

EDITORIAL

Dunn fire: Tragedy avoided

by Allan Carter

The fire at Lady Dunn last Sunday morning had all the attributes of being a terrible tragedy. Fortunately, no lives were lost and because of quick thinking everyone was able to evacuate the building unharmed. Now the residents of Lady Dunn will be slowly returning to their rooms as the extensive damage which was done to the Third River Wing is repaired. Support has apparently been in abundance for the Lady Dunn residents. The university administration, security, the residence office, other supportive residences, Beaver Foods and many other individuals deserve commendation.

There appears to be some rumors circulat-

ing which question what type of losses will be covered under the university's insurance plan. Further, there is much speculation over how the fire started. But until these issues are resolved and the fire inspector has concluded how the fire began, the community should be grateful that nobody was in the room where the fire started and that everybody exited the building safely.

In a letter to Mary Lou Stirling, Dean of Residences, Eric C. Garland, Associate VP Administration, commends the women of Lady Dunn and Tibbits for the way they handled the situation. Garland makes it clear that once "things settle down" the experience will provide the university with an opportunity to review the policies, procedures and

plans for handling similar events. Such a quick and insightful response from the university administration indicates that the university has not been blinded to the difficulties which have arisen out of this situation. Garland also adds that "discussions with representatives from all the relevant groups should be informative and productive."

In an article in this week's news section, Lynn Fraser, Don of Lady Dunn, states that during the day of the fire, the women of the residence were patient, co-operative and strong. The discussions which Garland plans to hold with the relevant groups in the near future should reflect this type of community spirit.

Removal of women's rights supporter unacceptable

by Allan Carter

The UNB Engineering committee which was formed to organize this year's memorial of the Montreal Massacre should be ashamed of themselves. The removal of Valerie Kilfoil from the committee is totally unacceptable. Kilfoil is a member of the Wimmin's Collective, an ardent supporter of women's rights and one of the key organizers of last year's memorial service. Dr. Monique Frize, UNB's Chair of Women in Engineering has claims that Kilfoil was removed from the committee because "she is involved in current litigation." At the time of Frize's statement, Kilfoil had no idea what litigation Frize was referring to. In fact, it wasn't until a day later that Kilfoil actually received any formal notice of litigation. Therefore, the decision to remove Kilfoil was not just a ridiculous move in the first place, but it was done prematurely. Obviously there was no spirit of co-operation or faith involved on the part of the rest of the committee in this hasty decision.

To remove Kilfoil from the committee before any formal announcement of litigation was made is totally out of order. But the question which one has to ask themselves is what does Kilfoil's involvement in litigation have to do with her placement on a committee which is organizing a memorial service? In this week's issue, Dr. Wolfgang Faig, Dean of Engineering, states that because Kilfoil is involved in litigation there is no way she could be on the committee. He argues that the situation is "as simple as that." Well, it is obvious that he is wrong. The situation is far from simple and the only way that the committee can rectify their mistake is to apologize to Kilfoil and invite her back.

The Wimmin's Collective have declined Frize's invitation to have another representative on the committee and justifiably so. Kilfoil was a suitable candidate and she should be reinstated. Of course, one cannot assume that Kilfoil and the Collective would accept another invitation. The Collective would be justified in saying no, but it would be very admirable on their part if they said yes to a new

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invitation.

Whether or not the Engineering committee will admit that they were mistaken and invite Kilfoil back is doubtful. Nevertheless, both the Student Union and the University Administration should make it clear where they stand on this matter. While the memorial service is being organized by the committee, both the Administration and the Union have a vested interest in what type of message this committee is sending and whether or not its actions have been acceptable. Kilfoil states that "obviously, this committee is not serious about addressing the real issue of violence against women." The question remains whether or not the university community is.



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