

Rosary Hall progress report

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Brunswickan Staff

Eventually, when the renovations are completed, Jim Arsenault believes Rosary Hall will be one of the best residences UNB has to offer.

Mr. Arsenault, a third year Arts student, is the male proctor of the new co-ed residence. Along with female proctor, Stephanie Davis (BBA 4) and Don Monte Peters, he has watched an almost miraculous transformation occur in the red brick building on Charlotte St., which once belonged to the Sisters of Charity.

Last September, in the space of a few days after the nuns left Rosary Hall, 55 students moved into the much needed accommodations.

Standard furniture in many of the rooms was missing initially. Some of the mainly

single room accommodation had little more than a bed. Now, Mr. Arsenault said, beds, desks, bureaus and lamps have been aquired.

Mr. Arsenault was surprised at the speed at which university administration began renovating Rosary Hall.

"I don't think the administration moves fast on anything," he remarked, adding that Don Monte Peters may be credited for "pushing the administration to act quickly."

Mr. Arsenault said the lease for a Catholic bookstore operated by the nuns expired "about two weeks ago" and the space was vacated. This additional space in the basement of Rosary Hall will be partitioned into more rooms once workmen finish painting the walls.

There is a chapel inside the Hall which is currently used as

a group study area by students.

Mr. Arsenault said the "Residence office is talking about building rooms in the chapel," but there will definitely be some other additions to the house after Christmas.

He said that right now, there is "lots of room for 55 students" with enough to spare for a first floor lounge/T.V. room and a library on the second floor. But expansion is necessary if Rosary Hall is to accommodate more students next year.

Mr. Arsenault enjoys being proctor of a co-ed residence. He describes the atmosphere at Rosary Hall as "much homier" than in non-co-ed residences.

He applied for a position as proctor even before UNB purchased Rosary Hall.

"I personally thought a co-ed residence was a fantastic idea. I thought it would enable both sexes to communicate better", he said.

Mr. Arsenault said that while he lived in the men's residence system, he perceived a lack of communication between the sexes. He believes male students, in general, "really don't have an appreciation for the opposite sex."

"The guys don't behave here (Rosary Hall) as they would in a men's residence", he remarked. "There is more respect for each other...I'd like to believe this is because it's co-ed."

Convocation

About 255 graduates and 100 prize winners participated in two fall convocation ceremonies at the Playhouse in Fredericton on Sunday. At the 2:30 ceremonies, graduates in Arts, Science, Law, Nursing, and four year Bachelor's and Masters programs in Education received their diplomas.

Two prominent Canadians were presented honorary degrees in the afternoon. Marcel Massé, Undersecretary of State for External Affairs, received an honor Doctor of Laws degree and an honorary Doctor of Letters degree was conferred upon prominent historian J.M.S. Careless.

In here address, Lady Violet Aitken, Chancellor of UNB, told the graduates that they leave, not as students, but alumni of the university who are prepared to face new challenges.

In the evening convocation ceremony, graduates in Engineering, Forestry, Business Administration, Forest Engineering, Physical Education, Secretarial Studies, Computer Science and Education received their diplomas.

POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES

One of the primary concerns of many people, myself included, is the notion of Reagan's impending senility; the idea that he is not getting any younger and seems to be showing signs of faltering, his mind dazed, and wandering in a mist of memories. If indeed he is approaching senility then the question arises as to the ability to govern during such a volatile time in history.

The question of gerentocracy (rule of the old) is not new.

The Soviet Union is comprised of mostly the "old guard," political elites in the golden years of life. When viewing the specific case of Ronald Reagan one finds a frightfully conservative mind that (not unlike his Soviet counterparts) is incapable of compromise and obstinate in his faith in traditionalism. The point I would like to make corresponds with the concept of gerentocracy as well as an analysis of Reagan's specific case.

In our society "age" is a concept that requires individual study. The age of a person does not by any means indicate senility but as one grows older the possibility does loom closer. If the leadership of a state is dominated by "only" one older age grouping then the chances are good that it is a "gerentocracy," more prone to "stay the course" than embark on progressive changes to the system. By this I mean: it is possible to have faith in a system one has protected all their lives, even in the face of obvious decay and threat. Many politicians having survived two World Wars will never have trust in compromise as a solution to super-power armageddon. A younger generation however, has shown a more passive preference for quiet diplomacy and the possibility for negotiation. Since both powers are for all intents and purposes gerentocratic in their leadership the chances for broad sweeping changes, a new direction in policy, or compatability are slim.

The concept of gerentocracy, therefore, enters into a discussion of the possibilities for the necessary, immediate reversal of policy required to assure the survival of mankind. Is there a correlation between the "rule of old" and an escalating threat of destruction? It is my belief that the leaders of both super-powers have spent a lifetime as antagonists to each other and are so paranoid and fearful of their opposite that they lack faith in the possibility for change. Since it is their generation that has witnessed, monitored and participated in the escalation of military madness then one must wonder how much room for a reversal of form exists.

I think there is recognizable value in having an educated, experienced, and worldly leadership (all valuable necessities for the conduct of international affairs). I also realize that many of these qualities reach fruition with age. My fear exists more with the style and temperament of such older statesman as Reagan. His obstinacy, pertinacity, stubbornness and inflexibility have become institutions of American politics.

The support that such political regimes garner is based on an innate faith in their experience and ability to act strong and impenetrable in the face of adversity. Men such as Reagan definitely have a vast support base and have shown the qualities of fortitude and steadfastness desired by many Americans. But, what are the consequences of such a statesman faltering, becoming inconsistent and irrational?

The concept of gerentocracy will exist until time expires but the limits of one's capability to govern must be judged by mental capacity and the ability to be quick, competent and informed. If Ronald Reagan and other politicians are faltering the time for change must be now, before we find ourselves led by them into oblivion!

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