

Rap Room troubled with personnel shortage again

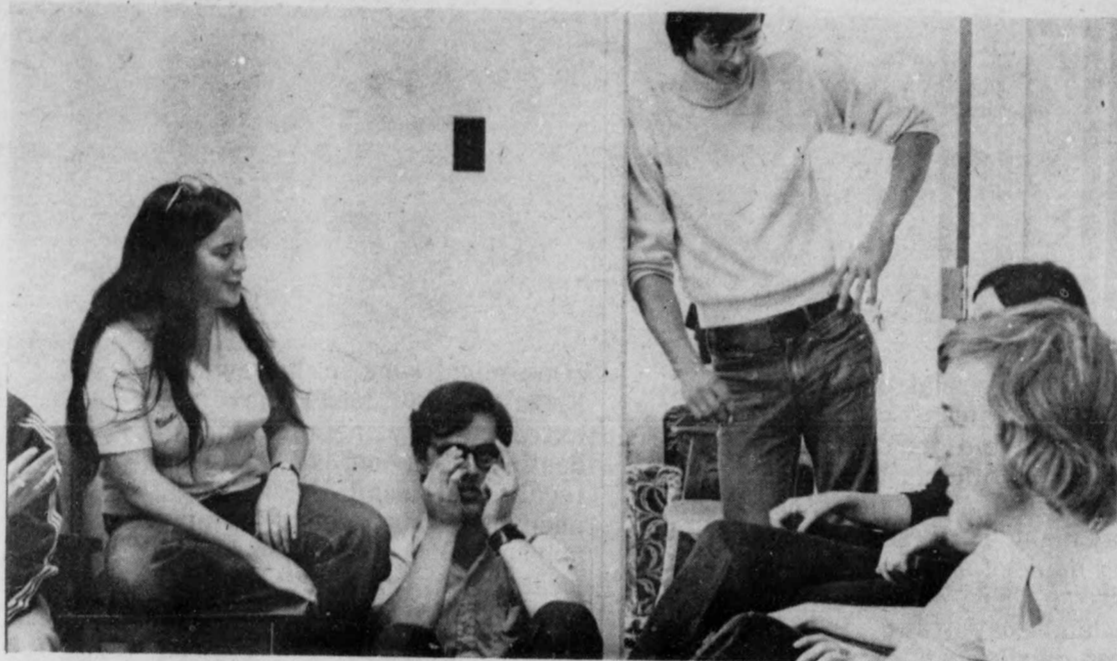


Photo by Mike Hogan

Rap Room - you can talk, receive help and information and just make an all around good time with some friendly folk.

By DERWIN GOWAN

Rap Room seems to be hit with a personnel shortage this year, much like most other campus organizations. However, Rap Room Co-ordinator Barb Amos is looking forward to a good year. They are having a meeting on September 17 at 7:00 a.m. in room 103 of the SUB where it will be decided who will take what Shift. All old members and those interested in joining are invited to attend. All those who cannot make it are asked to call Barb at 454-4059.

For those who do not know what Rap Room is, it is a place, located in back of and above the residence office, where students may come to talk on any issues that concern them, be it a personal problem or one of a general nature. One can also talk to them over the telephone. The number is located in the directory and will be posted on campus.

The student volunteers at Rap Room are not professional counsellors and may not have all the answers, particularly in regards to problems of a serious nature, but as a referral agency they have contact with organizations in Fredericton such as UNB Counselling, Chimo, Family Planning, the Department of Youth, and many others. They also distribute free of charge pamphlets on topics of concern.

Rap Room acts as a crisis centre, make abortion referrals, and as an information centre, among other things, but most people just come in to sit down and talk. Rap Room's open to all students. Barb says that they get a lot of freshmen this time of year. Friday nights, they are usually jampacked until 5:00 a.m. Also on Thursday after the Pub in the SUB is over.

Rap Room does not treat alcoholics and drug addicts, but they will tell them where to go for help. Also, they are not supposed to allow drugs and or alcohol inside. When Barb was asked if she does let the odd bottle by, the reporter was met with a smile, but no answer.

Anything that is said between a Rap Room staffer and another person is totally confidential, and will not be told to anyone. This is to make a person with something bugging him feel more at ease in discussing his problems.

Rap Room also provides a sitting service for the infirmary.

Rap Room volunteers come from the student bodies of UNB and STU. The main qualifications for potential members are the ability and interest to listen to and understand the problems of others. Orientation sessions are given in the fall and workshops are held later on in the year. These are conducted by qualified persons involved in counselling in the area. Right now, a six hour training session is being planned. UNB counselling services will help to set this up. They plan on having a party the same night. Barb said the purpose of this is to create a common feeling among staffers.

Rap Room is funded by the Students Representative Council, and the budget is usually between six and seven hundred dollars per year. Rap Room was established during the 1970-1971 academic year.

Speaking of the quality of Rap Room staffers, Barb said that disciplinary action has only had to be taken once in the last four years.

Rap Room has a problem now with leadership, because the leadership changed over the summer months. Right now, everything is in the hands of a steering committee. They are going to try to change a few things, get more people involved, and generally offer a better service to students. CHIMO, the crisis centre operation, conducted a study to find out why such organizations always seem to be losing members, this study will be published and the results of this study will be used to help improve Rap Room.

Barb reiterated that they need more members in order to continue. Right now, Rap Room is open afternoons and evenings, with each member working three hours a week. If they get enough people, they will be open 24 hours a day. They are particularly short of first and second year students. Rap Room usually has an experienced and an unexperienced person working together, in order to get the new member acquainted with the job. Also, they like to work a boy and girl together. According to Barb, some people like to talk to girls, while others prefer boys. Also, she mentioned that this usually makes the going easier for the two workers, particularly on a slack night. She reiterated that one does not need to be a psych major to be a Rap Room staffer, and they will welcome newcomers anytime from any faculty and from any year of studies.

Travel story continued

One section of the castle is now divided into 10 apartments which he rents out for 2000 francs a month or about \$400. We talked and looked at the grounds then we headed for Monaco.

The six days went fast and the seventh was there before I realized it. We left for the airport and on the way we stopped for a group photo at Neptune's fountain in the Place Messina. We had a re-fuelling in Santa Maria, Portugal then on the JFK and home to Montreal.

Going through Customs can be a hassle if you aren't aware of a few things. First of all, you must

declare all articles. You can claim a \$100 exemption once in a calendar year after 12 full days or more abroad. A \$25 exemption in each calendar quarter after 48 hours or more abroad. A person may import up to 50 cigars, 200 cigarettes and 2 pounds of manufactured tobacco provided you're over 16 years of age. Spirituous liquor or wines up to 40 ounces (1.1565 litres) or 24 pints (288 Imperial ounces) of beer are allowed for a person over 21.

It's too bad good things always have to end. Maybe I'll get back for a return visit sometime.



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