent for Canadian Press and presented by Sarah Ingersoll to Burt Folkins, first year business student, at Victoria Public Hospital where is recuperating from a burn accident.

Rookie of the year - sponsored by Tom Benjamin, former editor of The Brunswickan, presented by Buns to Burt Folkins.

Most improved writer - sponsored and presented by Ron McBride, director of Public Relations and development for UNB, to Peter Krautle second year computer science student.

Sports writer of the year - sponsored and presented by Peter Collum, sports editor of the Daily Gleaner to Tom Best, third year science student.

Photo of the year - sponsored and presented by Ian Ferguson, head of public relations for the Saint John Post Office, to Steve Patrique second year science student for his photo of the demonstration at the Centennial Building.

Sports photo of the year - sponsored and presented by Susan Manzer-Morell, former editor of

The Brunswickan, to Phil Wong first year business student for his gymnastic photo.

Best use of graphic arts - sponsored by Thomas R. Fisher Ltd. and presented by Rick Fisher to Sheryl Wright, fourth year arts student for her work on the poetry pages.

The Brunswickan would like to announce that the outline under the picture of Peter Davidson on page one of the March 19 Brunswickan is wrong. At the SRC meeting in question, Davidson did not support a motion to increase his own honorarium. He voted against that motion. However, he did vote to increase his honorarium at a previous meeting.

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