

water run is when the female residents, dressed in bathing suits under T-shirts and shorts, run by the front of the male residents as the male residents throw warm water on them. Participation for events such as these are strictly voluntary. The reasons I have been given for the rejection of the water runs include that the university would be liable if someone was to fall and hurt themselves, and there was no justifiable purpose for these runs.

The university is not liable due to the voluntary assumption of risk the students who participate would be accepting, and as for justifiable reason, I wonder if the Board of Don's has ever heard of FUN.

To end I would like to not this is not an isolated incident, and seems to have transpired do [sic] to the attitude the Board of Don's and Dean of Residence seem to possess. They act as if we students are just children and not capable of accepting responsibility or making responsible decisions. I wonder how these administrators, of infinite wisdom, expect us students to be able to learn how to deal with responsibility if we are never to be permitted to accept it? This attitude is definitely demeaning, and very much insulting. I must remind the Dean of Residence, and the Board of Don's that we students are the people who this university is here to accommodate, and benefit from, and at least our concerns, desires, and opinions on all issues pertaining to us have a right to be expressed.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Reid  
President of Neill House

## Riot!

Dear Editor,

The Neill House Committee would like to address the incident which took place late Friday evening in front of Bridges House. It was described as a riot by many onlookers, and nearly lost all control. The Neill House Committee can not condone the actions of the Bridges residents, but we can sympathize with and understand the emotions which led to these actions. This is a clear indication of how frustrated the residence community is towards attitudes and actions taken by the residence administration.

There was representation from much of the residence community at the gathering on Friday night. Students present voiced their displeasure towards the dean of residence rather than the troubles of Bridges House. In our opinion, the situation may well have been avoided if the decisions made by the administration had also reflected the views of the residents rather than only the views of the administration.

The event was unfortunate, and we hope the channels of communication will not be neglected in the future. We pay to stay give us a say!

Neill House Committee

## Totalitarian approach

Dear Editor,

I would like to express my sincere concern with the new and totalitarian approach taken by the Board of Dons in planning and scheduling next year's residence orientation program. While I have the highest respect for the Board's desire to curb the coercion and obscenity that has, at times, marred past Frosh Weeks, I am unable to support the means by which the Board hopes to achieve its objective.

The students who sit on the Neill House Orientation Committee have no urge to terrorize or intimidate our incoming freshmen. We understand that the transition into university life can be traumatic, and that new students are especially vulnerable and sensitive. At the same time, however, we realize that a wide range of enjoyable activities will encourage maximum freshman participation, and thereby allow even the shiest of students to meet new friends and become more comfortable with residence life.

The Board of Dons has chosen to permit only the events that it believes have "intrinsic value". The students who sit on the Neill House Orientation committee, despite our good intentions, have been denied the opportunity to present our perspective on the values underlying our proposed events. The result is that senseless (though harmless) activities like the traditional "water runs" have been prohibited and replaced with what the Board views as more intrinsically-valuable functions.

I am personally of the belief that plain old fun, however pointless it may be, is still a valuable pursuit. The move to restrict fun is not, in my opinion, the most discouraging aspect of the Board's actions. Rather, it is the arbitrariness of its decision-making and its complete disregard for the concerns of the residence community as a whole.

The real value of residence life is the community spirit it fosters. Individuals learn to tolerate others and to respect their beliefs. Residence students are forced, by the proximity of our living quarters, to cooperate with each other and to be considerate of our neighbors' interests. The Board of Dons, by closing its ears, is stripping residence life of its paramount redeeming quality. Please open your eyes; the collapse of the community has begun.

Yours Truly,  
Kelly VanBuskirk  
Pit Proctor, Neill House

## What a future

Dear Editor,

I am writing on behalf of the Harrison House 1991-1992 House Committee. I have personally been a resident of Harrison for 3 years and I am very concerned for the students who will be entering this community in the future. A com-

munity which I feel is rapidly becoming a system that is being dedicated by the Residence Administrators.

The administrators are constantly making changes that directly affect the 1,400 students who live in residence without offering any effective means for the students to offer their input. This is a problem that is showing no signs of improving and for this reason it is the responsibility of the student to do what he/she can to help cure the communication problems that now exists.

It has become increasingly evident over the past years that a new mentality has developed on the Board of Dons (the Board of Dons is an advisory board to the Dean of Residence). It is evident that the BOD has neglected the students that they represent and care very little to receive and consider inputs from their students. An example of this type of attitude was apparent in the Orientation Policy adopted this term. Student input was non-existent in the development of this policy until it was revealed to us and a counter-proposal had to be created.

Another concern of mine is the recent controversy surrounding the Administrations handling of Chuck Cosby day, an annual Bridges House tradition. The decision to ban all activities surrounding the entire day provoked the members to cause a great deal of damage to the building. I do not approve of the methods in which the members of the House went about proving their point to the administration. However, I feel that if there had been some type of compromise reached between the two parties the damages would not have occurred and some level of confidence would have been serviced in the students that the Residence Administration is willing to listen.

