

Execs to be picked

By BILL MITCHELL

TWENTY-SIX STUDENTS have put their names forward for the ten executive positions on the Dalhousie Student union council.

Nominations for positions including VP External, VP Academic, treasurer, community affairs officer, and members at large, closed March 25.

Although the names of the nominees are kept confidential, Reza Rizvi, vice-president elect, says all positions have candidates vying for them.

The candidates are not chosen by the student body but are interviewed and recommended by a recruitment committee to council. The recruitment committee, which is made up of a selected group of council members, acts as a screening process to help council to choose the candidates. At the March 31 meeting of council, the recruitment committee will put forward their recommendations. Council will then approve the candidates officially.

Choosing executive positions by this process is not universal. At King's College some executive positions are elected by the whole student population. Alex Gigeroff, DSU president, says for the executive in the DSU council to be elected by all students would be inappropriate.

"It is a different concept of who the executive is, if the positions are elected," he says.

Gigeroff says the executive positions are different from other elected positions because executive people have to work closely with the president.

"It's not just a case of the best candidate. It's important the president can work with the VPs as well," he says.

Gigeroff did say it was always a possibility some of the executive positions could become elected, if a future DSU council said they wanted the change. But, Rizvi says he does not see a need to change the executive positions' selection, so they are likely to stay the same for next year, at least.



All creatures weird and wonderful gathered in Halifax for the eighth annual Science Fiction and Fantasy convention March 22-24.

HalCon draws SF'ers

By NAIRNE HOLTZ

"IT'S THE ONLY PLACE where I can be myself and nobody notices," said one young man attending the eighth annual Hal-Con Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention, held at the Hotel Nova Scotian March 22-24.

HalCon is the largest convention of its kind held in the Atlantic region.

More than 700 fans between the ages of nine and 40 in an assortment of strange garments turned out for a variety of events.

"The typical sci-fi type is socially ostracized. a chronic

optimist, and has an I.Q. too high for his own good," said special guest, author Spider Robinson.

A highlight of the weekend was the costume contest. The costumes were judged on originality, degree of work that went into the outfit and comic routine.

Other events included 24-hour wargaming, seminars on creative make-up, miniature painting, comics, the Fantasy Field Trip Society and publishing sci-fi. An art show featured a selection of amateurish drawings of cat-like women and elfin boys to Bruegel-like panoramas of a mythical medieval England. Prizes ranged from \$3 to \$1000.

Morgentaler...from page 1

led to his arrest in all three provinces.

In Quebec, after Morgentaler was tried and acquitted by juries three times, the government decided to stop enforcing the law. Morgentaler's clinics have operated without legal interference in that province since 1977.

Morgentaler says he decided to visit Halifax because of "the plight of women in the Atlantic provinces."

"In Montreal we see everyday women from Newfoundland, P.E.I., Nova Scotia and New Brunswick," says Morgentaler. He said he is especially concerned about the situation in Newfoundland and P.E.I., where therapeutic abortion committees turn down all but a few requests for abortions.

Morgentaler says about 60 per cent of the patients who come to his Quebec clinics are from outside the province, and about 40 per cent of those are from the Atlantic region.

"This was the origin of the idea to establish a clinic in St. John's," says Morgentaler.

After further consideration, Morgentaler and his colleagues realized a St. John's clinic would be too isolated to be accessible to most women in the Maritimes. They therefore settled on Halifax as a more centralized location.

Nova Scotia premier John Buchanan and Health minister Dr. Gerald Sheehy say Morgentaler will be charged if he begins performing abortions in

the province.

Tight security was laid on by the DSU and university administration to prevent any confrontation between the pro-life and pro-choice factions. Dr. Morgentaler's life has been threatened at various times in the past by people opposed to his views.

Earlier in the evening a telephone caller issued a bomb threat to the Victoria General Hospital. It is not yet known if the threat was connected to Morgentaler's visit.

About 90 per cent of all therapeutic abortions in Nova Scotia are performed at the Victoria General.

