

Residence Water Problems: Survey Results

By Bruce Henry

After returning from a most splendid Christmas Holiday, I noticed my morning showers at Blanchard Hall were not as pleasant as before. The water temperature kept changing from hot to cold my adjusting the taps. At one point during my cleansing the water was so hot I scorched my feet and found myself climbing the shower walls while trying to turn off the hot water. After an hour my feet finally stopped burning and on my way to class I mentioned my complaint/concern to a Residence Assistance (RA).

I spoke with the same RA later in the day to ask if they had any feedback towards my complaint, but nothing had been done because they had been unable to get in touch with maintenance. Feeling unsatisfied with the response, I took it upon myself to conduct a survey about the water problem in UPEI's dorms.

The survey, conducted January 16, covered all three residence at UPEI was comprised of the following questions: Number of people in each room? How many people were affected? When did it start? Did anyone get burned? (This question was later changed to Was it hot enough to get out of the way? and Did they tell anyone? Why or why not?)

Of the 107 people interviewed at Blanchard Hall, 74 of them were affected by the water problem, 7 people had been scorched, 98% of the affected students felt the water was so hot they had to avoid it by; jumping out of shower, climbing the shower walls,

turning off the hot water, or re-adjusting the taps.

In Marian Hall 29 people were surveyed and 13 were affected to the point where they had to move out of the flow of water. One Marian student said they experienced this water problem during all four years at UPEI and to them it felt like "...another day."

Of the ten people available for comment in Bernardine Hall, nine said they had also been affected by changes in the water temperature.

Wayne Boudreau, Chef Engineer for The Physical Plant, was notified about the domestic water problem at Blanchard Hall and he then called a field technician from Trigen-PEI who looked at the problem and according to Boudreau replaced the Off Water Temperature Control Valve.

Boudreau then explained how this water temperature unbalance can occur. For example when you take a shower and someone in another apartment uses water the pressure from the hot water pipeline will drop allowing more cold water to enter giving you a shot of cold or vice versa. The only solution according to Boudreau is to install pressure balancing valves. These are shower knobs that take in both hot and cold water under one pipe and that adapts to pressure change when required.

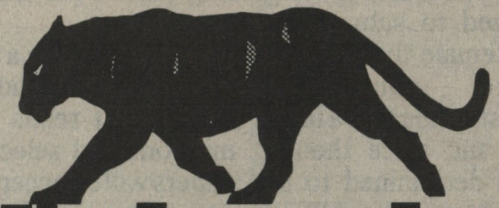
Since the off water temperature control valve been replaced, showers at Blanchard have dramatically improved. For Marian and Bernadine residents who are still having a problem with

fluctuating water temperatures, contact Marc Braithwaite at Student Development.

Marc Braithwaite is responsible for residence budgets and fees, physical facilities (cleaning, maintenance, and renovations), administrative policies and procedures, personnel matters (selection, training and supervision) food service liaison, student discipline, residence life direction, and residence student recruitment, also responsible for summer conference facility bookings, conference scheduling as well as summer operations management. And for Residence Life Coordinator he is in charge of developing a positive living environment for residence students which promotes both academic and personal development. Other responsibilities include policy/procedure administration, crisis intervention, student staff supervision, House Council to RA's, residence orientation, room assignment, and production of the Residence Life Handbook. So if your problem fits into one of these categories you can reach Marc Braithwaite at Student Services located in Robertson Library building or give him a call at (902) 566-0362 and if that doesn't work write him an e-mail MBRAITHWAITE@UPEI.CA or RESIDENCE@UPEI.CA

Next issue: a look into the heaters at Blanchard Hall. Do we really have control?

THIS
WEEK
AT THE
PANTHER
LOUNGE



Wednesday

Sloan with special guest

Thrush Hermit

Only 100 wet tickets
available at the door

Thursday

Trivia

Friday

M a h o n e s /
DJ Upstairs \$5