In closing I would like to say that as I look to the future I see the resident student becoming an even larger pawn in the Administrator's hands. The time has come for the students to speak up and demand to be heard. Student input into the policies and rules that govern us is imperative if we expect to have a respectable amount of control over our own lives.

Respectfully submitted  
Sean Daly  
President  
Harrison House

## Residence violations

Dear Editor,

I sit at my desk at 3:00 am, April 7, 1991. Two men from Bridges House are in my room. I do not know them but they are zealous, they feel violated and cannot understand why they have been treated so badly. They were told by police that if they left their room they would not be allowed to return even though they have committed no offence.

I have lived in residence for four years and have seen several periods

of turmoil. At the end of my residence life I see disturbing trends and attitudes developing in my peers. These trends and attitudes developed in the past six months and I believe they are a direct result of an apparent terrible lack of foresight or consideration by the residence administration specifically Mary Lou Stirling who ultimately enacts all residence wide policies.

The first indication of an insensitive administration was last year. The Residence Administration wished to ban offensive house songs. As Chairman of the Residence Representatives Board I agreed but was left with a feeling of not being consulted adequately. In the end a suitable agreement was reached as all concerned were pleased with the result.

As my term in office continued, I tried to bring the two advisory bodies for the dean of Residence, the Board of Dons, and the Residence Representatives Board, closer together. Joint meetings were held and they were quite productive.

In the past four months, two actions of the Residence Office have created widespread discontent throughout much of the community. The first was the Orientation policy which was brought down by Dean Stirling with the air of a dictator. No student was involved with the policy until after it was unveiled. A diplomatic and media battle was mounted by the RRB and in the end several dons had lost respect in their houses, and the dean had suffered a severe credibility blow in the eyes of many students.

This past weekend, Bridges house suffered from vandalism. The vandalism was a product of frustration caused by the actions of the Residence Administration. The Bridges Social, Chuck Cosby Award and Chuck Cosby day activities were all banned by the administration. Although I can see the problems with the award, I cannot understand why any administrator would deal such a blow to a group already frustrated by the orientation week changes and a very disrespected and non receptive don. Surely they should have anticipated some form of retaliation. At the time of writing, the Bridges House committee was been dissolved for about 10 days. The building is in a shambles and several students have been evicted close to exam time. Although they did break the rules, a more tactful approach by the administration could have relieved the problems surrounding the Chuck Cosby award, avoided severe hardship for students and an estimated \$2,000 damage, a bill that may be placed on the shoulders of the 1992-1993 residence students.

I was once told by a mentor at an engineering firm that it is much easier to clean dirt with many short pushes of the broom than one big sweep. I believe that "Stirling's big sweep" has risen for too much dust and it could take years to settle. The Residence Administration may see themselves as a monolith unscarred by the past days events. They may believe that the methods they have used to avoid

the pain caused to the recipient of "Chuck" were very effective. The administrations methods only served to cause much more pain to many people than any one "Chuck" recipient could have endured. I see the monolith has a huge gash in its side and virtually no support from the students it administers.

At the close of the debate over orientation policy, a round table discussion was held for the students and administrators involved. At that discussion I suggested that the administration had reinstated the classic "us vs. them" attitude and that they would have to work hard to gain respect. They agreed but obviously have succeeded in opening the gap to a new maximum.

As I prepare to leave UNB for another institution, I feel sad. The residence community I had grown to love is no more. The spirit is gone and nobody seems at ease. I had once hoped to send my children to UNB residence where they could learn valuable lessons about comradery, spirit and true friendship. As I leave, I can't see those lessons being so easy to learn.

In closing, I ask the administration to please consult students more often and try to act in a manner becoming a reasonable group. At times students feel as if they are at war with the residence administration when we haven't fired a shot. Bridges started to fight back with what they thought best. The problems we have seen over the administration that residence students are not receptive to dictatorial rule. It trivializes our role in our own government and demeans us. Residence students have valuable opinions, I hope all readers consider mine although I feel some of my words fall on deaf ears.

Concerned  
Dean Mullin  
Ex Chairman  
Residence Representatives  
Board

## Last notes

Dear Editor,

Okay, a few last things before the end of the year to say...

1) Chris Pollard: it's good to know someone other than Trevor Greenwood values my opinion, although you shouldn't thank God. Thank my parents. Lesbian Lizards?! Cool!

2) Robby Krieger: In reference to your column in "Rolling Jones" replace the word "bim" (bimbo, I assume) with the word "nigger" and people would call you a racist. I know it's suppose to be funny, but when derogatory terms have to be used, the humour is lost. You don't have to degrade and turn other people into objects at your disposal to make us laugh. And your supposed to be higher educated?! Think about it!

3) Bridges House: You're trashing the wrong things! Writing off your own residence? What are you crazy! Trash the squad cars, you fools! But seriously, all

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