

## OPEN ROOMS - CLOSED MINDS

For the nth time in recent memory the interests of the student body have been betrayed. It does not matter whether by naive student representatives, or by the Barrabasses in the Administration — the damage is done.

The SRC has once again failed to stand by a course of action which it irrevocably committed itself. Instead, like an ostrich with its head in the sand, it has acquiesced to the most shameful and degrading, stringent set of rules that has ever been imposed on a supposedly mature member of a university community.

We cannot but utter our dismay and nausea at such an occurrence. If we fail to attain the representation which we so badly need, or settle for less than what is rightfully ours, we will have kept this university morassed in the decay of conservatism, tethered as a fool among our peers, and an anachronism without equal.

And so the Senate laboured and brought forth "open rooms". They have opened the men's residences for two evenings and an afternoon in a grudging concession to the 1960's.

If the worthy members of the Senate believe that the denial of a freer open rooms policy would have provoked demonstrations or embarrassing riots, they were happily misled and deluded. With little more than sullen grumbling in their beer the residence sheep would have accepted for yet another year their celibate status.

If the student body believes it has earned any real concession from their vaunted committee or Senate it is also sadly and foolishly dreaming.

Instead they have been granted a castrated open room policy replete with a battery of unwholesome rules that so precisely reflect the prejudices and perverted preconceptions of the rule-makers.

Implicit in the rules is the untenable assumption that sexual intercourse is an attendant corollary of privacy. We beg to differ, for those persons who are intent on engaging in premarital sex will do so irrespective of open doors or of any other pose of surrogate parenthood assumed by the university. The open doors and spot checks with their seedy overtones of voyeurism only deprive people of their legally recognized claim to privacy.

The entire revision of the open room policy negates the basic principles underlying the university and its now emphatically hollow assumption of the residence system as an integral part of the institution. It negates the students claim as a mature individual capable of administering his personal life with discretion and freedom in the residence context. And most frightening it negates the elementary democratic principle of individual responsibility as it assigns collective guilt for any infraction of those rules.

It is this element that is most potentially disruptive and corrosive to relationships within the House as it reveals an ugly precedent of externally imposed rules being passed under the shabby guise of self-discipline.

For the residence students there is only one choice. They must recognize that the rules governing open rooms are a hypocritical trespass on their rights as student citizens; and as paying boarders in a residence system, visits of any kind are an unalienable right — not any form of privilege. Any decisions regarding open rooms should be ratified by the individual houses only, and must be based on democratically acceptable standards of common courtesy and discretion, not on any transplanted morals code.

For its part the SRC must immediately reject the present conditions as they directly contradict the spirit and intent of its resolutions favouring a genuine open rooms policy.

The Senate and administration must finally realize that they concede the students nothing when they officially sanction what is rightfully theirs. The administration's attitude must shift from a paternal granting of favours to legitimized co-operation based on mutual respect and good faith.

Then the real concession would have been made — to education and the university.

## EXCERPTS FROM THE STUDENT-SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

The parietal rules governing the men's residences should be altered to permit residents to receive women guests in their rooms on Friday and Saturday evenings between 8:00 p.m. and midnight, and on Sunday afternoons between 1:00 and 6:00 p.m. There should, however, be rules to govern the exercise of this privilege, and these rules should provide:

- (a) A system under which a resident receiving a woman guest in his room shall be required to sign a register when the lady enters and leaves the residence.
- (b) During the visiting hours, there shall be spot checks.
- (c) The doors of rooms in which women are guests must remain open.
- (d) A system of fines shall be established, with a maximum of \$25 imposed by the house disciplinary committee on a student breaking the regulations, and with a house penalty to be imposed by the residence dons and the Dean of Men's Residences on a house in which a student violates the regulations. (The student may in the case of a serious offence be removed from the residence.)
- (e) There shall be an annual review of the regulations governing visiting privileges in the light of the experience of the year under review. This review shall be conducted by the University Residence Board, in consultation with the Dean of Men's Residences, the dons, and the Residence Representative Council.
- (f) The University Residence Board shall be vested with power to modify the regulations, but not to expand the visiting privileges.

## A Petition of Our Own

On page one of this issue of the Brunswickan a petition circulated in some city congregations in recent days opposing the granting of a liquor licence to the Faculty Club is printed in its entirety.

Being almost at a loss for words we decided that a petition of our own would be appropriate:

We the undersigned strongly protest the circulation of a petition opposing the granting of a liquor licence to the Faculty Club of the University of New Brunswick by a group whose very actions show that they are little qualified to offer criticism of a community they do not understand nor are a part of.

In light of a Christian Church's responsibility to its congregation, we consider it an unforgivable sin that this mis-spent energy was not directed to the heretical hypocrisy, prejudice, racial discrimination and poverty which exists in certain areas of this capital city, if not to issues that affect the world at large.

As a religious centre of New Brunswick, we feel that the Churches of the Fredericton area should set the tone of the community not only secularly but temporally.

For these reasons and many others we condemn the actions of the Temperance Union and all those who associate themselves with it.

## Do You Care?

Do you care about your university?

On January 31, students of UNB will have an opportunity to demonstrate their concern as they go to the polls to elect a new student council.

In past years the turnout has been far from heartening, candidates far from outstanding, and the result far from encouraging.

It almost has become a tradition for past

Brunswickan Editors to urge the student body to get out and vote. But this we shall not do this year.

What we shall do in the coming weeks as the candidates platforms become known, is present them to you as clearly and concisely as possible. We hope they will receive your close study.

After all, the electorate only gets what they deserve.

## Brunswickan

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