



the  
brunswickan

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The *Brunswickan*, in its 121st year, is Canada's oldest official student publication. The *Brunswickan's* offices are located in Room 35 of the University of New Brunswick's Student Union Building, P.O.Box 4400, College Hill, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 5A3.

The *Brunswickan* is printed with flair by Henley Printing, Ltd., Woodstock, N.B.

Subscriptions are \$20 per year. National and local advertising rates are available at (506) 453-4973. General phone 453-4983.

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# OPINION...

## *The Problem...*

Her name is Shorty and she is a Crack addict. On the New York City streets which she calls home she stands and waits for her connection and another puff, becoming for the television audience a burning symbol of yet another human tragedy. On last week's CBS television special, aptly entitled, "48 Hours on Crack Street", Shorty is more than willing to talk about her life as a Crack user. Dressed in raggy, tattered clothes which hang on to her skeletal 95 pound frame, Shorty says "I ain't been home for days. I have a son I haven't seen in a year and a half. Do I want to see him? I don't want him to see me looking like this until I get my life cleaned up. Look at me. I used to weigh 125 pounds..." and then she reaches deep into her pocket, takes out a 5 dollar piece of Crack, and proceeds to demonstrate for the camera how you smoke the stuff. Meanwhile police drive by, an ambulance screams past, and another person fills the void on Crack Street.

## *... the Solution*

Crack, the inexpensive yet deadly new high which has drug enforcement officials in the United States scrambling for cover has apparently surfaced in Fredericton and around this campus, so reports from the Fredericton City Police say.

In a front page story of the *Telegraph Journal* on Tuesday, September 9, the paper suggests that several university students have been offered Crack over the past week. Unofficial reports, say the paper, would preclude that the new drug, a potent and sometimes fatal derivative of Cocaine, is available in this city and around the campus, albeit in small amounts and to a relatively small number of people.

News of the drug surfacing in Fredericton comes at a particularly ironic time, when the emphasis during Orientation week has been on living a drug free lifestyle. "More Hugs, No Drugs" has been the central theme around which the UNB Orientation Committee, headed by Jamie Young, has been focused. It would appear that the campaign has been successful, if one takes into consideration the amount of people who have been wearing the brightly coloured shirts faithfully, and as Jamie says, "without being made fun of. If 1,500 people are wearing the T-shirts, more Froshies may be influenced to NOT use drugs or alcohol, because it's O.K. not to."

But it appears that the drug is here and what are we going to do about it? It appears doubtful, as even the Fredericton City Police will say, that the problem will ever reach the epidemic proportions of New York City nor the human tragedy which Shorty exemplifies, but if it is here, as the news story suggests, then people will be using it, and without doubt someone is going to end up in the hospital emergency ward because they freaked out on Crack.

The terrible predicament of Shorty does not have to be repeated in Fredericton, and the key to avoiding a replay of "48 Hours on Crack Street" in downtown anywhere, is education, not rumours, speculation, or media hype which leads to paranoia of the worst "Reagan-ite kind."

And let's start now before Crack does become a problem. Maybe if we all followed the wise saying of "More Hugs - No Drugs" there won't be a problem at all.

MELYNDA JARRATT

News Editor

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