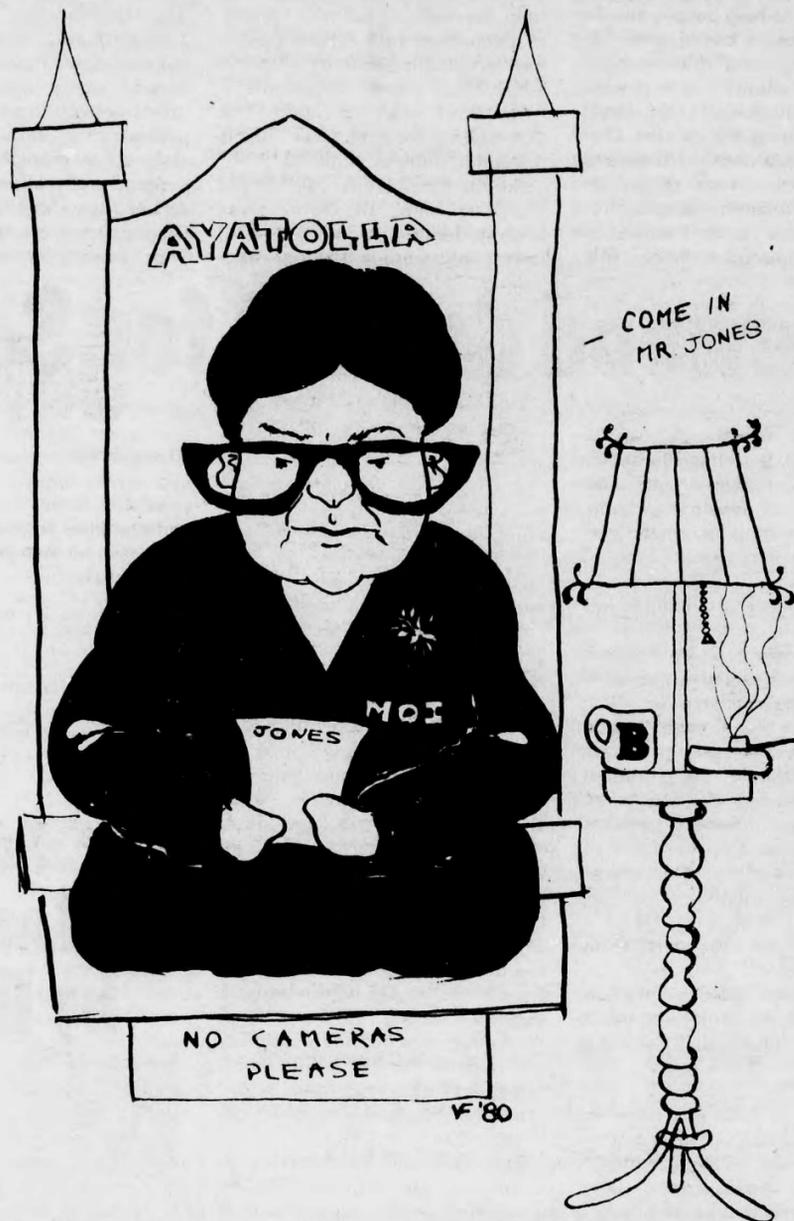


editorial

The Jones House Affair



The Jones House affair. One person has commented that the whole affair has been shrouded in mystery - no one really knows (outside of the Jones House members) what actually went on that Sunday evening. Not to mention how the whole fiasco surfaced. It is apparent that no one is talking.

Presently several members of the university are upset with the actions of university president Dr. Downey. Dr. Downey, in their eyes, backed down in regards to the degree of discipline that was to be thrust upon the Jones House members. Original press releases from the university indicated that Jones House members were to be denied the privilege of a house committee. Now, according to Monday's release, Jones House "will be allowed all the privileges allowed for any residence on campus."

What is happening to residence life? Why has the university levied such harsh measures

against Jones House for the harmless fun they indulged in?

There was no reported property damage, nor any known personal injury to participants in this event. These were voluntary activities that caused no damage. In past years, house pranks have caused damages that have amounted to the thousands of dollars. In addition, some of these damages occurred off-campus, a prime example of which is the

Aitken House "paint the town" prank. Several members of Aitken House painted prominent buildings and structures throughout the Fredericton area. The liquor store on Queen Street, the Forestry building on campus, the underpass on University Ave, and other areas were painted red with various slogans.

This meant it was not just the university community that was affected by the activities. The university's reaction to these

events, however, did not equal the intense dramatics witnessed over the Jones House activity.

The question that arises is - was the distress and ranting that ensued actually necessary? Was it in fact necessary to first dismiss the president of the house, and then all of the members? The men of Jones House were forced to reapply for residence, subject to acceptance. Most of the members did not agree to reapply under the conditions set out by J. Robert Smith, Dean and Provost of Men's Residences. With intervention by Dr. Downey this plan was abolished. The men had the option of apologizing to the house and to the university or having to find another place of residence.

Downey's decision to retract Dean Smith's ruling on the matter, in favor of an apology from the students, clearly left egg on the faces of the university administration involved. Was this a "graceful" way out of a situation

that was clearly not turning out the way it had been expected to? The majority of Jones House members involved, were taking this matter very seriously. Their point was definitely brought to the front when the deadline for readmission had passed silently by.

The so-called Jones House affair was not only blown out of proportion but was an unnecessary waste of many peoples' time and effort. It has spoiled many freshmens' chances to enjoy and pleasantly remember orientation to university. It has caused considerable personal pains to house president Kevin Ratcliff - the man singled out as the perpetrator of these orientation events. He was involved in the prohibited events - but so were many others.

All that is left now is the foul taste of frustration, anger and distrust by all parties involved. Is this what university life is all about Ma?