

News

Editors: Mary Rogal-Black, Janice McConnell

Phone: 453-4983

Empty residence beds



By René Ross
Brunswickan News

Despite the convenient walks to campus and community living, several students living in residence have been finding a new place to hang their hat.

Since first term, a total of 80 beds have opened on campus and the number is slowly on the rise. While the residence office argues that students are moving off because of increasing residence fees and the lack of student loans to cover them, students living on and off campus see a different side to the matter.

One house president who wished to have their name withheld commented that the rules to residence living have indeed become tougher over the past few years.

"There have been more regulations placed on us recently. Everything from alcohol policies to the songs we can sing on campus [are regulated]."

"We are supposed to be private houses but any type of organized get-togethers are frowned upon unless we go through the yellow tape," they continued. "Students want to live in

residence because it is a fun and enjoyable experience, but even with the recent crack-downs on alcohol policies and bar services, we are restricted to what we can and cannot do.

James Skidmore, Dean of Residence, agreed that there has been complaints about the rules in the past—but he argues that it is unfortunate for students to move off for this reason.

"There are rules wherever you choose to live, whether that be in a residence or an apartment building," he commented.

"We are trying to promote a learning environment and our rules and policies are not ridiculous in any manner," he continued. Skidmore agrees with students that the new alcohol policies make it harder for students to organize socials or "functions" and it can become quite expensive in the long run.

The residence office, in conjunction with the registrar, have compiled new brochures this year in attempt to promote the residence community as a positive part of university life.

"But," Skidmore concluded, "we must maintain order."

Group seeking student volunteers

By Mary Rogal-Black
Brunswickan News

A student group on campus is currently recruiting volunteers for a literacy program in the community.

Students for Literacy has fifty-six volunteers so far, including the organising team. They are looking for students to volunteer to tutor adults and children throughout Fredericton.

Pam McLean, Chair of Students for Literacy, said that she would like to see people with teaching in their background, but no experience is necessary.

"We provide tutor training," said McLean. "We take thirty-five people per training course, and we can schedule the session as often as we need to."

McLean said that so far volunteers

have come from a variety of faculties.

"We have people from all faculties, including nursing, engineering, physical education, and arts," said McLean.

In New Brunswick, forty-four per cent of the population has a literacy level below grade nine, which is close to the national average. McLean hopes to provide tutoring for children as well as teens and adults.

"We're hoping to do subject tutoring at FHS," said McLean.

She added that an outreach coordinator will have the job of finding people in the community who need tutors. The coordinator will be going into community centres to recruit learners.

Volunteers will have an interview and police check before being matched up with a student.

Racism an issue at opening of Festival of Cultural Diversity



A purification ceremony is performed at the opening ceremonies of the Festival of Cultural Diversity. Photo by Mark Bray

By Mark Savoie
Brunswickan News

"I think Canada is a country where every citizen no longer feels a sense of exclusion, but is accepted in the political and social life of our country to the best of their and our ability."

That's the vision of Sheila Finestone, Secretary of State for Multiculturalism and the Status of Women.

Finestone made this comment at the opening ceremonies of the Multicultural festival held on campus this week. Unfortunately, she made this comment a half hour after she was scheduled to do so.

Luckily, the audience of approximately 125 in attendance was very patient, and there was very little grumbling about the delay of the start of the pro-

gram.

The controversy of the evening came from Muhammad Arif, President of the New Brunswick Multicultural Council. Arif, recently selected as a winner of the Canadian Citizenship Award, when he refused to join the positive atmosphere of the evening.

Instead, Arif said that New Brunswick's policy against prejudice and racism is still ineffective. He stated that he had been the personal victim of racism within the public service, and then challenged either the Premier or a member of the Cabinet to meet with him to discuss these experiences.

George Maicher, a past president of the Fredericton Multicultural Council, also expressed regret about the present attitude towards multiculturalism in Canada.

"Sadly," he said, "acceptance and tolerance seem to be more and more in short supply."

All parties involved in the opening ceremonies praised the Student Union and Festival Coordinator Tareq Islam for their initiative in establishing the festival as an annual event. Kay Nandlall, an advisor for the international student community at UNB, also praised President Robin Armstrong.

Nandlall credited Armstrong for UNB's ranking by Maclean's Magazine as the foremost university in Canada for its acceptance of international students.

As the evening progressed, more and more people started arriving, planning to attend the presentation of the play *New Canadian Kid*, which portrayed the experience of a recent immigrant to Canada.



Christine Lohr and Jillian Weldon (left), along with (unpictured) keyboardist Michele MacNeil and bassist Andrea Scott, lipsync an old ABBA favourite, "Take a Chance on Me" for fellow forestry students at the Cellar. ABBA was a big hit during Forestry Week... And that just proves my theory: forestry students love ABBA. Photo by Bones