

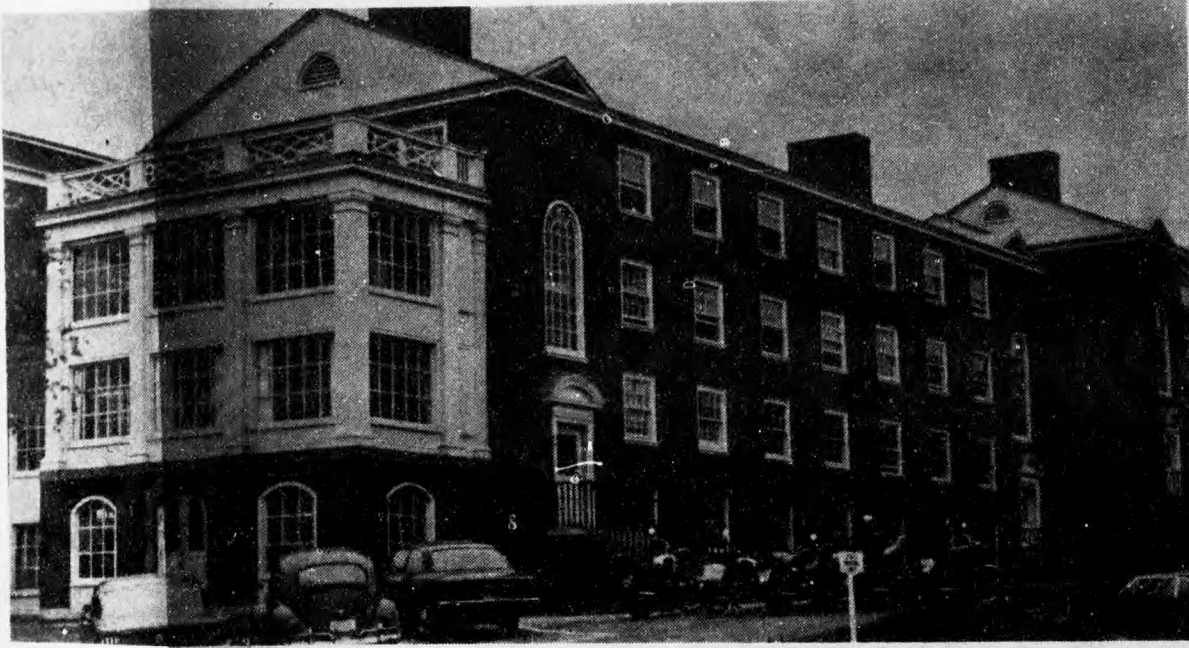
UNB student residence life isn't cake

By CHRIS FLEWWELLING

Residence living in university owned buildings are found on virtually all the larger university campuses across the country, and, for a certain proportion of students, is a large part of university life. A student's particular room is where he must live for eight months of the year, subtracting some weekends and holidays spent elsewhere, and for some foreign students, even these are spent in residence.

Considering that the resident is living in a large community of fellow students, all under relatively the same conditions, it is not surprising that a living style typical to a residence emerges.

About thirty per cent of the students at UNB are in residence, and of these, about the same proportion are women. A higher percentage of freshmen than upperclassmen live in residence, for many



students tend to move out of residence in the years following, especially the third and fourth.

No one type of living arrangement could possibly suit the needs of such a large number of students with many varied backgrounds. The residence system is one method of meeting a temporary but vital housing need. Each individual has his own tastes and preferences when it comes to how and where he would like to live, and something considered essential by one may be entirely incidental to another. Considered in this light, living in residence will be favoured by some, adequate for some, and entirely unsuitable for others, with both advantages and disadvantages.

Each person has his own idea of what residence living should include, as well as to what changes should be made. Most freshmen seem to be in favour of staying in residence, at least for a year or two. In many cases, they are glad of a change from living at home, and find residence the easiest way of breaking in to university life, as many around them are fellow first year students.

Comments coming from first year students include such things as "It is interesting, there's never a dull moment", "more like home than home", "people your age around all the time, so it's easier to open up than at home", and "It's clickish. You make certain friends and stick to them".

Residence does have a reputation for the formation of clicks, but this is to be expected in this type of living arrangement, and is probably more common in the women's residences than in the men's. It can, on the other hand, provide the

opportunity for getting to know a wide variety of people from other areas and even other countries with whom the student might not otherwise have contact.

It also gives the resident an excellent chance to make friends that often last a lifetime. As one freshman put it, "You have to learn to live with all kinds of people and learn to tolerate a lot more than at home. If you're not ready to tolerate certain people and things, you shouldn't come."

