

Women In Men's Residences

(From page 5)

ber of forms that were returned that many Canadian universities have a system of open rooms with very little or no restriction." He said that according to replies from England there is no restriction at all on having female guests.

"Overall, we found that most progressive schools had open rooms," said Bird. "It was mainly religion-backed institutions such as St. FX that had restrictions".

Dr. MacKay assured the house presidents that he would look into the matter immediately, and take it to the Board of Deans. In January, the president told Bird that he "hadn't had time to look over the things that had been discussed over two and a half months before."

The house presidents decided to take the question back to the houses. "We found that on the whole members overwhelmingly supported open rooms, and we took this as a mandate to press for open rooms," said Bird. An ultimatum was drawn up — either promise to do something on the open room question or the houses would declare open rooms in all the residences the following Friday night. The ultimatum was not presented, however, because two presidents were not in favor of doing this. Said Bird, "Those two felt we should give the university administration a chance to do something about it." (Bird learned that a source which we shall not print, had said that, "the presidents behind the matter, though representing the feelings of their houses, would be thrown out of university if the open rooms were declared.")

Dr. MacKay promised again to take the matter to the Board of Deans. The issue had now moved into March and finally the dons met with Dean Grant and Dr. MacKay. The President said that any changes to be made should be effected at the beginning of the next (i.e. this) year. "This was the promise that ended last year," said Bird. "The student body has as yet heard nothing from Dean Grant, Dr. MacKay, or anybody on the question of open rooms. It is now the end of the second month."

"We feel Dr. MacKay was using the Board of Deans as an excuse to put this matter off last year, since he controls the Board," said Bird.

Two committees, however, the Residence Council and the Residence Representative Council, have been set up by the administration and the house presidents respectively.

The Brunswickan spoke to Mr. Jack Iwanicki, Don of Aitken House about the Residence Council. He said that the dons did meet with the Board of Deans last spring and that shortly after came the decision to set up the Residence Council.

"One of the committee's goals is to clear channels of communication for future proposals," said Mr. Iwanicki. "They are making an examination that is really crucial and that perhaps should have been done earlier. Social regulations will be just one aspect of it. On the whole it will be a broad look."

The Residence Representative Council, consisting of the eight house presidents, has also been newly formed (Brunswickan, Nov. 3). This council meets every Tuesday and will hear out any student inclined to procrastination.

Alf Brien, President of Aitken House, stressed that this is the first year that the house presidents have met regularly. "Success," he said, "will depend upon how well we establish ourselves before attacking our problems." The Council does not yet have a spokesman.

Establishment of these committees should be encouraging (if only slightly) to the student body. The administration has at last set up a council to deal specifically with the residence system. The house presidents are now meeting regularly to form (we suppose) a united front for their wants and wishes. We must, however, withhold our applause: to be perfectly honest we have as yet seen virtually nothing of them. The future will tell of their success or failure.

But what of immediate

needs? Must we wait patiently for the committee wheels to begin turning, for the channels to be cleared? Must what is amiss in the system NOW wait until the councils have completed their "full studies" and have presented their recommendations?

Nothing has been done. Equally as obvious, something should be done. Until the report has been completed and the administration has decided to act, some measures, however temporary, are in order. We hope that students who have opinions on this matter will not be afraid to press for what they believe should be done.

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