

How long must we wait for suitable student housing?

Hundreds of students have had difficulties finding adequate housing and we feel it is time something is done to alleviate the perennial student housing shortage.

The opinion has been voiced that it is the university's responsibility to assure adequate housing for all students registering here. It's a point that cannot be ignored.

The housing problem affects the freshman class more than any other, and it is the freshman class that is least able to adjust to the problem. For many members of the freshman class it is the first time they have lived away from their families.

Leaving home to enter a foreign environment at university can be a harrowing experience without

having the trauma magnified by being forced to live in substandard housing or pay exorbitant rents.

The UNB accommodations office has performed well under the circumstances but the problem is unresolved. The housing problem appears to be getting worse each year and the only relief in sight is Statistics Canada's prediction of a decrease in enrollment in the 1980s.

Will the future freshman classes of UNB be forced to undergo the same experience until enrollment decreases?

What will happen if enrollment does not decrease?

Adequate housing is a necessary part of student life, as it is for anyone else. Some

preparations must be made now before the same situation arises next year.

It's disappointing that the university was unable to carry through their plans of constructing a "student village" of apartment buildings on university land near the corner of Regent and Montgomery streets; a plan that received serious consideration several years ago.

There have been rumors that those studying housing alternatives for UNB have considered a similar plan. We wish the planners success and speed if and when a

firm proposal is brought before the administration.

It appears apartment living is suitable to the needs and desires of most students and we feel it is time attempts are made to satisfy students' needs.

Supporting the housing survey to be undertaken this fall by the dean of students advisory committee on housing is one way students can make their feelings known. Please participate—it may mean the difference between freshmen spending the night on beds in McConnell Hall and sleeping in their own apartments.

Student's contributions needed

Monday, September 15, is the date of the first meeting of the University of New Brunswick Student Representative Council.

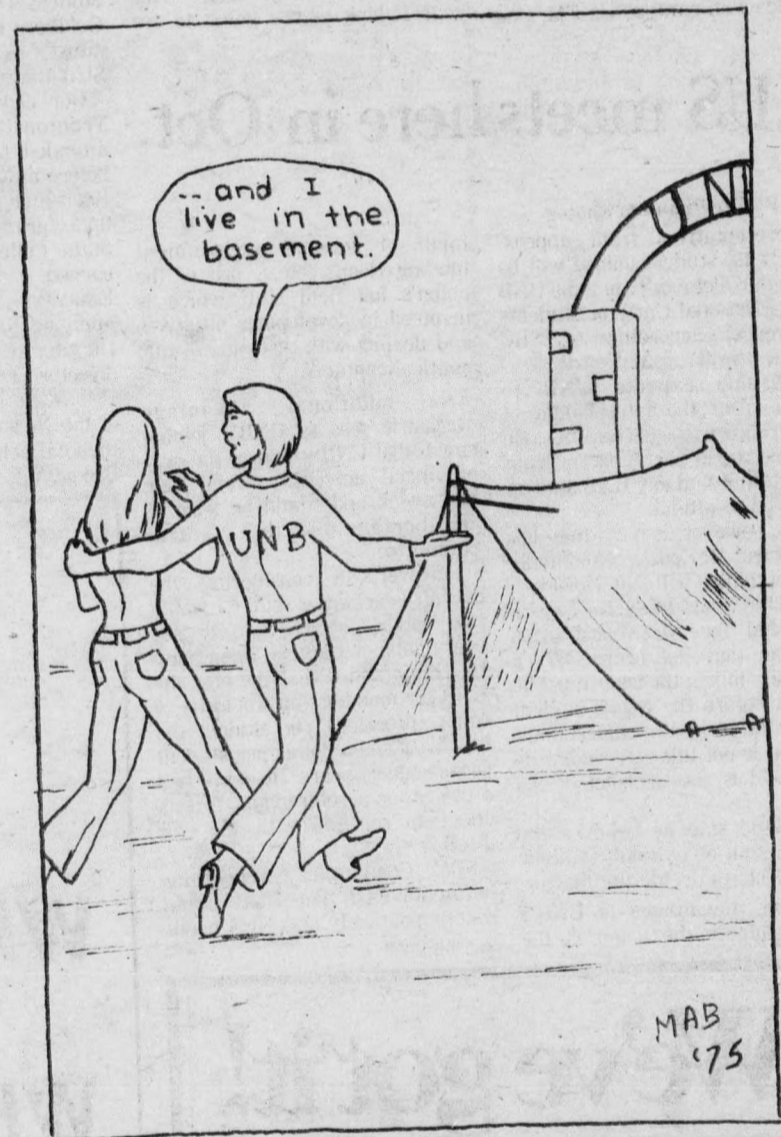
The 23-member student government meets each Monday in the council chambers situated in the Student Union Building and has a number of functions ranging from the promotion of student clubs and services to providing a forum for student opinions and perhaps most importantly, to channel their feelings into a strong, representative student voice in government and the community.

The Brunswickan attempts to watch the SRC not with hostility but with suspicion in the best interests of all UNB students. Our reports may for that reason carry more skepticism than applause but we must stress that the human failings of SRC representatives are made that much more obvious

when they are forced to spread their work between too few people.

The more people who summon the courage to approach members of council or otherwise commit themselves, the better the chances that student goals can be achieved. It takes many volunteers to make the provincial government feel it is worthwhile to discuss student requests for changes in student aid criteria. It takes expertise and enthusiasm to implement programs where students contribute to the betterment of the community outside the campus.

The Brunswickan is aware of the failings of the SRC and feels that those who do serve either as representatives or behind the scenes deserve a vote of confidence. The potential of such a group is great but will only be achieved by active support by students.



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