

THE

GEM

Life is like a shit sandwich... The more bread ya got, the less shit you have to eat.

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Student Life: Stress-induced Riot Leads To Eviction

By Mike Laanela VANCOUVER (CUP) - A riot in a University of British Columbia student residence provoked by final exam stress has led to at least one eviction.

The December 11 outburst in Walter Gage Towers, a three-building complex with 1400 tenants, began around 10 p.m. when a study-stressed student stuck his head out the window and shouted, "I can't take it anymore."

Other students responded, and were soon banging pot lids and unravelling toilet paper streamers.

Students tossed their notes like confetti. A Christmas tree was offered by one floor and others joined in to create a fireworks display, according to one witness.

The ruckus continued for over one hour.

Residence life co-ordinator and student Rick Oliver said residents who threw dangerous objects - such as bottles - out of the windows of the three 17-story residences would be fined \$50 and evicted. At least one student has already been thrown out, according to Oliver, and two other evictions are pending.

"Three years ago the situation was really bad, with people throwing stuff out the windows all the time, so we brought in the automatic eviction policy, because it was just a matter of time before someone got badly injured," said Oliver.

Posters are offering \$50 rewards for information on violations.

In some cases administrators were able to pin down the apartment, but not the individual students responsible. The six apartment tenants were then given an ultimatum to turn in the guilty student or face eviction of the entire apartment.

"It's a perversion of justice," said one resident. "What they have done is reverse the onus, from their having to prove guilt, to the students in these situations having to prove their own innocence."

"I doubt if [Housing] would evict a [whole apartment] if it came down to it," said the student.

In 1974 an entire apartment was evicted after guests at their party threw beer bottles out the window.

Government: Premier Says Too Many Universities: Close'em

(Source: Dalhousie Gazette)

By Ellen Reynolds HALIFAX (CUP) - Premier John Buchanan says Nova Scotia has too many degree-granting institutions and thinks closing down some universities and colleges may be the solution.

But the proposal to restructure, specialize and eventually phase out some schools is already meeting with opposition.

"Legally and politically it's impossible to phase out universities. I think it would be political suicide," said Roydon Trainor, acting chair of the provincial lobby group the Students Unions of Nova Scotia.

Compared to the rest of Canada, the number of Nova Scotia post secondary schools per

capita is very high - Halifax alone has three universities, a fine arts college and a technical school. And a year ago the provincial government announced a plan to create a system of new regional colleges.

"It's simplistic to say we have too many universities. The perception that universities are only consumers is wrong. It's important to have a strong university base," said Trainor.

Budget restrictions mean the large number of schools results in comparatively low government funding per student.

Trainor added that finances will become even tighter since federal cutbacks in transfer payments will slash \$55 million from

education from 1986 to 1991.

"When the cutbacks were announced the premier just sat on his hands," said Trainor, who concludes that post secondary education is not a priority with the government.

"Access (to education) is crucial," said Dalhousie Faculty Association president David Williams. "The existence of regional colleges has much to do with the prosperity of a region. What we need is more campuses."

According to John D'Orsay, executive director of the Nova Scotia Confederation of Faculty Associations, the percentage of college-age youths attending schools in Canada is about

half the United States percentage. And while 10.4 per cent of Nova Scotians and 12.6 per cent of Canadians have university degrees, 19.6 per cent of Americans have university degrees.

The U.S. government also has plans to increase that percentage to 35 per cent by the year 2000. D'Orsay said there is no such government concern for improvements in Canada.

"We aren't educating college-age people at anywhere near the rate of Americans. We'll be competing on a level playing field with the Free Trade Agreement and we will be greatly disadvantaged," said Williams.

Although some specialization is already taking place in univer-

sities and colleges across Canada, the possibility of actually phasing out institutions is unlikely. D'Orsay said we may see fewer university presidents and administrators but deciding which schools will merge would be a problem.

Anyone can contribute to The GEM. Submissions can be dropped off at the Barn, sent through VAX MAIL to GEM, or stuck on our door down in the basement of the Main building. Our phone number is 566-0629 or 566-0530.

We cherish typed and double spaced submissions and submissions on computer disk or through VAX mail. For legal reasons, all submissions must include the author's name and phone number. However, names will be withheld from publication on request.

The GEM is published by the University of Prince Edward Island Student Union. Views expressed are not necessarily those of the GEM staff, the UPEI Student Union, or of anyone in particular.

Yearbook En Masse Photos

All Freshmen: Tuesday, Feb. 14

All Sophomores: Wednesday, Feb 15

All Juniors: Thursday, Feb.16

12:00 - 1:00 pm

The Pit.

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