

LBR to go Co-ed Amid Controversy

By PETE GIRHURU
Brunswickan Staff

Yes, it's official. The University residence system is breaking with tradition in the coming academic year with the introduction of a co-ed residence. Last week the Lady Beaverbrook Residence (LBR) was chosen as the first residence to become co-ed.

Starting in September, approximately half the rooms will be occupied by women. Indications are that demand for co-ed residences is high, with interest being expressed even before its introduction was confirmed. If, indeed, there is a greater demand for places than the 30 or so available at LBR, there is a strong possibility that another men's residence will be converted.

The University administration has planned for a while to introduce co-ed residences, and a Joint Board/Senate Committee on the Residences approved the idea three years ago. It is also thought that the administration plans to do away with the Men's and Women's residence systems and integrate them into a single residence system. Dean Smith's successor as Dean of Men will be offered

only a one year term, which as added to the speculation.

The present residents of LBR have expressed varying opinions on the subject. They had a chance to ask questions and say what they thought during a special house meeting last week. Don Flemming assured them that the chances of getting back into the house are about the same as before.

Controversy, however, surrounded the new application forms, on which the applicant is asked to indicate the kind of lifestyle he/she wishes to live in, with no space for choice of particular houses as in the past. However, Dean Smith said that the applicant may still write the name of a preferred house on the form.

Many were unhappy because it appeared that their opinions had been ignored and some major decisions were based on the results of an obscure questionnaire handed out earlier in the year. Dean Smith countered this by saying that change would never occur if they waited for everyone to be in favour.

The LBR men were told that their house had been chosen because it is the smallest and converting it would mean giving up fewer men's beds to women and avoid changing the ration.

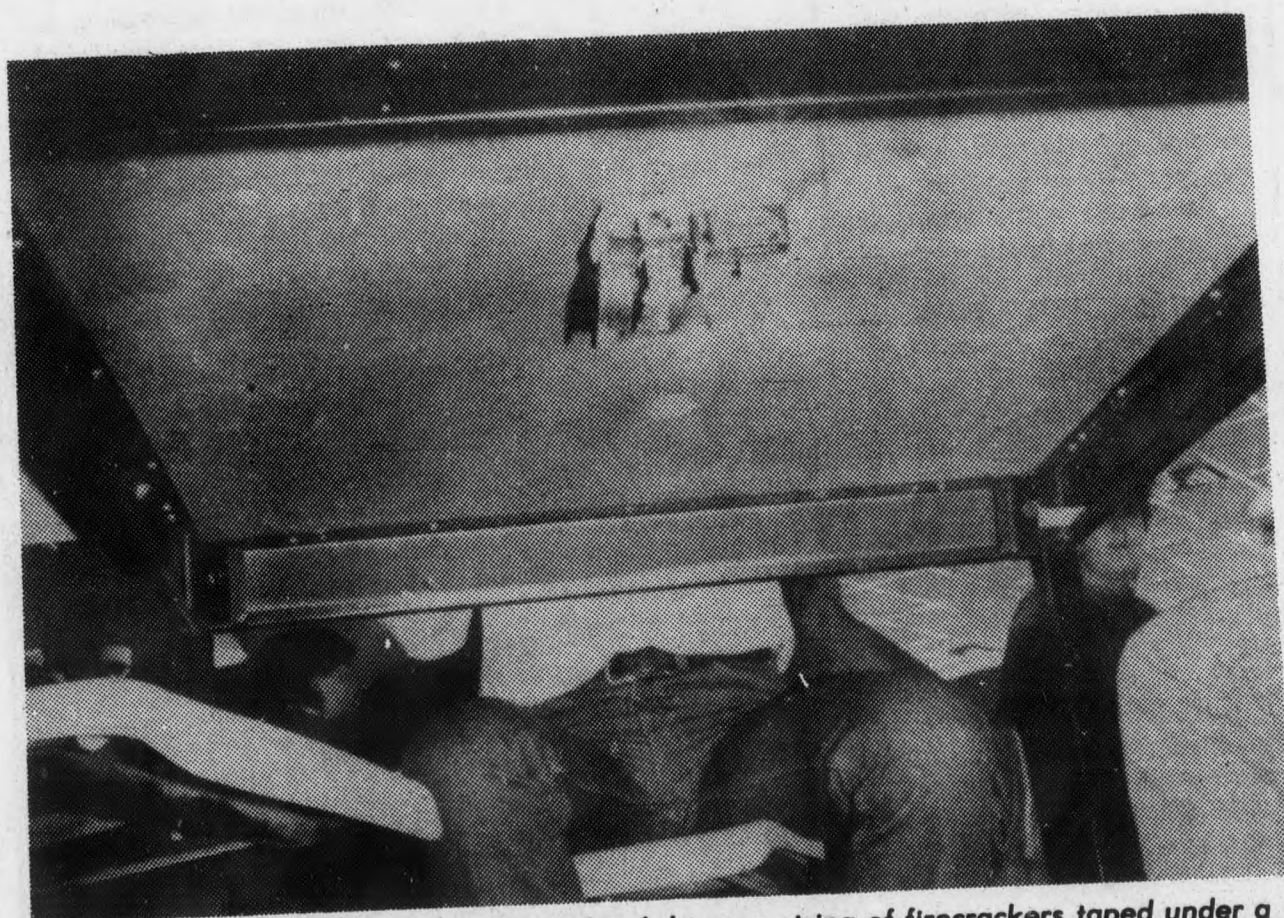
LBR was designed by the First Lady Beaverbrook and was built between 1928 and 1930. For many years it was the only residence on campus and has the longest and

richest history. Now it is about to enter a new era. A few residents are concerned about future sports participation, and it appears that co-ed residences will be confined to the intramurals in sports such as volleyball and indoor soccer.

According to Dean Smith, co-ed residences have been a great success at other Maritime universities, as well as at the Maggie Jean Chestnut House. At Mt. Allison University he found the only problems encountered were during the first year after the change was made, after which it went smoothly.

Whether the boys and girls will be put in separate floors or wings, or whether they will simply be placed in alternate rooms, and whether first year students will be allowed into the residence, are issues which have yet to be decided.

Here is what a few residents had to say: Andy Gerber, ME 2 said, "I am opposed to the change and will be living in another residence next year. I don't think it is morally right for men and women to be living on top of each other seven days a week." Art Smith Ch. Eng. 2 stated, "It's great! I also think it's appropriate that LBR is the initiator. The only reasons some guys are opposed to it is because they feel they may not get back into the house or may not get nice rooms." Billy Dross, ME 2 said, "I can live with it."



Last week, in the cafeteria during lunch hour, a string of firecrackers taped under a table went off. Attached to the fire crackers was a timing device, with the timer set to go off during lunch. The photos above show the damage to the carpet and the underside of the table.

Photos: Mike Dubrulle

University through Ages

"The Ideal of a University: Three Historical Perspectives" will be the topic of a symposium and public discussion at the University

of New Brunswick Friday, March 16, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. in room 240, Tilley Hall.

Father James McConica of the University of Toronto and Oxford University will

join UNB president James Downey and history professor Steven Turner in examining the concept of the university in three epochs. Father McConica will talk

about the humanistic concept of the university as embodied in the British Ox-

bridge ideal. Dr. Turner will describe the ideal of research arising from the German universities in the nineteenth century. Dr.

Downey's topic will be the Canadian university in the 1980's.

Following the brief presentations by each of the

three speakers, the session will be opened for general discussion.

Nicholas Tracy of the history department will act as moderator.