Residence can be a lot of fun. With the innumerable people around, many with similar interests, you can usually find something to occupy your non-study time. There are a certain number of organized social events per year, such as house socials, house dinners, and dances which bring the houses together, but it is these same events that often

tend to isolate the residence from the non-residence students.

Residence students (except those in the off-campus women's residences) have the advantage of being in closer proximity to the university events, clubs, and athletic programmes than many off-campus students, are in constant contact with the university through such means as CHSR, and are never more than five minutes away from classes.

One of the most stated advantages of residence living is the convenience of not having to buy groceries, cook, or clean up as is required in apartment living. Everything is provided—laundry facilities, games and recreation rooms, TV lounges, and study areas, as well as furniture and storage areas. It is this easy and convenient living that is the reason given by upperclass students for remaining in residence.

One of the greatest disadvantages stated by students of residence life is the lack of privacy and the noise level. Single rooms, which may be difficult to get, especially in the men's residences, have privacy to a degree, but if you are in a double room, you have to not only put up with your own friends coming in at all hours, but those of a room-mate as well. Unless you are very independent or anti-social, a lot of your time is not your own. You may feel like studying, but the people next door may not agree. Someone's birthday may just fall the night before your test, and as a proctor of a men's residence has stated, "if you want to work in your room Saturday night, forget it". There are, too, the inevitable cases of room-mates who do not get along, but a solution can usually be found, one way or

another. This is not solely restricted to residence living, for it occurs in apartments, too.

Residence complaints also include the size and plainness of the rooms, the lack of comfortable chairs, the chore (especially in the men's residences) of having to make your own bed, the institutional food, and the restrictions on hours in the women's residences. The curfews are always a theme of discontent, some demanding the same privileges as the men's residences, others feeling that, especially for first year students, a few rules are desirable.

Any changes in policies, such as leaves, open rooms, or house rules, are usually initiated by the students, then passed on to the appropriate authority for approval,—house committee, Senate Residence Committee, or the Dean of Men or Dean of Women, depending on the particular area or importance of the request.

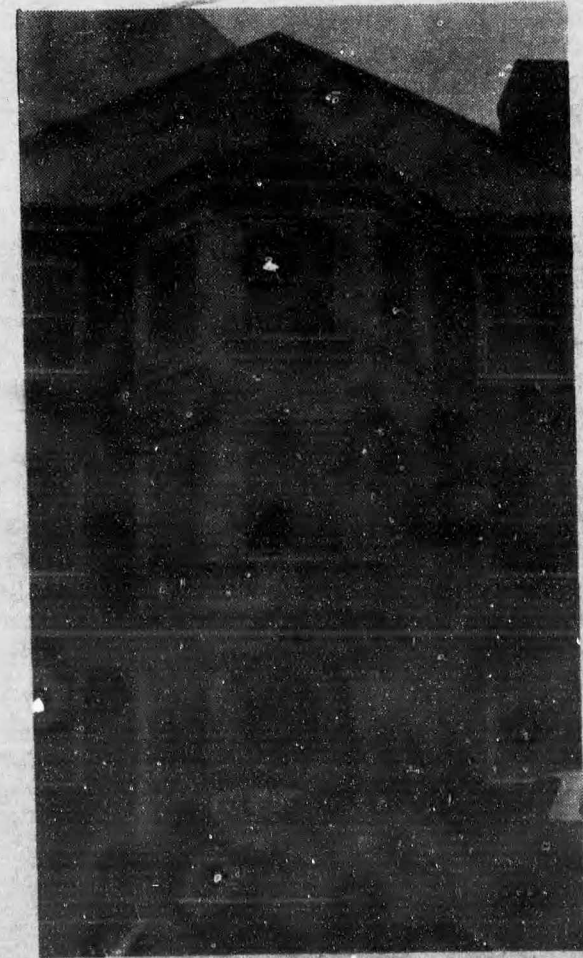
Residence living does provide companionship and sources for talent and tutoring—you can usually find someone who has already taken the course that's giving you trouble. It's a good place if you're sick, for someone will bring you food and sympathy, and the infirmary is close. Counselling and advice is also readily available through proctors and dons. A residence offers freedom to pretty well come and go as you please, and few other places are close enough for a sleepbetween classes.

Each residence has its own personality. Certain traditions and events are associated with a particular residence, and sometimes certain students, for some get attached to their residence and return each year, along with their friends.

This is evident especially in the men's and off campus women's residences, where there are about a hundred students in the larger ones, and even fewer in the others. With these numbers, the residents can get to know most of their house members, at least by name, during the course of a year.

This creates great loyalty within and rivalry between the residences. The on campus women's residences do not show

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