

Practical joke no laughing matter

by Kora Stapelfeldt

What began as a typical weekend at residence escalated into a near-fatal incident when a practical joke got out of hand.

Mark Nicholson of Joy Kidd House ended up in the emergency room alongside heart attack victims last Friday because fellow residence members handed him a bottle of all-purpose cleaner disguised as an alcohol cooler.

Nicholson said it was a typical Friday until one of his friends gave him what he was told was a bottle of Rev. People

watched as he drank knowing what the bottle contained.

"No one was stopping me," Nicholson explained. "Then I noticed the smell."

It was at this time that the victim felt his throat burning and heard comments such as "I can't believe you just drank Lysol!"

Some were concerned and brought him water while the person who handed him the bottle went downstairs to get some information on what to do.

She was instructed to give him some milk or bread and wait. However, when Nicholson realized this information did not come from a voice of authority,

another friend brought him to the nearest proctor who called Poison Control.

Poison Control were not sure how to deal with a situation such as this and instructed Nicholson to go to the hospital.

Nicholson then described what happened next. Campus security was called and upon their arrival, the students involved began to "tell off the security guards. They said I was fine and should just go to bed," stated Nicholson.

One of the proctors went with Nicholson to the hospital where he was admitted to the emergency room directly due to the severity of the case.

Nicholson recalled "the doctor was really concerned, he had never had a case like this before."

At the hospital, doctors researched the situation to decide what they should do, as the cleaner was revealed to be "Lysol Extra," which also contains bleach.

"There were two heart attacks beside me and I was being treated just as fast," exclaimed the victim.

After a blood test and about four hours of waiting, it was decided that Nicholson should return to residence.

"It was a waiting game to see how my body reacted to [the poison]," described Nicholson.

Although he had a headache the following morning, he was "thankful to be alive."

Consequently, Nicholson said the

next day was "weird." Moreover, one of the people involved in giving him the drink did "not seem concerned."

Nicholson was shocked by the fact two people he "trusted all year, could be a part of this."

After the situation was reported to the community coordinator of the Dunn, Kidd and Tibbits complex here on campus, it was sent to the residence office for investigation.

John Craighead of Residential Life and Conference Services stated that "from a university standpoint, we take this [incident] very seriously."

According to Craighead, the situation was "more in the character of a drunken prank than it was in the character of malicious intent."

There will be consequences for the parties involved, however, Craighead said they have "tried to deal with the issue in a way that will enable the students to complete their exams."

As for the reasoning given by the parties to the residence office, "they were perhaps not in the best condition to make intelligent judgements in terms of being intoxicated," said Craighead, yet also mentioned he "did not feel this was an excuse at all."

In respect to the situation, Craighead also stated that "when things like this happen it is very easy to have them overshadow all the positive things that happen in residence."

The two students have since been asked not to return to residence.

Questions raised over priorities of Residence Administration

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campus. For instance, hiring a stripper is an annual event at Aitken House. A collection is raised each year to pay for the dancer; however, it is not a sanctioned house event.

Pat Campbell, the Don of Aitken, said little in response to the allegations. "Personally, I don't find this acceptable in any community, but it is legal," said Campbell.

In addition to the strip shows, concerns have been raised with respect to pub-crawl T-shirts worn by Jones, and proposed by MacKenzie House.

As it were, the shirts proposed by MacKenzie were to state "Show Us Your Tits," however, this proposal was quickly denied by the members of the Residence Administration due to its obvious implications along with a sanction from the Residence office.

The allowance of the 'Tour of Duty' list printed on the back of the Jones t-shirts was a matter in question. Tibbits and Dunn were listed as the tour's final destination. This led to an uproar from members of the campus community who saw it as degrading to women.

Craighead initially failed to see the offensive nature of the shirts. "I did not recognize immediately, the association between 'Tour of Duty' and 'Dunn and Tibbits'," admitted Craighead. "I thought it was intended as a joke; the same shirt had 'Zellers' on it."

MacDougall has since remarked "You won't see Dunn and Tibbits on a shirt again, and there was no malice intended."

"Jones House, since concern has been raised, realize and admit they have made a mistake."

Leaders in the residence community were outraged Craighead had failed to act on both the strip shows, and what they believe are clearly misogynistic statements.

Sherry Golding, the Don of Tibbits, boycotted the Leadership Banquet at which she was scheduled to receive an award for outstanding leadership in the residence community.

Golding stated her reasoning for boycotting as a "direct protest of attending a banquet recognizing leaders where I didn't feel as though we were taking a stand and showing leadership on this issue in the residence community."

There was genuine support shown throughout the community; some people joined her in the boycott, and others expressed their support aloud throughout the evening.

Golding was pleased that women were beginning to express their ideas and dialogue about the problems facing women here on campus and elsewhere.

Craighead said that although there will be no action taken against the incidents this year they are working on a "developmental approach" to prevent situations like these from occurring in the future. This will include educating students on sexist behaviour and the effect it has on the community at large.

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Mark McGinnis/The Brunswickan

First-year UNB student Mark Nicholson was the victim of a practical joke that sent him to the Emergency Room at the DECH.

Ambulance fees not available to public

UNB student paid \$650 for a ride from campus to hospital

by Samantha Robichaud

Ambulance fees are not made available to the public in the province of New Brunswick.

Last week *The Brunswickan* did a story about the concerns of UNB student Sabah Lamloom, who was charged \$650 to travel one block from McGee House to the Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital by ambulance.

Lamloom expressed concern that there was no way for her to know about the fee in advance. "If these are the rules or regulations for NB, at least EMS could have let us know the cost before they picked us up," said Lamloom.

Chris Hood, Director of Ambulance Services in New Brunswick, agreed that information on ambulance fees should be made available to the public.

"We probably should publish the numbers on our website. The department is working to remedy this, and part of that will include the cost associated with delivering ambulances. It will be on the government website in the near future," said Hood.

"Across the country, ambulance service is not insured under Medicare; it doesn't fall under the five principles of the Canada Health Act. Medicare doesn't cover anything, and not a lot of people know that," said Hood.

The cost of an ambulance ride was deemed excessive by Lamloom. She says the cost would make her reconsider calling an ambulance even if it were a serious incident.

With regards to how the cost is determined, Hood said "If we look at the entire [ambulance] system and what it costs, and divide that by the total number of ambulance calls that we do, the cost per ambulance call is \$650. Of course, that has the potential to change from year to year; we do reset the cost every so often."

However, for residents of the province, the cost of the ambulance

ride is subsidized by the government.

"The current policy for a resident is an ambulance costs \$120 if they live in an area where ambulance service is a paid service, and \$60 if they live in an area served by a volunteer service," declared Hood.

A person is considered to be a NB resident only if they have a New Brunswick Medicare card. Thus, the full cost would also be charged to anyone from another province.

One of the reasons Lamloom was so surprised at the cost of the ambulance ride was that in a similar incident she experienced in Nova Scotia, she said

she was only charged \$60.

"Nova Scotia has a similar situation right now where non-residents are charged for the full and actual cost. Don't quote me but I think it's about \$800," said Hood.

The charge is no different if someone is in an accident or is unconscious and doesn't actually call the ambulance.

"We go on the basic assumption of implied consent; if someone is unconscious, we assume they want to be taken to the hospital. There's no sign on the side of the door that says it costs \$120 to get in our truck."



Mark McGinnis/The Brunswickan

Last month, Sabah Lamloom, an international student at UNB, paid hundreds of dollars for an ambulance ride from campus to the hospital, a distance of about a block.

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