

Breathalyzer Just A Novelty

By TRACIE CHEEVERS

For all you students who have the classic disease of *not* knowing when you've had "one too many" to drink, you can now rest assured that there is a quick and easy way to find out without having to "socialize" with Fredericton's notorious authorities.

With the help of Bi-Tech Industries, the College Hill Social Club has installed a breathalyzer machine. This \$2500.00 outfit is coin operated, with the Social Club receiving 20% of the profits as commission.

The machine was brought in as a means of public relations

and is used "only as a novelty", says Alison Woodside, manager of the Social Club. Students cannot be forced to use the machine, and although it has been proven 99% accurate, the company cannot be responsible for any mishaps.

People who want to use the breathalyzer should wait ten minutes after their last drink or cigarette, deposit their quarter and follow the instructions given on the front of the breathalyzer.

Just keep in mind, this machine should be used merely as a means to show that you have reached your limit, and should not be used as an indication to drive.



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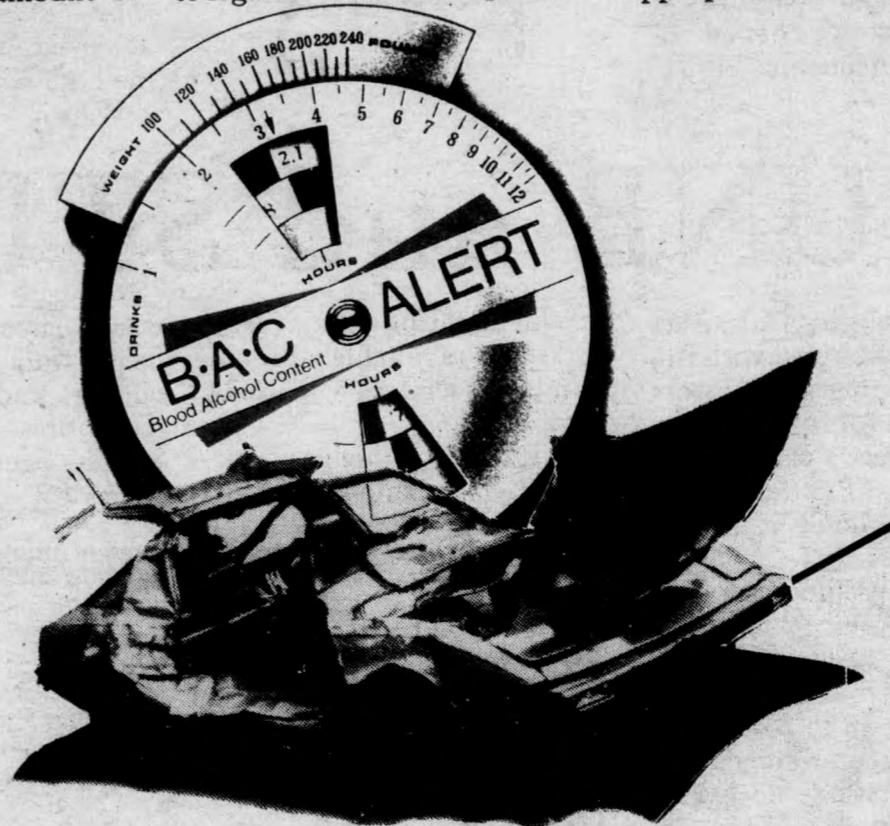
Beginning this week, the Legal Information Centre for New Brunswick, in collaboration with this newspaper, will offer a weekly legal affairs column which will deal with various subjects of public interest.

The L.I.C.N.B. is a non-profit organization whose aim is to inform and educate the public on legal matters. Increasing governmental activity, characterized by the passing of a growing amount of

legislation, means that the citizen must be mindful and aware of his rights and obligations. In order to take full advantage of our rights, we must be aware of the existing laws and the workings of the legal system. Moreover, ignorance of the law affords no excuse and it is everyone's duty not to breach any legislative provisions. Otherwise, we might just have to face the consequences. Furthermore, the information gained with respect to legal affairs allows a positive

contribution to debate surrounding the adoption of new legislation.

Whether it be in the area of family law, consumer law, criminal law, individual or collective rights, to name but a few, legal notions have to be used in reaching a solution. These legal affairs columns are directed at providing you with information such that, should the need be felt, you will be able to assert your rights by directing your demands to the appropriate bodies.



Since December 4th of last year, amendments have been made to the Criminal Code of Canada with respect to impaired driving. In light of statistical information on the subject, it has become apparent that persons driving under the influence of alcohol had to be dealt with more severely. Studies have shown that alcohol was responsible for fifty (50) per cent of fatal accidents.

The response of federal authorities was to stiffen the provisions of the Criminal Code aimed at drivers whose ability to drive was impaired. The goal was to dissuade persons from taking the wheel when, after having a few drinks, their blood-alcohol level exceeded the acceptable limit of eighty (80) milligrams of alcohol per one hundred (100) millilitres of blood (0.08 per cent).

When a police officer has reasonable grounds to believe that your blood-alcohol level exceeds that which is permitted, he may ask you to provide him samples of your breath or blood. When asked to provide

a blood sample, it must be because you are unable to provide a sample of your breath. For example, it might be that you suffer from respiratory problems or that you are unable to get to a place where a breath sample could be taken. The taking of a blood sample must be conducted by a physician or under his supervision and one of the two (2) samples taken must be placed at your disposal so that you can have an independent analysis conducted should you wish to do so. If, without reasonable excuse, you refuse to comply with a demand for a sample of your breath or blood, you are liable to the same penalty as if you had been found guilty of impaired driving.

In certain circumstances, a sample of the suspected driver's blood may be taken without his consent. In such cases, a judge, after receiving an application to take such a sample, must be convinced that there exist reasonable grounds to believe that you are driving while impaired and that you were involved in an accident which caused injury

or death. However, you must be unable to give your consent. For instance, an unconscious or hysterical driver, or one in an advance state of intoxication, cannot give his consent. Furthermore, a physician must be of the opinion that the taking of such a sample would not endanger the person's health.

Needless to say, if you are found guilty of impaired driving, the consequences are serious. In the case of a first offence, a minimum of three hundred dollars (\$300.) may be imposed. For a second offence, a minimum of fourteen (14) days imprisonment is provided for. Subsequent offences provide for an imprisonment of at least ninety (90) days.

In addition, provincial legislation provides that your driver's licence will be revoked for six (6) months following the first offence and for twelve (12) months in the case of a second or subsequent offence during the three (3) years which follow.

When you think about it, it might be a better idea to take a cab the next time you have a few drinks.