

# editorial

## LIQUOR LICENSE ISSUE

Last week's editorial put forth three arguments in favor of a permanent liquor license at U.P.E.I. Briefly then, they were: attitudes of public and government re: liquor license debate of 1970 were, in the final analysis contradictory since they undermined student cultivations of maturity and responsibility which is precisely what parents and government claim to wish for the student; secondly, existing law is no longer appropriate since it perpetrates the problem cited in the first argument, but, moreover, is not applicable since the jamority of students are of legal drinking age, and thirdly; a permanent license would enable the student to benefit twice from the same transaction, since the money he spends would be channelled into the student union treasury to be used again for the student.

I interviewed president Baker about this issue. He agreed that a permanent license ought to be granted to the student union. "I see no reason for differentiating between students and anyone else." He was referring to those who are of drinking age but not U.P.E.I. students.

Mr. Baker was not impressed with the profit motive however. "I would be a little more impressed if all the profits were going to charity, for example". He pointed out that the student union was not in the money-making business, nor the University for that matter. Mr. Baker went on to say "A student union can spend whatever it gets; you have to tailor your budget to your revenue." What he doesn't seem to realise however, is that the student union is in need of more money to meet its operation costs. If its revenue were sufficient, it could not entertain a profit-making endeavour. However



Ron Baker

"photo by Jim Crombie"

this is not the reason for obtaining a permanent license. The student union is simply looking for a better deal for the students it represents. Gentleman Jim charges outrageous prices—a permanent license at U.P.E.I. would give those students who are not financially well-off an opportunity for diversity.

Mr. Baker urges serious consideration of the economics of having a permanent bar on campus.

Would a bar on campus enhance campus life? "I think it would" he said. Mr. Baker thinks we should have a beer and wine license only, but said he would not object to the sale of spirits. He said also that he didn't think the presence of a bar would entice students to remain on campus such as used to be years before. With increasing mobility, more money to spend, and greater variety of events outside the campus, it is no

longer possible to maintain a way of campus life when students did not have cars, were forced to live on campus, be in bed by a certain hour, and had limited funds.

Mr. Baker seemed impressed with the way students comported themselves toward their Pig N' Whistle. He thinks the students have proven themselves and sees no reason why they should be prevented from having a permanent license due to a law which "it seems to me now is just out of date".

My interview with Mr. Baker was lengthy—he had a good deal to say which I cannot continue with here. His central concern seems to be that the students proceed with caution in this endeavour—to learn the "ins" and "outs" of running a bar with special emphasis on its economics.

-Stan Dalton

## Letters to the Editor



Dear Cadre:

My name is Charlie Clow and I am a Sophomore student at UPEI. I would like to express my own individual views as to the alcoholic beverage license situation here on campus.

First of all the situat-

ion has been referred to as a problem but is it a problem? Personally, I don't think so....If people here at this institution are to act like mature, responsible adults or are supposed to learn to, then surely we ought to be able to handle a small thing like this. I also hear tell about this drug problem which is supposed to be expanding in today's modern age. If alcoholic beverages were more readily available would it not cut the drug abuse problem drastically because I read where people with that kind of hang-up take whatever they can get. So who knows? The odd drug

addict might limit himself to a few friendly drinks with his friends. Next is a rather common reason, well-known among the University community and that is if students wish to drink, they drink! and instead of giving the money to their Student Union where it will do the most good, they take it to Gentleman Jim's or the Granada. If students drink more or less on campus it would do a lot to eliminate such things as traffic hazards, accidents, etc. down town or elsewhere, whatever the case may be. Besides, this temptation should be available if our average student is to

grow more mature and responsible, ready to conduct himself properly and face the numerous problems of daily life.

In order to really understand and comprehend this situation a person has to analyze it rationally and basically.

- Charlie Clow

Letters to Editor Con't.

page 4