

## Smith refuses interview

# Residence bars to close

By JOHN KNECHTEL  
Brunswickan Staff

Residence bars will be closed permanently effective April 5. In a meeting with Robert Smith, dean of men's residences and the dons of all houses it was decided to close the bars because, according to a memo issued by Dean Smith "...the regulations governing the operation of house bars have been and continue to be, flagrantly violated."

The main reason given in the memo for the action was that "the Dons concede that attitudes and conditions are such that they cannot maintain sufficient control...to ensure that the regulations...are enforced." LBR Don Donald Flemming said the action was initiated both by the dons and by Smith. He said the dean was looking for the dons' "determination."

Dean Smith refused to comment or answer questions on the situation saying his release was self-explanatory. Don of Jones House Dave Bresacin and Bridges Don Harold Sharp also refused to comment. Several members of the board of dons were unavailable for comment at press time.

"It is very distressing that Dean Smith is not willing to communicate with the students and is being most uncooperative with the presses' attempts to glean information," said SRC President Kevin Ratcliff.

Neville House President-elect Grant Walker said his house committee had not been approached as did Jones President Richard Cote. "There has been no communication throughout the year, and this has

developed many of the problems that exist," said Walker. Bridges President Andy Werster agreed the dean should be more accessible to the press and students.

Was Smith justified in his move? House presidents disagree. Werster said his committee has stuck to regulations and has "gone to great lengths" to ensure the rules were followed. Walker commented that his house had been "bending them (the regulations) quite a lot...we can't fight it that way. He (Dean Smith) should have been more actively involved in keeping an eye on the bars operation. We didn't know what he wanted." Aitken President Chris McGee agreed he was unsure of the regulations in question and thus could not "know whether we broke them or not." Cote said his house had "basically stuck to the rules." Other presidents were not available for comment.

Fredericton lawyer Tom Evans said if the liquor control board has not approached Smith or the residences with a complaint about the operation of the bars then they are still as legally sound as they were at Christmas.

"As far as I know no one from the (liquor control) board has contacted the university since their meeting last term," said Flemming. "Sure the bars are illegal - they are a special circumstance - but without them we would have no control over drinking in residence," said Werster.

Evans also said Smith does not have the final say in the matter and that it could go to the board of deans and possibly the board of governors, which has the final say.

# African Student Union splits

By PETER F. KUITENBROUWER  
Brunswickan Staff

The very young administration of Kevin Ratcliff has its first major challenge: reconciling two feuding sections of the African Student Union.

The union members disagree about who is in the right in Ethiopia -- the Soviet backed and Cuban supported government or the liberators of Oromo, a territory under the regime's control.

The result of the disagreement is that the union is split into two groups, both of whom

claim to be the legitimate authority of the body. The battling factions called Ratcliff to sort it out.

A letter printed in *The Brunswickan* (The African Student Union's view: on the Oromo Issue--*The Brunswickan*, Feb. 20) argued the Ethiopians now dominate an innocent people. This article, by M. Kamara and others, though supported by the union's executive, apparently did not reflect the majority view of the union.

One faction thus rebelled and held a special union meeting. There they decided to remove

the old executive and appoint a "caretaker committee" while waiting to hold new elections.

The ousted president and his supporters did not take this 'coup d'etat' lying down.

The problem is that the union's constitution allows members to hold such a special meeting when 50 per cent plus one of the group agree to do so. Former union president Ernest Jones says he saw the petition asking for support for the meeting when it contained only 10 signatures from legitimate club members, hardly 50 per cent of the union's 32 members. However,

the rebellious 'caretaker committee' has a copy of the petition with the signatures of 18 union members.

"They have large differences of opinion," said Ratcliff following a 2 1/2 hour attempt to resolve the split. "About the only thing they agreed on is that they have 32 members."

The 'caretaker committee' wrote to Ratcliff twice, asking for recognition as the union's public voice. They say the original executive mismanaged affairs, and they want a new election.

The original executive wants to appoint a new body to take

care of the finances.

Ratcliff feels the only way out is to hold new elections on March 22. "We don't want to get involved in their internal politics. They have to do everything according to their constitution."

"I've asked them to send me a letter naming a third party to run the election. I suggested Doreen Kissick, UNB's foreign student advisor."

"Whether they manage to agree on this or not, there will be a union election March 22," Ratcliff said. He concedes however, that he'd rather not step in directly.

## UNB students may be eligible for loan rebate

By GORDON LOANE  
Managing Editor

UNB students graduating this year may be eligible to apply for a rebate on part of their student loans. Evelyn Briggs, director of the student aid branch of the New Brunswick department of youth, said NB students can apply under the New Brunswick loan remissions program. The closing date for applications is December 31 but students are

urged to apply soon.

To be eligible, NB students must be graduating this year and have a Canada student loan debt in excess of \$3,000 while attending a university in New Brunswick. Loans incur-

red after the first four years of study will not be eligible for a rebate. A complete transcript of marks must also accompany the application form.

Complete details on the loan remission program are

available from the Department of Youth, Recreation and Cultural Resources, Student Aid Branch, P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, N.B. E3B 5H1 or may be obtained at room no. 679, 6th floor, York Towers, Kings Place, Fredericton. Students are responsible for obtaining their own application forms and according to the Dept. of Youth the forms for the loan remission program will not be mailed out automatically.

## More on smell

For a little while at least, it was thought that the source of the mysterious smell in the science library had been found, according to Assistant Vice-President Eric Garland. The Geology Department came forward with the information that they had started a particular activity in February (when the smell was first noticed) and which could produce odours. The activity ended a few days ago and for two or three days, the smell in the library was not noted. Unfortunately the smell came back and on a couple of days this week it was quite troublesome.

The librarians have been opening all the doors and turning on fans every time the smell occurs, in addition to warning those people in the library. Garland said he has hired the Research and Productivity Council (RPC) to determine the nature of the smell, but at press time, RPC had not given any report.