

Government offers \$ to rifle files

The issue of student housing flares up annually at the end of August when freshmen and returning students alike battle with the accommodations office, landlords and even among themselves to procure decent living quarters for the academic year. By mid-September most students have found some form of residence, suitable or otherwise, and the issue is buried once again until the mad rush occurs next fall.

Both the accommodations office and the SRC have conducted surveys in the past to determine the demand and supply of student housing. The SRC survey conducted in the 1976-77 academic year has been labelled as "a raft of meaningless data." The most recent data assembled by the accommodations office was compiled from questionnaires, many of whose answers demonstrated students' childishness in filling out

forms of such a nature, as evident in their answers.

The report has strained relations between the accommodations office and the student council to the point where a rapport between the accommodations officer and the student president hardly exists. According to the report, the researchers were unable to use any of the files belonging to the accommodations office as they "contain strictly classified information, given only on the grounds that it not be publicized." The report further claims that "the reason for this is that most of the homeowners do not claim their accommodations revenue on Income Tax Returns."

The accommodations office denies such charges and has stated that publicizing the names of home owners who board students would result in a breakdown in relations between the office and those who supply

many needed beds for students.

However it appears that a governmental department has been interested in a list containing information about private homeowners who take on boarders. One researcher and one former employee of the accommodations office have mentioned that a considerable sum of money was offered for obtaining such a list.

There is also the suggestion that the accommodations office fear loss of its role on campus if it handed over its files, as the office asked the researchers "whether it is the intention of the Student Council to set up its own housing office."

Whatever the reasons the report fails to provide any information on one of the most important types of student housing, that of the boarding house.

The last fact, and one which the report labels as "the obvious fact",

one must agree with. The student housing situation does demand further investigation, but let us hope that it does not take the form or shape of this Young Canada Works Project and does not provide fourteen weeks of salaries so that we can discover "cabletelevision costs \$7.02 per month" regardless of where a student lives.

With a budget of \$14,158, received from the federal government under a Young Canada Works grant, six researchers from UNB attempted to look into the problem of student housing in a more detailed study, with the hopes that they might shine some light on the situation. They have failed, and even one member of the project has stated that the report is not worth \$14,158 for the information contained within the findings.

After fourteen weeks of research the report workers

discovered such startling facts as "the greatest demand for housing among students occurs during September," a fact which most students have found out for themselves and do not wish to be reminded of. However, if one is to be fair, the report does contain a comprehensive list of apartment dwellings and their lack of abundance of services. Although some do not accept students it is nice to read that they might or might not have balconies.

Credit must be given to the make-up of the questionnaire, however, it was handed out when the majority of student tenants were away for the summer months and not answered by some of the landlords.

There are reasons, according to one researcher, why the recommendations and proposals of the report lack any detail and are so brief. The fear of leaving out any possible future investment interests caused the proposals to be of a general nature and a lack of time (after fourteen weeks?) caused the brevity. In fact the researcher seemed in such a rush that he even omitted the name of a fellow project member from the cover of the report.

Many of the recommendations which "are intended to be food for thought" have previously been chewed over and digested by those with interest in the student housing situation, such as the administration. As for anything new or original about the proposals, the Dean of Students refused to comment, although he stated the report "itself is new in that it was a venture undertaken by students."

He's real

Dan Hill

Dan Hill propogates personality and in the most favourable form. Open and available to all that approach him, he's certainly true of the congenial image it is acclaimed to have.

Last Tuesday afternoon, in the midst of all unlikelihood, I had the memorable privilege of meeting Dan Hill in the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel.

I was in the lobby to call for a cab after having covered a budworm report press meeting.

He sat in a plush couch, stretched back, and cheerfully talking. He doesn't show up at all, in spite of his distinction, until a smile lights his lips. (In fact, a genuine smile and welcoming attitude toward anyone appears to be his mark.)

When asked if he had something "profound" to air he only stated, "I don't usually ever have anything too profound to say." He did however continue to tell me, "It's a great town (Fredericton). I really loved playing here."

Congeniality and sincerity was my only wholly founded impression of him.

That's better than profound anytime.

As he journeyed out the door, a couple of more individuals encountered him. When one told him he didn't take his concert, Dan replied smiling, "Next year for sure."

I'll be sure to make it.

Earn some high credits this semester.

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