

## The Living to Learn program

The question has often been asked, "How can life outside the classroom contribute to the academic success of students?". The most obvious answer is to find environments where one may somehow provide experiences which contribute to learning. One such place is the Residence Community. Nowhere else in the university setting does one find an environment where students live and breathe the university campus life, where the collegiate atmosphere can contribute to well-rounded visions, and where structures exist to ease the implementation of programs. With this in mind, the UNB Office of the Dean of Residence has implemented a special program entitled the *Living to Learn Program (LLP)*.

One goal of the program is to foster commitment, thereby creating groups of students with similar academic goals. In such a group one will find students who know that their peers are equally committed, and will therefore be more likely to share in supporting one another. The strategy associated with this goal involves getting each potential member of a *Living to Learn* area to produce a short description of themselves, and why they feel they would like to reside in an LLP. This strategy is not applied solely to incoming students, but also to returning students because experienced and enthusiastic upperclass students can have a tremendous impact as positive role models and peers.

Another goal of the program is to foster respect and thus create groups of students who are conscientious about how their actions affect the lives of their co-residents. There one will find students who have respect for each other as individuals, which will allow the students to reach their goal of academic achievement without fear of negative peer-pressure. And just as importantly, in an environment conducive to study. The strategy associated with this goal builds upon the value of commitment. By communicating to the residents that they are all seeking the same academic goal, it is expected that they will be understanding of the needs of others in the *Living to Learn* program.

The last goal is to provide support, thereby creating groups of students who have access to the tools necessary to achieve their academic goals. There one will find students able to benefit from group and peer mentoring. The strategy associated with this goal involves the placement of Academic Resource Persons (ARP). The ARP's act as the real mainstay of the program and serve the program goals in both informal and formal ways. Informally, they maintain regular contact with the *Living to Learn* residents with respect to their academic interests and concerns so that they can provide those residents with peer Counselling and timely access to university resources. In addition, the ARP functions more formally by organizing in-house programming. These programs range in content and are designed to provide the student with interesting and useful information in either a workshop or a forum setting.

By combining groups of committed students with experienced and enthusiastic residence personnel, the *Living to Learn* program seeks to provide all of its' participants with a worthwhile educational experience.

## Aitken House



"A-I-T-K-E-N H-O-U-S-E" is proudly taught to every frosh lucky enough to enter the ranks of the MEN OF AITKEN. This chant, as well as many other now famous house songs, can be heard anywhere that Aitken House goes, especially across the Varsity Mania field. Ever since the beginning of the varsity residence challenge Aitken has rarely lost the distinction of top honours.

This is not something new for Aitken though, as its members are quite used to the fact of being on top of things. In the

# National Residence News

## York's residence reacts to recent harassment charge

by Yolana Bowen

TORONTO (CUP)

The dismissal of a York University college don last year on charges of sexual harassment has forced officials at York's Stong College residence to find new ways of dealing with abuse against women.

"The officials of the college are trying to eradicate all forms of sexual harassment at Stong College," said Residence Tutor Andy Knight.

Stong is tightening up its don selection process and working with a sexual harassment and a race and ethnic relations

officer to sensitize its selection committee, he said.

Knight said committee members will be trained to "ask pointed questions about how individuals should respond to particular cases [of assault or harassment] through the use of scenarios."

The college will also check the history of would-be dons. Other York colleges use extended portering hours, stressing the importance of signing-in visitors and having an escort service made up of residence students to make their residences safer.

Several residence students at York have complained of harassment.

## Fast food not the answer to catering problems

by Mike Adler

TORONTO (CUP)

Marriott Corporation should improve regular meal service at York University before it crowds cafeterias with name-brand junk food, say student representatives.

More Marriott-run Tim Horton's stands and Pizza Hut concessions are not the answer to York's catering problems, members of a working group told food services director Norm Crandles.

Crandles had hoped to gain support for a plan he said would offer residence students on meal plans what they really want: pizza, donuts, hamburgers, and submarines from famous chains.

In return for permission to open the concessions, Marriott Corporation would agree to spend \$1.8 million on renovations. Its catering contract would also be renewed for up to 10 years.

"I don't think residence students necessarily want all this fast food because we're saturated with it already," said Laurie Alphonse, representing York students with disabilities.

"You can't eat that food every day or else you will wind up looking like a box," she said.

Marriott's proposal is "overkill" if its main purpose is to feed York's small residence population, said Student Centre general manager Rob Castle, who charged the name-brand outlets are a bid to grab sales from other campus food vendors.

Castle said sales at a pizza outlet in the centre's food court fell 27 percent after a Pizza Hut opened in another campus building, last fall.

He added vendors in York Lanes mall, a commercial mall on campus, have promised to join centre officials and food court tenants in fighting the brand-name outlets. "If this proposal goes forward, I assure you we will take every legal recourse possible."

But Crandles said there is more than enough student money to go around, and that a market research study paid for by Marriott will prove it.

"The professionals think it's a joke that we only do as little business as we do," he said, adding residence students will be unhappy without the famous fast food.

## U of M students expelled for writing violent letters

by Janet Wong

WINNIPEG (CUP)

The University of Manitoba expelled two students in December for distributing a sexually explicit and violent letter to women living in a university residence.

The men were suspended because of a "secret friend" letter they wrote. "Secret friends" is a game where anonymous letters are sent between male and female students on a particular floor of the residence.

The letter - which led to the investigation, eviction and suspension of the students - contained sexually explicit

descriptions of gang rape, sexual violence and torture. It was distributed in the residence last fall. The university launched an investigation after parents of one residence student alerted campus police.

But several women living in the residence said the letter was meant as a joke, and wasn't intended to be seen by anyone outside of residence.

One student said she isn't worried about safety at the residence and didn't think the letter was harassing or threatening.

"I thought (the incident) was way overblown. We get letters like that all the time. Every single year, it's the same," she said.

last 35 years of blood donor clinics on campus, Aitken has had the lowest attendance percentage only twice. That's a lot of blood and spirit.

Again Aitken can be well known for many things, but especially its high quality social environment. Who has a better social!!!? It was in the year of 1971-72 that an Aitken Social Rep. decided to do something different. He arranged an 'open' house social better known at the time and for years to come, as a 'Pub'. This was the first ever on campus and led to the steady schedule of house socials today. And it is quite obvious that one or two other houses liked our idea and jumped on the bandwagon.

The largest and most original social is still Aitken's CLUB MED Social, now in its fifth year. 10 tons of sand, 100 Aitken Animals, and a few drinks; a good time is bound to be had by everyone!

The Aitken social scene continues with other socials, the infamous house formal, the outrageous Aitken week, and this year the 35th reunion of the MEN OF AITKEN.

This reunion is not a new idea to Aitken, as the house has an active alumni. This can be seen from the fact that the house had its 30th reunion in 1988. Aitken's alumni is a very diverse group, with people in all aspects of the community, as well as the university community. The men all have one thing in common though, and that is the leadership and sense of spirit that was instilled in them while their stay at Aitken

House.

Ever since the founding of Aitken in 1958 the MEN OF AITKEN have been continually trying to improve themselves as well as the overall residence community. This is currently evident with the implementation of the "Living to Learn" program in the House. With this program still in its pilot stage, Aitken House is again put on the leading edge of the residence community.

It is quite easy to see that for the past 35 years Aitken House has been the place to be, and it is even more clear, that it will continue to be the place to be well into the future.

A-I-T-K-E-N H-O-U-S-E

Written by House members.

## OTHER RESIDENCES:

Bridges House

Tibbits House

Neil House

MacKenzie Residence

and McLeod House