

Dean of Residence Craighead responds

by Gordon Loane
Brunswickan News

UNB's Dean of Residence is disputing comments by Neill House residents that he lacks authority to dissolve the House Committee.

Residents referred to a section of the House Constitution which states that a member cannot be removed unless they resign, are voted out, or fall below the 2.0 GPA requirement.

But Dean John Craighead says after research he conducted, it's quite clear that House Committee's have no legal existence within the *University of New Brunswick Act*, the provincial legislation which sets out UNB's legal structure.

"They are not recognized as University bodies, their Constitutions are not ratified by the University in any way," Craighead stated.

Craighead cites Section 36 (c), (h) and (w) of the *UNB Act* which indicates that authority is granted to take what ever steps are necessary for the management and good government of the University. The authority is granted to impose fines and other penalties and sanctions.

To further his argument, he cites Section 36 of the *UNB Act*, which shows that the University's Board of Governors delegates this authority to the President who then delegates it to the Dean of Residence.

Craighead says he dissolved the House Committee for specifically three reasons.

"Problems in the House stemmed from activities that the House Committee organize, and I believe they encouraged the behaviour," he said.

"There were rumors (not true) going

around that quiet hours had been extended in the House," he continued.

"I personally witnessed members of the House Committee in the room where excessive amounts of alcohol were being consumed."

The Dean cited as a second reason, the recent disruption in the House (incidents on January 19 and 20) which were not in the best interest of the House.

"The House Committee has a responsibility to act in the interest of the House," Craighead stated.

"I believe the level of intoxication and loutish behaviour were not in the best interests of the House."

Thirdly, Dean Craighead maintains that the University has a fiduciary responsibility about both the activities of the House Committee and the funds of the House Committee.

"The Residence Representative Board (RRB) has acknowledged that if the University was going to collect House fees, then, to a certain extent, the House Committee needed to be accountable to the University," he said.

Craighead also expanded on the reasons why, in his opinion, the House Committee violated the Alcohol Policy, Quiet Hours, and general standards of conduct.

The Dean referred to the Alcohol Policy which is handed out to both House Committees and individual residents.

The policy states that a primary concern is the health and safety of members of the community.

Impairment is prohibited according to the policy.

"It doesn't say it is prohibited in the lounge, rooms and hallways," he pointed out. "It says it's prohibited, period."

Craighead points to three incidents

following the January 19 and 20 Neill House party where no one seemed to have a primary concern for health and safety.

"One town student was carried out of Neill House intoxicated and I sent two people home with him to look after him," the Dean reported.

"A second student from Neill House ended up over in Tilley Hall with no shoes and no shirt looking for his English class on a Saturday morning."

"Another person had passed out in the basement of the House in a puddle of 'Moose Milk,'" Craighead said.

The Dean said he personally witnessed an incident in one room where there was both abusive consumption of alcohol and where alcohol was being provided to obviously impaired person(s).

Craighead claims the House Committee raised technical arguments when confronted about alcohol policy violations.

"They want to argue that drinking out of buckets is ok because the alcohol policy says they can't do that in the lounge, but it doesn't say specifically that they can't do that in the rooms," he continued.

"No one in their right mind would sit and argue that one should drink out of a bucket any place."

"House Committee members raised a technical argument that we couldn't prove underage drinking [had occurred] because we didn't check for identification," Craighead said.

"It's a House that's approximately 60 percent freshmen this year and the majority of the House was drinking."

"So it's quite clear that underage people were drinking," he concluded.

The Dean dismissed arguments that no drinking took place in the hallways of Neill.

"All my evidence from UNB Security and the Don is that they were out in the halls drinking liquor," said Craighead. "I met one of them in the halls drinking liquor."

Craighead claims residents clearly violated residence quiet hours "by blaring their music beyond the House walls and by hanging out the windows and yelling obscenities at people at 7 o'clock in the morning and doing moose calls."

The Dean said there are general standards of conduct in society and in the residence community.

"I wonder why it should be written down that you can't lean out of the

windows and holler obscenities at people," he stated.

Craighead cited two sections of the residence contract to further illustrate his point.

Section 10 (b) states that residents should avoid nuisance and disturbance to other occupants of similar rented premises.

Section 21 states that conditions for the possession and consumption of alcohol in residence apply to all residents and their guests.

Next week Dean Craighead responds to other matters in Neill House in part four of our series.

Crumbs from the cookie jar

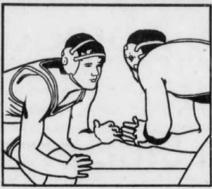
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\$374.50	River Boat rental
\$306.12	Dimitri's Slouvaki
\$145.00	The Lunar Rogue
\$119.96	Car rental
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\$65.16	Tingley's Save-Easy
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