



Maggie Jean



House



Florence Murray House



By Lucy Wilson

Photos by Helen Burke

Last March, the Fire Marshal visited UNB's two off-campus co-ed residences - the Maggie Jean Chestnut House and the Florence Murray House - and was not too pleased with what he saw. Since the last inspection, the standards for this type of building had been upgraded, and the buildings no longer fit the regulations. The verdict was the usual "fix-'em-up or close-'em-down"; and there the problem started. The repairs would be expensive and the money was not available.

There had already been calls from various sources to sell the residences for other financial reasons, and naturally these calls were immediately resumed. The Houses also had support, though, which was just as vocal. The Maggie Jean House was donated to the university by the UNB Alumnae, who have kept up their interest in the House. The students and the Don of the Houses also added their support. Although most students had gone home by the time the fighting started, many of them wrote to the President of the University, as did the people living in Murray House for the summer and others interested in saving the residences - friends of residents, etc. In the end, however, total victory was not to be, and we ended up with a compromise between what the students wanted and what the bookkeepers wanted. The Alumnae drafted a unanimous proposal that Murray House (the



Florence

smaller of the two) be sold and the money be used to pay for repairs to Maggie. Since this was with the approval of all the "higher-ups", that was the eventual decision. Murray House was put up for sale by tender. Bids close on October 15th, so if you want to buy a lovely house in need of a few repairs with a great downtown location (within easy walking distance of the university) here is your chance.

Last year the Florence Murray House was home to about twenty senior and graduate students - many of them overseas students, from Greece, Ireland, New Zealand and Trinidad. Maggie Jean Chestnut House had something more than twenty residents, ranging from first year to PhD students, and also had a high percentage of overseas students. The only difference between the Houses were the presence of younger students in Maggie. They are both off-campus, one at 811 Charlotte St. and Murray on the lot behind at 806 G St. They both had male and female residents and they were both set up so that the residents could cook their own meals. Those who found the prospect of doing their own cooking was a bit daunting than that of the Foods could buy meal carts to eat up the hill. These Houses were very popular, and it was fortunate that now twenty fewer people can live this way. However - there is still Murray and we are alive and