The Brunswickan

Canada's oldest official student publication

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OPINION...

"Alcohol and Fredericton"
by
David S. Gorham

Fredericton sometimes seems like Nowheresville, N.B. to many of its young inhabitants. It seems to be a cluster of cold government offices and unenthused academia without a real purpose or soul. The epicenter of recreation for many of this city's youth is, plainly put, drinking themselves into silly oblivion.

Around my 18-21 age peer group, drinking seems to take an unhealthy paramount over the Cinema, plays, sports, or studies. Something wicked this way came, and it came to Fredericton in the form of the draft glass and shooter bar. How many young alcoholics are now being bred for later destruction in this rather wealthy but monotone city? Why do none of our community leaders really care about the youth of Fredericton? Could it be the fast buck has replaced the family and community that once was the hallmark of Fredericton as recently as the 1950's?

I am speaking now from my own experience. Since I reached the age of alcoholic consent the majority of Fredericton's youth in my peer group have centered their lives around drinking in the Fredericton bars. Boredom has been chopping at our youth, and our leaders are too blind to see. If one is too poor in Fredericton to go to bars, then one simply drives out the backroads on the outskirts of town and does one's drinking there.

Hannah Arendt talked of the banality of evil. In this city, boredom would seem to be equal to evil. The young neophyte of clubbing may not realize he is immersed in a great evil, for it is nondescript in tone, a blur, a great dark numbness that has no clear way out. If serious action is not taken soon, we may end up with a "lost generation" of our own in this city.

"Living Space"
By JEFF BOLD

"Living space." What does this mean to you as a student? If you live in Harrison, Bridges or the Dunn you have noticed that you probably have less of it than anybody else in residence. If you live in the other residences you probably have enough space to live comfortably in, and those who live off-campus couldn't care less because this topic isn't their concern. Now by this time you might be saying to yourself "So," or you may be wondering what does this have to do with me? Well, if you don't care about how much you get for your residence dollar than you might as well skip over the rest of this article and read something else.

Those of you who live in Neville, MacKenzie, Neil or Tibbits are probably saying that your rooms are small as well. This is true but they are still larger than the other smaller residence rooms previously mentioned. This difference is probably negligible, so we can say that all these rooms are small. By comparison the rooms at Aitken and Jones are large, and that would make the rooms at L.B.R. huge.

Exactly what's the point of this information you might ask? It is just to point out the fact that not everyone is getting a fair deal on residence rooms. Anybody who lives off-campus can probably attest to the fact that you get what you pay for in terms of space, and in my opinion, some people are paying too much for what they receive. These small rooms are small enough for one person, but you will almost always find two people living there. I think that something isn't quite right when someone pays good money for a small residence room, while someone else pays the same amount and gets a superior room.

Now comes the fun part of deciding what should be done. Obviously, the easiest answer would be to raise the residence fees of those in larger rooms, but residence prices are back-breaking enough for most as it is. Another solution would be to re-design the residences to make the rooms larger, but this would be very expensive, time-consuming and a big hassle. A better solution would be to lower the price on a smaller room for those assigned them and show us that for once something on this university can go down in price.