

House committee reinstated

Jones House residents return

By JOHN KNECHTEL
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A week of controversy, emotions and some bitterness came to a quiet end last Friday when three representatives of Jones House negotiated an agreement with the university administration.

The conflict began Sunday, September 7 with the initiation of Jones freshmen. Though the initiation was voluntary and essentially harmless it went against the express wishes of the Don of Jones, David Brecacian. The result was the September 8 expulsion of Kevin Ratcliff, house committee president.

Embittered by what they felt was an extreme action, the Jones residents passed a petition in support of Mr. Ratcliff's position and informed the news media in Fredericton.

At a house meeting Monday night the don and house members exchanged views in a heated debate which, though achieving no real changes in attitude, did allow the two sides an opportu-

ity to establish their positions and consider other perspectives of the situation.

On Thursday all residents of Jones received a letter from the Dean of Men's Residences Bob Smith informing them that the house would be closed effective Sunday September 14 and that it would only be reopened under certain circumstances. The two contentious terms to be imposed on the residents were that there would be no house committee operating in Jones house and that all those wanting to remain in residence would have to reapply and would be placed on the waiting list if accepted.

On the advice of four lawyers, who questioned the legality of the of the readmission forms and considered them an admission of guilt, 90 of 100 residents did not reapply. Many of those that did were students on academic probation or scholarships who could not afford to jeopardize their situation.

The meeting Friday between Jones House representatives and university president James

Downey, along with the other administration officials, resulted in a written apology from the members of Jones House for any actions contrary to university regulations, the reinstatement of their house committee, and the automatic readmission of all Jones residents, save for Kevin Ratcliff.

In a brief written statement to the press, Dr. Downey said it was

the express wishes of the university and students to put the

matter behind them and that no further public statements would be made by either side.



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