

4 - THE YEAR WAS

ROOM RENOVATIONS MAY CREATE DIFFICULTIES IN STUDENT HOUSING

The University of New Brunswick has received a bonanza grant of \$313,000 from Sir Max Aitken through the Beaverbrook Foundation of Canada for the modernization of the Lady Beaverbrook Residence, the BRUNSWICKAN learned over the weekend.

LBR residents and the BRUNSWICKAN have been pushing for improvements in one of the first residences on campus which is still in use all fall. The Board of Governors found \$10,000 for immediate renovations.

In early November, Ron McBride, Development Officer for UNB, hinted, "An unnamed agency has been approached by the University to provide a considerable amount of money for the renovations to the Lady Beaverbrook Residence".

This figure of \$313,000 was the blanket estimate made by an architect last year of the cost of completely renovating the Residence.

UNB has been the recipient of many grants from the Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation. The last grant was for one million dollars to construct the Law Building, Ludlow Hall, presented at Convocation in 1967. Previous to that a gift of one and a half million dollars for the extensions to the gym was announced by Sir Max Aitken at Convocation ceremonies in 1966.

The Lady Beaverbrook Residence is in desperate need of repairs. It is a risk to be living in the building in its present condition. In 1969 a ceiling caved in. There are no fire alarms and insufficient fire extinguishers and fire exits.

The building was designed to house fifty students, but seventy-five men now live there. Although the official news release im-

by

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plies that the renovated building will accommodate seventy-five students, as it does now, it is probable that this number will be decreased.

Vice-President Macauley directly involved with the plans for the renovation, says, "I wouldn't be a bit surprised if the existing capacity is lessened".

He also suggests, "The Beaverbrook Foundation would not want radical changes to alter the building from the original concept, because of the connections with Lord Beaverbrook".

The building was a gift to the University from Lord Beaverbrook and was in tribute to his wife. Sir Max Aitken, the chairman of the Beaverbrook Foundation, is the Beaverbrook son.

The complete renovation of the building will begin with the resurfacing of all floors, walls, and ceilings. At present the plaster in walls and ceilings is chipped and cracked.

Closet space, drawer space and desk area for each student will be increased.

The plumbing system will be modernized and more bathroom facilities added. Present conditions are such that twenty people share three flushes, four sinks, and two showers.

In the dining hall of LBR the men have to file out through the kitchen to pick their meal cafeteria-style. This is inefficient for both the staff and the students. renovations will include the installation of a serving area, as well as kitchen improvements.

"The needs of the modern concept of a residence will be taken into account, including study areas, reading rooms and lounges," says Dr. Macauley.

The present lounge is a large foyer between the two entrances, with no particular colour scheme or style of decoration.

Anticipation of a new wing to the building will be considered in the restoration and redecoration of the Lady Beaverbrook Residence. The administration has hopes of eventually adding an extension to the building, but nothing definite is planned because of lack of money.

The disgraceful condition of the building was placed at the forefront of the House Committee of LBR in preparing a report comparing the facilities of LBR and Jones House. This report was presented to Dr. Macauley, L. Dawson and E. Roberts at a dinner at LBR, on October 14th.

The Alumni Association formed a committee and presented the report to the Board of Governors.

Variance of facilities between the two houses included detailed items such as forty cubic feet of closet space in Jones House as compared to fifteen cubic feet in LBR; the surface area of the desk in Jones House is nine square feet, as compared to five square feet at LBR.

On October 28th, the Board of Governors allotted \$10,000 for minor repairs to the residence, to be spent on what the students felt

were the most pressing needs.

The first four thousand dollars was spent on carpeting, lighting, and shelving for the residence library.

The rest is being used for the installation of mirrors, shelving, and luxu lamps in each student's room. On the first floor, bumpers and cork stripping is being put on doors opening to the corridors. The old door locks are being changed and new surface mounted locks are to be installed by the end of January. Fire extinguishers were recharged and new ones ordered.

These minor improvements don't scratch the surface of the intolerable situation at LBR.

Major renovations sponsored by the Beaverbrook Canadian Foundation, will begin at the end of this academic year. The Residence will be closed for at least one term next year while repairs are being made.

Temporary accommodation for the boys of LBR will be found by the Accommodations Officer, Mrs. Ruth Spicer. The Dean of Women, Mrs. Kidd, has suggested the Maggie Jean Residence might be used.

Drama Society Enters National Festival

This year the University of New Brunswick Drama Society has chosen as its entry in the Dominion Drama Festival the play "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead", by Tom Stoppard, a talented British playwright.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are two of Shakespeare's least memorable characters who appear briefly in "Hamlet" as old school friends of Hamlet sent as messengers by his uncle to probe the causes of his nephew's mental illness. However misunderstood and boring their roles as treated by Shakespeare, Tom Stoppard has given them a new lease of life as exceedingly comic characters.

The plot of the play is an extremely ingenious scheme of drama, where Rosencrantz and Guildenstern fall in with a troupe of actors on the way to Elsinore Castle, Hamlet's home, and are given the business of acting as audience for them. This is the same troupe who later play before the king in a play written by Hamlet as a

parody upon his father's death, and designed to hopefully unnerve his uncle.

Once at Elsinore, the plot of Hamlet is again visibly present with a great deal of dashing to and fro by a wildly distraught Hamlet. Following the pattern of Shakespeare's play, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are sent off to England by ship, with Hamlet and a letter from the king instructing the English to kill his nephew. Once on board ship the troupe again appears, and after the ship has been attacked by pirates - with whom Hamlet escapes leaving his old friends with a similar letter instructing the English to kill Rosencrantz and Guildenstern - they perform a final play for their audience of two. It is a re-enactment of the last scene of Hamlet and, as Guildenstern's last words in the play are spoken, the whole scene changes to the actual death scene in Elsinore Castle, where two English ambassadors appear to communicate to Horatio the news that "Rosen-

crantz and Guildenstern are dead".

Stoppard portrays Rosencrantz and Guildenstern as not the brightest young men in the world, showing a tendency to confuse their own identities, and as the play develops not having a clue what is going on in the Castle, plus the added confusion in continuously forgetting their own mission. He makes their death a very sad little affair indeed, leaving one not a little discomforted.

This play is a recent production whose premiere was held on October 10, 1964 at the Alvin Theatre, New York, in what the "New Yorker" described as "an outstanding, witty and trenchant performance." A refreshing change from the more obscure efforts of the UNB Drama Society, "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" promises to be a very entertaining performance, and well worth a visit to the Playhouse on February 23th, 24th and 25th.

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