

# news

## Students left homeless as residence office overbooks

By INGRID MILEY  
Brunswickan Staff

The intense pressure on space in the men's on-campus residences was revealed last week as the 1980 influx of students poured into UNB for the new academic year. In the most extreme case, 16 students who had received confirmation that they had rooms in residence arrived to find that the buildings had been overbooked and there was no space for them.

These students, many of them freshmen, were victims of the university policy of over-booking the 758 places in on-campus residences by two to three per cent. This is done every year to allow for the high first-week drop-out rate and the large number of late cancellations which have resulted in empty residence rooms in the past. Unfortunately, the university was caught this year by the fact that fewer people failed to show up for the beginning of the term, leaving those sixteen new arrivals without a bed.

However, the university did arrange for accommodation for the students in question, who seemed to have no complaints about the

way they were treated. The dean of men's residences, Bob Smith, arranged for eight of the students to be put up in motels at the university's expense until vacancies might occur in the residences. They were also given meal tickets so they could eat on-campus. The remaining eight students were given temporary accommodation in two vacant apartments in the married quarters at Magee House. All of these students have since been given rooms in residence, with the last students moving out of Magee House Monday evening.

The main complaint among students caught in this situation was that they missed being on-campus

for the orientation activities during Frosh Week. Others pointed out that it was awkward living off-campus in a state of uncertainty as to when they would be able to move into permanent accommodation. However, the general feeling was that the men's residence office had done everything possible to help them out.

The confusion surrounding the question of the men's accommodation was heightened by the late arrival of many students, who had made no prior arrangements for accommodation. They had hoped to obtain places in residence by joining the waiting list which was started on the first day of registration. Those approached admitted that it was their own fault they found themselves without a place to stay. Again it appears the men's residence office is doing its best to alleviate the problem and to fit students into temporary accommodation around the campus, for example, the typing room on the top floor of MacKenzie House. Some staff members have

even taken students into their own homes until vacancies arise.

Last week exaggerated rumours about the accommodation situation at UNB abounded. Reports of 38 students being hit by the over-booking of residences could not be confirmed.

However the most disturbing aspect of this story is that it will probably happen again next year. The policy of overbooking would appear to be justified from the administrative point of view by the relative speed with which the students are being re-housed as the expected drop-outs and cancellations occur. Where the university was at fault, it treated the students well. However, an air-conditioned room with a color TV in a motel is small compensation for missing out on the activities of Orientation Week on-campus and an opportunity of getting to know one's neighbours in residence before getting down to the grind of serious study.

## Radio survey useless, says Fulford

By PETER F. KUITENBROUWER  
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Vaughn Fulford, station director of CHSR, says a recently completed \$7,500 survey of the Fredericton radio audience is of no practical use to the station.

The survey, conducted this summer by Perry Thorbourne, Students Representative Council president was an attempt to learn the listening habits of those who may tune in to CHSR's new all-day broadcasting on FM, due to start in January. But Fulford, whom Thorbourne never contacted about the survey, called it a mistake from beginning to end.

"The practical value of the information in the survey is practically nil," he said.

Fulford said the survey idea was not useful even before the polling began, because anything the pollsters found out would be a year too late to be useful.

CHSR applied to Ottawa for an FM licence in the spring of 1979. To apply, they had to list their programming plans almost down to the minute.

"Ottawa doesn't tell you what songs to play, but they

want to know the type of music, the type of talk shows, and so on."

Thorbourne said the survey would be out by September 17, but he refused to comment further. "I'll talk about the survey when it comes out, and it should speak for itself," he said.

Fulford and other CHSR members don't think the survey will tell them anything interesting. Though they tried more than once to get a say in what questions the surveyors would ask, Thorbourne ignored them, they said.

Problems began in July, when CHSR got a call from the RCMP.

"Apparently some lady phoned the police and complained about the actions of a radio pollster. Said Fulford, "The pollster, a girl, started walking around the house, looking at paintings and furniture. That really upset the lady."

When Fulford heard of the survey, already in process, he phoned Thorbourne to offer help. Thorbourne sent

the station a list of preliminary questions, which the station called "really useless."

"One question," a station member explained, "asked 'How much Canadian content do you want?' That was totally irrelevant because Canadian content is mandated by Ottawa." So no matter what those surveyed replied, the station could not change the amount of Northern music they broadcast.

As Thorbourne's surveyor pounded the street with their questionable questions, the station continued to get calls from people complaining about rude pollsters. "Naturally people associated a survey about radio listening habits with CHSR, said Fulford. "So I wrote a letter to the Daily Gleaner officially disassociating us from the poll."

"(The survey) could have been relevant if we were able to decide on some of the questions," he continued. "We'd like to know where listeners' interest would lie, and what their background is, among other things, but the surveyors ignored our suggestions."

Meanwhile CHSR went

ahead with their FM licence application, at a Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications hearing June 25. Though the CRTC is supposed to decide in 6-8 weeks to grant or refuse the licence they had not replied as of press time.

Ironically, the SRC first strongly opposed CHSR's plans to go FM. But when they challenged the station

in a referendum March 28, 1979, the students voted 85 per cent in favour of an FM station. So the SRC got suddenly very interested in the idea, as their polling stint this summer indicates. Most observers the Brunswickan spoke to felt the survey had no practical benefit beside channelling federal tax-money into SRC members pockets.

## Ratcliff

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Ratcliff has sent a letter to Dean of Students Barry Thompson requesting a hearing before the Board of Deans concerning his eviction from residence. In the letter, Ratcliff stated, "I feel the action taken against me was entirely inappropriate as at all times I was acting on behalf of the House and as their representative. If indeed it was necessary to take action against me individually, I feel the action taken was unnecessarily harsh."

Ratcliff also requested a delay of his eviction until such a hearing can be held. He said he is prepared to institute legal action against the university should it prove necessary.

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