

THE COLUMN

by
Ed
BELL

Of the sixteen hundred and fifty students now at UNB, less than five hundred live in residence. The University is making desperate efforts to build more residence accommodations, but there still remains the fact that over one thousand people are not getting the maximum benefit from their year at UNB. Nobody spends a year or more under the influence (no pun intended) of life at a university without emerging a changed person. How a person changes depends very little upon his academic studies . . . it depends upon his "outside" life and extra-curricular activities. This is not to say that studies are unimportant . . . far from it. What I mean is that one could study just as well (perhaps better) in a monastery . . . the changes that would occur in his character and personality would be quite unlike those that will occur here at UNB.

What has living in residence to do with this? . . . Everything. Take the case of the male student living downtown. There is perhaps one decent boarding house in every fifteen, so this fellow will very likely reside in a second-rate house that is designed to make the maximum amount of profit by providing the student with the minimum of service. The odds are that the student was unable to find accommodations that provide meals . . . so along with his other problems he must make a weekly budget for his meals. Net result . . . after each weekend of unwise spending his dinner in the Student Centre consists of a hamburger and a cup of coffee. With a card table for a desk and an orange crate for a bookcase, his "home" surroundings are not all likely to make him very happy . . . especially when his landlady complains that a bath every two weeks is too much of a drain on her hot water tank.

The most damaging aspect of "living" downtown is the social activity. Most of the boys could not be bothered with the long walk back up the hill for the oft-times stuffy activities offered there. So they are left with the few pastimes open to the young people of Fredericton. These include one pool hall, one bowling alley, a dance hall denoted by a stomach-based "oof", and the Air Force Club. The net result of a year spent at UNB under such conditions is unlikely to be happy and any changes that might occur in one's personality during this time are not looked upon with approval by the citizens of Fredericton.

Now let us examine the case of a student in residence. He has a room that was designed for a university student and his living facilities are both adequate and pleasant. Together with him in the building are a good number of his peers, with whom he learns to get along well . . . by necessity or by fear of being ostracized. His meals are paid for along with his university fees, which means that no matter how low or cash he may become, his health will not suffer from a steady diet of hamburgers. He "is right on top of" all the activities up the hill, and what is more he has the time to participate in them.

The most valuable aspect of living in residence is the people with whom you associate. In constant contact with people in your own year, with people nearer to graduation than you are, with post-grads and faculty members (who are fascinating people to get to know and are not the awesome figures of efficiency and decorum that they appear to the casual observer), a person gains the most valuable asset of beginning an understanding of people and the fine art of getting along with them in harmony and to the mutual benefit of all concerned. If this were all that a person learned while in university, it would have been worth all the effort.

Since I am not one to forget the opposite sex, it will be interesting to discuss their advantages of living in residence. They have lovely residences (although my knowledge of them is confined to the first floors) and they are governed by people whom they both respect and admire. Along with all the advantages enjoyed by male residents, they have the added advantage of being the first to know about anything of interest that concerns the University. The staff of the **Brunswickan** appreciates this fact, and it is to be noted that most of our stories (published stories) have their origin in the Maggie Jean.

Seriously, though . . . the girls in the residences are both lovely and lucky. Residence for women is supplied to all girls who apply for it. Perhaps someday this will be the case for all of our students. The girls from town present a dilemma . . . they are fortunate in that they can attend UNB for half the cost that outsiders must pay for board and lodging. But they run the risk of letting their life at UNB be simply a continuation of their high school careers. If this were the case, I would think that it would be best to leave home and go to some other university.

THINGS YOU MIGHT KNOW

- There is a Freshette named Sally . . . my sincere apologies.
- I did not offer to lend every Freshman five dollars.
- My present financial position is non-existent.

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New Club For Hunters, Anglers

A brand new organization is being born on the campus. Membership is open to all students, male or female, who are interested in hunting and fishing.

The purpose of this club is to organize small hunting trips, provide transportation to the hunting areas, exchange ideas, experi-

es and advice about hunting, fishing and maintenance of equipment.

The first meeting of the U.N.B. ROD and GUN CLUB is scheduled for 7:30 p. m., this Thursday, the 29th., in the Conference Room of the Students' Centre.

At the first meeting the follow-

ing will be discussed:

1. Election of officers.
2. Drawing up of a constitution in order to ask for a grant from the S.R.C.
3. The acquiring of Crown Property for the building of a lodge.

Come to the meeting and find out about our "Big Buck" Contest. If you cannot come, and are interested, call 5-3248.



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