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Dalhousie professors shoot for the stars

by Brian Cox

Three members of the Dalhousie community are hoping to put a lot of space between themselves and the Dal campus in the next few years.

Dr. William Currie, Dr. Max Cynader and Christopher Purcell are three of 68 candidates for six positions in the Canadian space program.

The three year program will consist of two years of research and development, culminating in two missions in space via the American space shuttle. All three candidates are equally enthusiastic about the prospect of becoming the first Canadian Astronaut. Purcell described the program as "A very interesting job with fascinating possibilities."

The program, scheduled to take off in January 1984, has two main objectives.

The Canadian team will attempt to develop a visual system for the Canadarm. The Canadarm has not reached full potential because of blind spots limiting the operation. Purcell described the visual system as "eyeballs for the arm".

The Canadarm will be used to capture satellites weighing up to thirty tons.

The team will also carry out extensive research into the causes of motion (space) sickness.

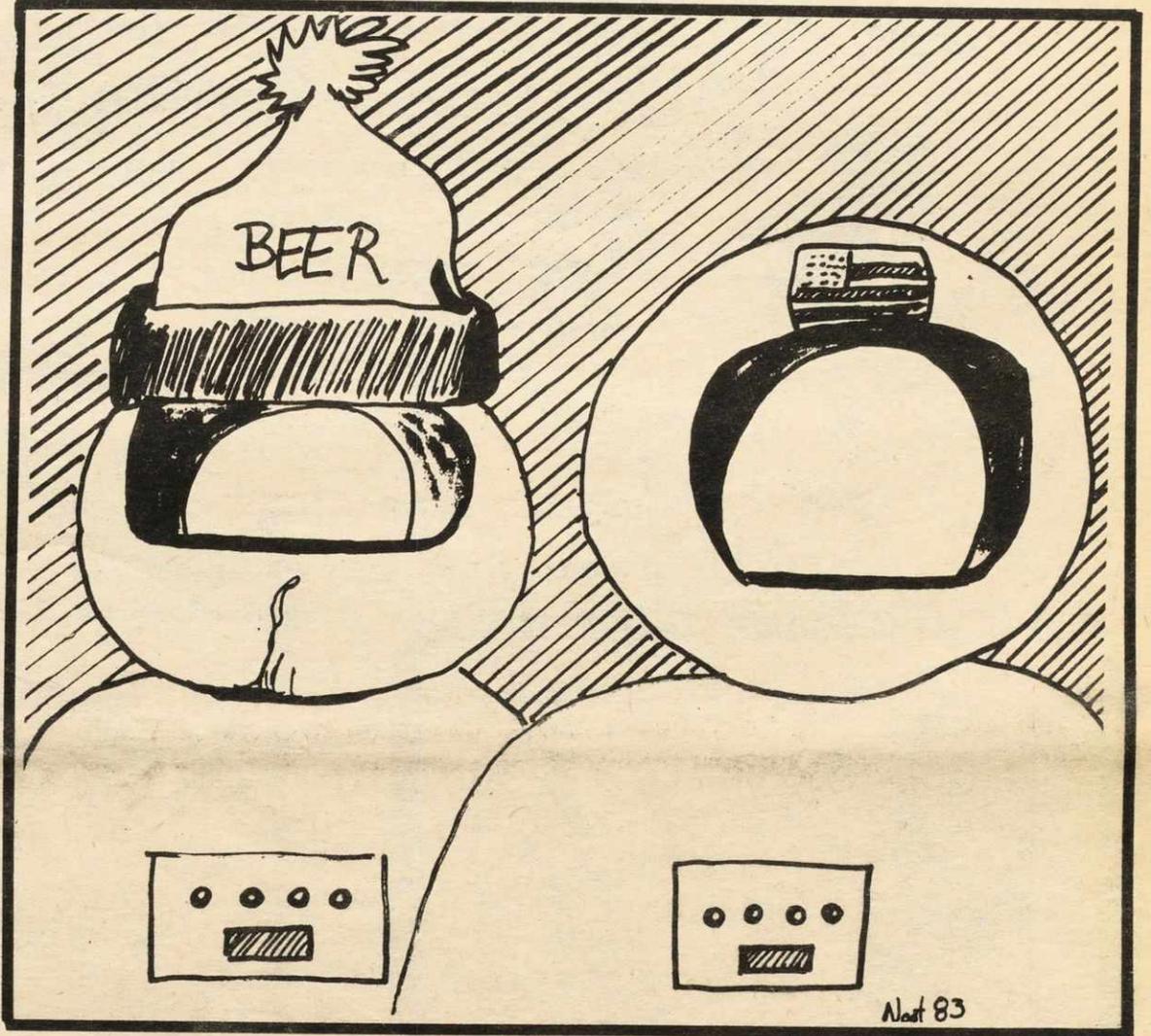
"Motion sickness is a response to disorientation of balance encountered in zero gravity," said Dr. Currie. Space sickness affects forty per cent of all astronauts, leaving them virtually helpless for up to three days.

