NEWS

Support shown for "NO" side at debate

by Gordon Loane

There were no knockout blows but judging from audience reaction the "NO" forces were the clear winners in a constitutional debate held Tuesday night on the UNB campus.

The Political Science Student's Association managed to attract seven speakers to debate the Charlottetown Accord - four from the "YES" campaign and three from the "NO" side. The moderator was UNB political scientist Dr. Conde Grondin.

Jack Lamey, a spokesperson for the Reform Party of Canada and a strong supporter of the "NO" forces in the province described the Charlottetown Accord as a vague document that contains one hundred and ninety "should's". Lamey destroyed the myth that "NO" voters would be any less Canadian for rejecting the Accord.

He said he deplored the scare tactics the "YES" forces are using with all the talk about disunity and economic hardship that a "NO" vote would bring. Lamey mentioned that the Accord is too big a leap of faith in politicians, most of whom are not trusted by the voters.

Jim Stanley, of the New Democratic Party and a "YES" supporter, found it incredible that Jack Lamey would sow the seeds of distrust in politicians when Lamey intends to run in the next federal election.

Stanley suggested that the Charlottetown Accord is the first time in Canadian history where politicians have come to an agreement after tremendous input into the process from ordinary Canadians.

Stanley asked the one hundred or so people in attendance to consider the question "What kind of Canada do I want?" Will it be the European white Anglo notion of Canada or a new multicultural Canada that includes francophones, aboriginal peoples and people in all parts of the country. For Stanley, the key gains in the Accord were the inherent right to self government for aboriginal people and the recognition of Quebec as a distinct society and a full partner in Confederation. He argued that Quebec had twice been excluded from the Constitution in 1982 and as a result of the failure of the Meech Lake Accord in 1990.

Rosella Melanson, of the New Brunswick Advisory Council on the Status of Women, took the "YES, BUT" approach to the Charlottetown Accord. She told the audience how the Advisory Council arrived at a compromise in its deliberations and why women should vote "YES".

On balance, Melanson said there were gains for women in the Accord and the document represented a step in the right direction. On the other hand, Melanson indicated that women were largely excluded from the actual dealmaking and expressed some confusion bout interpretations being expressed about some sections of the deal. Melanson also argued that there is still a long way to go before equality rights for women will be achieved. She said linguistic rights and rights for aboriginal peoples are very positive aspects of the accord.

UNB political scientist Gary Allen, speaking for the "NO" side, complained about the speed with which approval is being sought for the Accord without time to examine the consequences.

He wondered about how the Canada Clause will affect the Charter of Rights and the rights of individuals and how the courts will interpret it all. Allen also asked the audience to ponder the full consequences of the economic charter and ask whether its been well thought out. Finally, he wondered whether the Charlottetown Accord presents a good framework for a Constitution.

Beverly Brine, Confederation of Regions Party M-L-A for Albert County downplayed the "YES" argument that a "NO" vote will mean the break-up of Canada. She called the whole argument "fear mongering" on the part of the proponents of the Accord.

Brine called for greater equality rights for all citizens, something which she indicated takes a back seat to collective rights in the Charlottetown Accord. Brine argued that the twenty-five percent guarantee of Quebec seats in the House of Commons destroys the principle of one person-one vote.

The double majority Senate provision for certain linguistic issues means not all Senators will have equal power, destroying one of the E's of the Triple E Senate.

She argued certain provisions for aboriginal peoples provide for discrimination on the basis of race.

Brine also dismissed the need to entrench Francophone linguistic rights in New Brunswick in the Constitution. Brine admitted that entrenching New Brunswick's Bill 88 in the new constitution is not needed and amounts to an attempt to segregate English and French peoples in the province.

Victor Boudreau, President of the New Brunswick Young Liberal Association, denied that the "YES" forces he represents are using scare tactics and challenged the "NO" forces to present their solutions on the constitutional question.

Boudreau felt that the Accord is "not all that bad" and he asked the question "How could all of Canada's premiers, the Prime Minister and aboriginal leaders all be wrong at the same time?"

