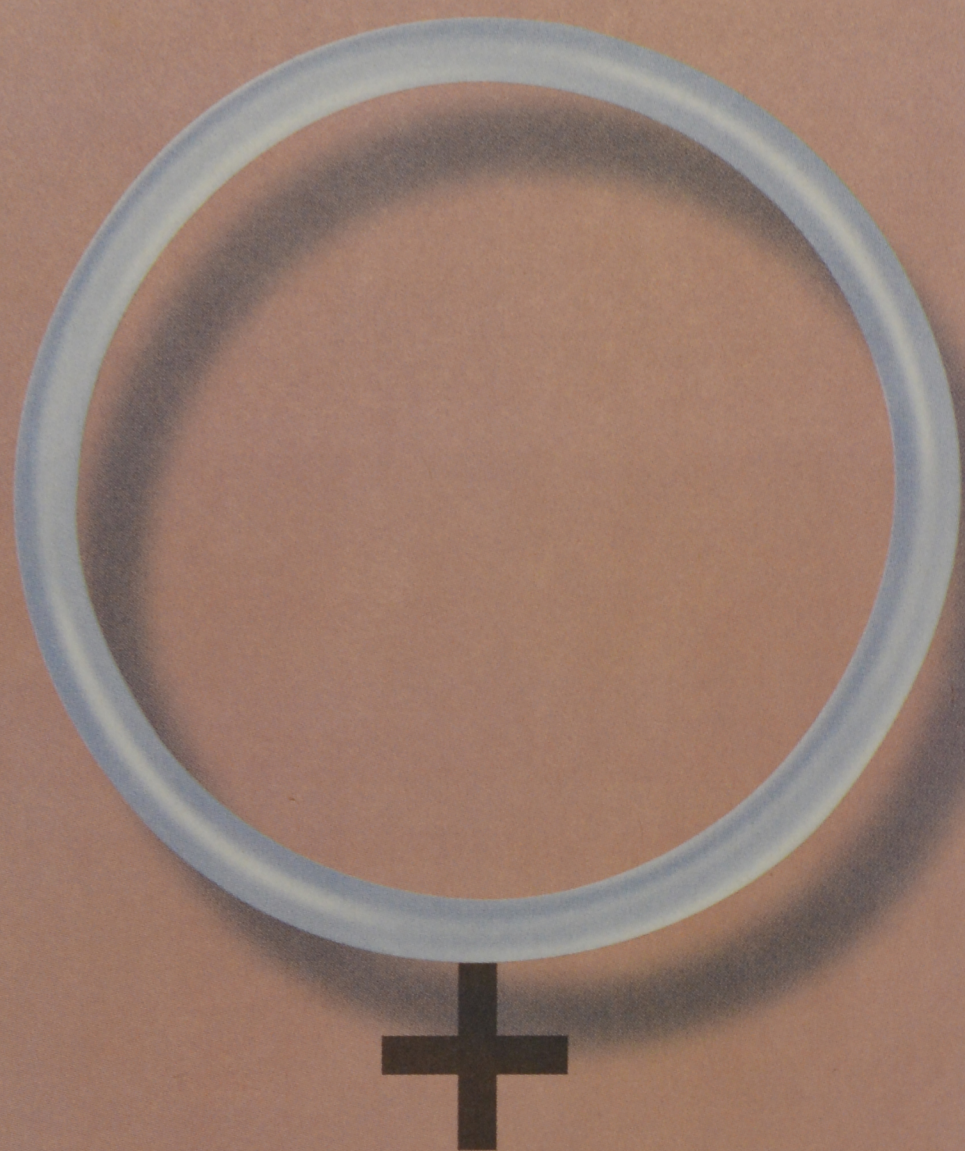




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College Hill under fire



Andrew Meade / The Brunswickan

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es, which, given the location are mostly occupied by students, put a "hole" in the neighborhood.

"What I'd like to see is the neighborhood shift back to more homes that are occupied by single families, resident homeowners. I personally would love to see young families and working couples, or single working people move in here, because the location is absolutely perfect and it builds the neighborhood back.

"Single family residences that are treated as rooming houses basically make a hole in the neighborhood. People with family or seniors do not want to live next door to a rooming house," says MacLaggan.

Jordan Graham is the UNB Student Union's VP External, and disagrees with MacLaggan's statements. He says that students are just as much a part of the neighborhood as anyone else, despite the fact that they often live in rooming houses owned by absentee landlords.

"A neighborhood is not a collective group of families, it is not a collective

group of seniors, it is not as collective group of professionals," says Graham. "It is a collective group of citizens. For at least eight months of the year, and sometimes more, Fredericton students are part of a neighborhood."

There aren't a great deal of options for students who choose to leave the traditional undergraduate residence lifestyle. Housing in apartment complexes can be hard to find, leaving little option but to convert former family housing into apartments or rooming houses. And given the College Hill is close to the city's university campuses, it's no surprise the neighborhood is privy to such housing.

Jordan Graham is disappointed that MacLaggan has made brash statements about the rooming houses – and thus the students.

"It's sad when the city officials are jumping to conclusions and making statements about the constituents whom they are responsible to represent."

He says that students give considerably more back to the city than they take away.

Graham explains that "the Cana-

dian Millennium Foundation recently released said that the average student spends a minimum of \$16,000 in the municipality that they are in, including tuition and housing. With 9,000 students, UNB without STU is bringing \$150 million into the community. The prosperity of this city is anchored deeply within the foundation of the university."

The VP External believes that everyone must be looked at equally – regardless of occupation or housing situation – in order to solve the College Hill's disruptive and partying problems.

"No citizens have rights to debunk rights of other citizens, and until all citizens are treated with equal rights and respect nothing will be achieved," says Graham. "We need constituents of this riding represented appropriately by their councilor."

MacLaggan encourages everyone to work together to help rid the neighborhood of vandalism and disturbances, and to call 911 for emergencies or 460-2300 for the police dispatch to report suspicious activities.



The Brunswickan

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