Purcell and Currie both felt the shuttle should not be used for military purposes. "The shuttle has potential for abuse," said Purcell. "You have to be optimistic. Hopefully reason will prevail."

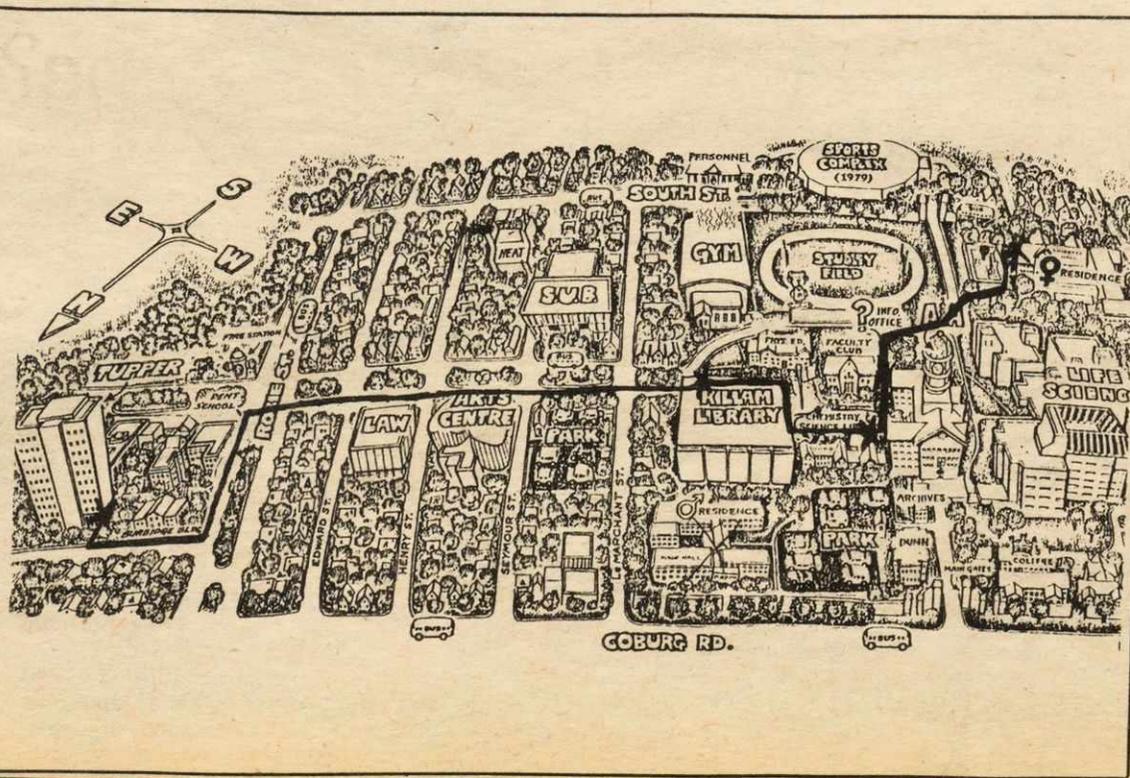
"The studies will have far greater benefits for the general public than the military," said Currie.

More than four thousand applications were filed for the six positions in the Canadian space program. The number was cut to sixteen hundred and now stands at sixty eight. The other native maritime candidate is a pilot at C.F.B. Geagetown. "The fact that three of the four maritime candidates are from Dal is a credit to the university," said Purcell.

The list will be shortened to twenty by mid-November and the positions will be filled in the beginning of December. While all the Dal candidates are carrying on with their normal workload, it's almost certain their minds are somewhere above the clouds.



Women and Dalhousie's new escort service



by C. Ricketts

On-campus women who study at night in the libraries will feel safer returning to residences when the Campus Escort Service is in effect Nov. 13.

"We hope that women will use the service," said security committee chair Phil Barnstead. "We want to prevent anything from happening."

The service will operate out of Howe Hall with 40 volunteers screened by Barnstead, Howe Hall president Gary Zed and Dean of Men Pat Donahoe. "We know the volunteers well," said Zed.

Two escorts in bright yellow jackets will make a circuit of campus twice nightly except for Saturday and only once on Friday, beginning at 8 pm from the lobby of the Tupper Building. From there the escorts will proceed to the Weldon Law library, the Killam, on to the McDonald Science library and will end up at

Sherriff Hall.

Barnstead said efforts will be made to accommodate the women living in Glengarry where possible.

Last year a phone-in escort service from Howe Hall did not meet with great success. Zed said this year's attempt will succeed because it only requires a half hour commitment once every two weeks from the volunteers.

Barnstead says there has been a lot of support from the women's committee and the Dalhousie Women's Faculty Organization. "I'd like to see this kind of service extend to Fenwick," he said but added that would depend on how the service works out on a smaller scale.

Pamphlets with times and the escort route will be in residences next week and Campus Escort signs will be posted in the various libraries.