He admitted the Accord was not perfect but a start in the right direction. As a New Brunswick Francophone, Boudreau felt it extremely important for Acadians that provincial Bill 88 on linguistic rights be entrenched in the Constitution. Boudreau also liked the double majority provision in the Senate for it guarantees French language rights in Quebec and in the other provinces where Francophones are in the minority.
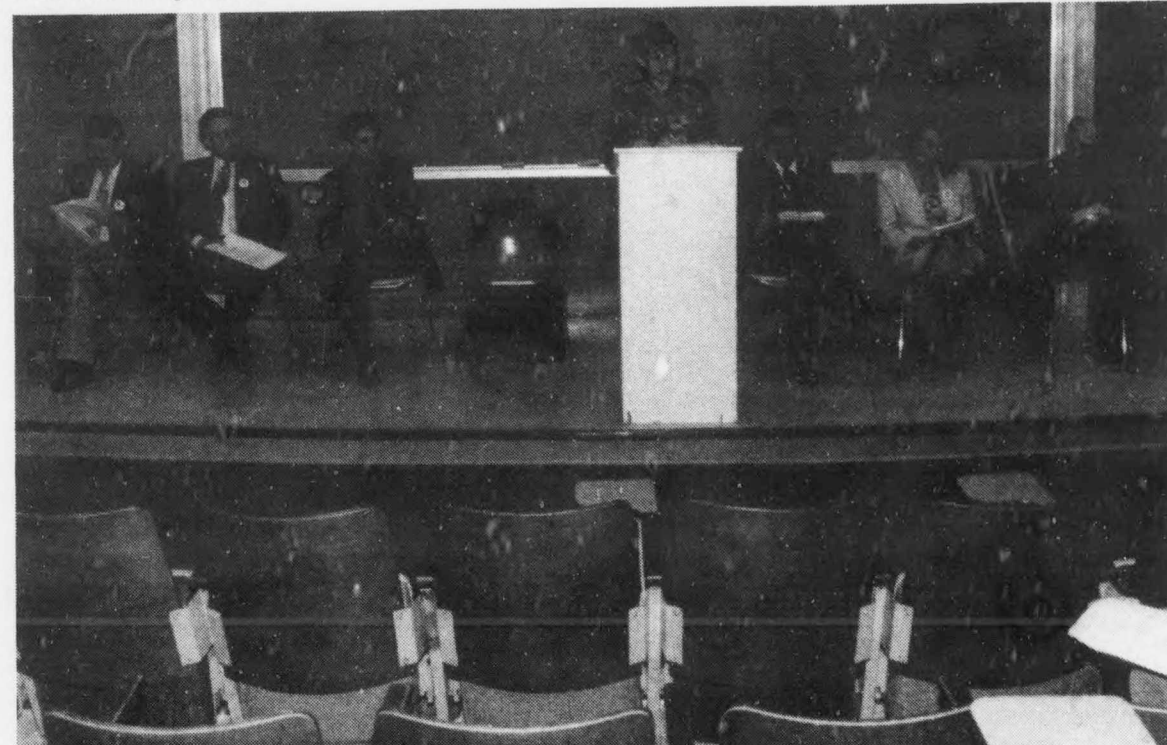
Gary Gould, of the New Brunswick Native Council asked the audience to vote "YES" because it helps to put right the historic grievances of aboriginal peoples.

Gould argued the inherent right to aboriginal self government would remove inequities perpetrated for too long. The positive impact Gould said would be to allow aboriginal people to contribute to their own social, economic and cultural well-being. If the Charlottetown Accord is accepted Gould said Canada will become a leader in the human rights field in the world.

Gould also said aboriginal people are prepared to accept the Accord because they were involved in the process,

Shown are the participants at Tuesday's debate. They are: (l-r) Gary Gould, Jim Stanley, Victor Boudreau, Rosella Melanson, Jack Lamey, Beverly Brine, and Gary Allen. David Smith photo.

Concerns raised about CP's

by Allan Carter

Some members of the UNB residence community have become concerned over the attitude of campus police at residence socials.

Last Monday, Brad Rideout chair of the Residence Representative Board and president of Aitken House, sent a letter to the campus police citing numerous complaints which Aitken residents had about the conduct of the campus police at their social on September 26.

In his letter, Rideout states that "one individual [of campus police] working at the door [at the Aitken social] was entirely too strict." Rideout explains that "two members of the house committee, myself included were almost not allowed into the social because of insufficient ID." Rideout says: "I was using my student card and NBLCC both of which certainly look like me."

In a Brunswickan interview early last week, Sheila O'Shea, chief of the Campus Police, said she had not yet received Rideout's letter. She mentioned that one campus police member informed her that someone was sending a letter from the house.

Nevertheless, O'Shea did respond to some of Rideout's complaints.

Rideout states in his letter that one individual who was accused of using a fake dry stamp was ejected from the social. Such action "is fine", writes Rideout, however he points out that " a friend of his who had nothing to do with the stamp was also ejected."

Replying to both complaints, O'Shea said that the campus police deal with fake ID's all the time. "We don't know every student, so all the students have to show ID regardless of who they claim to be." O'Shea argues that campus police may seem too strict and harsh, but it is the university's liquor license which is at stake, so " we have to be strict".

In his letter, Rideout also expresses concern over other "discrepancies dealing with regulations". He writes: "even though there were many people still waiting to be stamped the CP's stopped stamping at 11:42." Furthermore, Rideout explains that because of the CP's position at their checkpoint, people who went to the washroom could not get back into the social without standing in line again.

"The CP's were asked by myself to move their checkpoint 5 feet forward, a perfectly acceptable position (a position which has been used for many socials) and they refused," Rideout continues

O'Shea claims that the reason campus police stopped stamping at 11:42 was because a fire alarm had been pulled during the social and the house had to be evacuated. "Everybody coming back in had to be checked. It was mass confusion. So we stopped stamping early," explains O'Shea

Near the end of his letter, Rideout commends the campus police for generally doing a good job, however he and other house members are disappointed with "the lack of co-operation between the CP's and our house committee."

O'Shea believes that "we [the campus police] should do a bit more public awareness in the residences because it may alleviate a lot of these complaints".

By-Election results

by Kayleigh Freeman

On Wednesday and Thursday, October 7 and 8, the Student Union held its by-elections to fill positions vacant or vacated since the regular elections in the spring of 1992. Polls were open from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm on both days of the election.

The position of Vice President Activities, which was opened with the resignation of Kim Wettlauffer, was won by Andrew Fuller, who had temporarily taken over the

position's duties since Wettlauffer's resignation.

Jeff McConaghy, won the position of Business rep by lot, after tying a 60-60 vote with the position's other candidate, Andrew Keenan. This position was left vacant when the former rep., Andrew Fuller, resigned to assume the responsibilities of the VP Activities position.

UNB's newest student at large is Derek Ferlotte, and the position of Arts rep was filled by Heidi Hawkins.