Many in the crowd attending the lecture were disturbed by the atmosphere generated by the tight security.

"It's a bit scary...there are people who'd really like to get rid of this guy," says Phil Alberstat, a Dal student.

Morgentaler says he is used to what he calls the "harrassment" of the law and the pro-life groups. Referring to his recent legal hassles in Manitoba, he says "they have enough of my equipment at the Winnipeg police station to open their own abortion clinic."

Morgentaler says he is resigned to the necessity of a long struggle until abortion laws are changed in Canada.

"Something is going to break somewhere," he says. In the meantime he intends to carry on "until victory."

'Research' continued from page 1

will not be exposed to modern equipment as should be the case."

Council spokespeople say some scientists will abandon research projects, graduate students will lose their enthusiasm for their studies and more researchers than ever will seek funding with strings attached from industry, if the money is not forthcoming. The average age of research equipment in universities is between 10 and 12 years old.

"There is a real need to replace obsolete equipment. The situation will be very serious if this continues," says Nigel Lloyd, the council's assistant director of operating grants.

Lloyd says the council approved more than 40 per cent of all requests for funding last year but will likely approve only 20 per cent this year. He had no idea how many scientists or research projects such a move would affect. Unsuccessful applications may be put on hold for another year.

Leo Derikx, the council's planning and budgeting director, says, the granting agency needs at least \$40 and \$50 million more to maintain the level of applications approved, and that plans for next year's budget are also uncertain.

"Students have to make career decisions. Professors have to develop projects. This is obviously not the best way of funding research."

Derikx hopes the \$20 million, which was announced by the government March 6, will

become part of the council's base budget used to calculate next year's funding. He says the government must still approve a financing plan for the next five years, similar to one which won the support of the Clark government in 1979.

The council now has a \$311.6 million budget but will lose some of its purchasing power for equipment if the \$20 million is not incorporated.

During the election campaign, the Tories pledged to increase research and development in Canada to 2.5 percent of the Gross National Product, up from council's budget and that of the country's other research-granting agencies.

Government officials, however, refuse to say whether the government will boost the council's budget and that of the country's other research-granting agencies.

"You can always wish for more, but the \$20 million added was a Herculean feat," says Dick Doyle, legislative assistant to Tom Siddon, science and technology minister.

"There's no new money. The council is probably glad it didn't get one cent taken from it in the finance minister's Nov. 8 economic statement."

Doyle says a decision on the council's five year plan will not likely be made before the government unveils its budget in April.

"I'm sure the decision is not imminent. But obviously the government would like to fund research as much as possible."

Mounties watch washrooms

VANCOUVER (CUP)— University of B.C. campus security and local RCMP are stiffening their surveillance of men having sex in washrooms, following complaints from arts student councillors.

Campus patrol supervisor Bob Atley says the RCMP have been notified of at least six occasions when campus patrols came across men having washroom sex.

He added that while no charges were laid, patrol officers issued warnings.

The arts student council complained to the arts dean and the RCMP about men having sex in the washroom next door to their office.

The arts councillor, who wished to remain anonymous,

said RCMP set up video cameras in the washroom to catch the men.

RCMP constable Wayne Hanniman admitted the idea of video cameras was "mentioned", but said the RCMP never installed and is not considering installing them in the near future.

Hanniman also admitted to consultation with crown attorney Cal Deedman about the installation of cameras in the washroom, but refused to comment on the nature of their discussion.

When asked if a crown investigation of washroom sex at UBC was taking place, Deedman said, "I've got not comment at this time."

Arts Dean Robert Will opposed the installation of cameras in the washrooms because it could damage the lives of those caught.

"I don't want to see anybody's career end," said Will.

Last January, 32 men were charged with gross indecency after a week-long police camera surveillance of a men's washroom in a St. Catherine's, Ont. shopping mall. One of the men whose name was published in a local paper committed suicide.

The anonymous arts councillor also claimed the men using the washrooms for sex were responsible for some vandalism. He says large holes were punctured in the walls of the cubicles to facilitate sex.