

UNB campus shows startling Alcoholic potential



By ROGER WINSOR

EDITOR'S NOTE: Brunswickan staff writer Roger Winsor has some penetrating and factual research into alcoholism at UNB and found out this is a bad place for tee totalers. At the same time, he offers some good advice for persons wanting to stay sober.

"Hic!, another beer George!" These words, along with other similar phrases, are heard quite commonly around campus. It is being wondered if they are just a little too common. One thing for sure their usage hasn't decreased any in the last couple of years.

Most nights, especially on the weekends, it is not safe to walk around campus. It is the dark areas (behind buildings, through woods etc.) that are the most dangerous. One of the main causes of this is the high rate of alcoholism, and it is in these dark corners that non-drinkers often run into trouble. Many a non-drinker have almost been killed when they have tripped over some drunk after he passed out.

Statistics show that last year students spent approximately \$189,613 for alcoholic beverages on the Fredericton campus. This doesn't include what was bought off campus, like at the Arms or from NBLCC. With these figures the sum must be doubled, giving a grand total of about \$400,000 (that's

almost half a million). It should be kept in mind that not all students drink, but those that do really drink. Then everyone wonders why students are trying to get so much from student loans and grants.

It makes one curious to know why the government doesn't step in and do something about this. What no one seems to realize is that the government is making a two-way kill on the subject. First of all, the students buy booze, half of this money the government takes in taxes. Secondly, the government gives the students loans. The students buy booze. The government then collects the money back in liquor taxes, and the student still ends up having to pay back the loan.

Everyone has to make a buck. The difference must be distinguished between alcoholics and potential alcoholics. While some of the university staff, faculty and administration are true-blooded Canadian alcoholics, most of the students are yet only potential alcoholics. The university campus is a great place for students to realize this potential. To be an alcoholic one must be addicted to alcohol. This usually takes from three to fifteen years of continuous drinking. The potential alcoholic is one who drinks but is yet not addicted. One way to find out which category you fall into is to stop drinking for a month. If you feel fit, continuously irritated, always wanting to beat the shit out

of everybody or if you think you are going to die of thirst, the chances are that you have a drinking problem.

It seems that one of the major problems is that we do not want to get rid of alcohol, since it is readily accepted in our society. What people want to get rid of is the 'side-effects', such as drunken driving. No one seems to realize that as long as there is alcohol in the stores and drivers on the road there will be no way of getting rid of 'boozed-up' drivers.

What is most amazing is the way that drinking is promoted here at UNB. Everywhere you turn there is booze; it is an alcoholic's dreamland. Go to a social, there's alcohol. Got to a movie and there's someone taking a flask in under their jacket. You cannot really blame the administration, though. If they banned alcohol on campus, most of them would be high and dry themselves.

One good example of liquor being promoted here on campus was at the recent blood donor clinic. In order to get more donors, on the final night of the clinic a free beer was offered to donors. Some people actually went out of their way to give a pint of blood for a pint of beer.

For an alcoholic with his problem the first thing he says is

that he can stop drinking any time he wants. Sure you say, Nixon is trying to be president of UNB too (God knows, he might succeed)

Of course the question arises of why does anyone drink anyway. Physically it is quite simple, put a bottle to your mouth and just let it pour. However, the reasons behind someone's drinking problem are usually psychological. Someone who is having problems with life, whether it be you cannot get along with your profs or you are having trouble with assignments, can find it very easy to "escape" by going out and getting plastered.

This is often what happens here on campus. After a hard week of classes, failing a test or two, and getting shit every night for playing

the stereo too loud, Friday night rolls around and everything is forgotten and sorrows are drowned in booze. The only trouble with this is that on Monday morning things usually aren't any better, in fact they are often worse.

One may wonder what can be done for a person with a drinking problem. There is a lot, but the person has to realize that he or she does have a drinking problem. Many a person will not face the fact they do. Professionals are available who can help, but the person with the drinking problem has to make the first move and approach them for help. Once this first step is taken an alcoholic may find life is not so bad after all and now he can cope with it better.

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Labour management relations discussed

The third Annual Atlantic Business Conference was held at the University of Moncton this past weekend.

The topic of discussion was "The State of Labour Management Relations in the Atlantic Provinces". All Atlantic universities were represented with the exception of UNBSJ and Memorial.

Several speakers were invited to take part in the three day event; members of the N.B. Federation of Labour and the Canadian Labour Congress.

Friday afternoon a debate between these officials and the students in the form of panel discussion took place. The relevant points from the group workshops of the previous two days were

brought up and discussed.

Plans for next years conference were initiated with either Mr. Allison or Dalhousie being host. The topic will be "Marketing".

? **clue word** ?

ANSWER

LONG DISTANCE