

NEWS

Deadline: Wednesdays at 12:00 Noon. Newsdesk: 453-4983

Poor voter turnout on campus

by Karen Burgess

Monday's provincial election resulted in the re-election of a Liberal majority government, with the Confederation of Regions party comprising the official opposition.

Although voter turnout in the riding of Fredericton South was, overall, very good, the polls serving the UNB residences reported returns of only about 36%.

Official results and statistics of the election were not available at press time, but Fredericton South's Returning Officer Dick Gormley estimates that out of 705 people enumerated in UNB's on and off campus residences, as few as 354 voters completed their ballots.

Gormley emphasizes that there are several factors which may have caused the poor showing.

Under provincial regulations, it is permissible for a student to be enumerated in both his or her home riding as well as in the riding in which he or she will live during the academic year; however, even those enumerated in two ridings can only cast a vote in one area.

Many of the students enumerated in the Fredericton South area may have chosen to send a write-in vote through the mail to their home riding. Those students would have forfeited their right to vote in the Fredericton South riding,

but would still appear on this area's list of potential voters.

Another possible cause of the poor voter turnout is the fact that enumeration took place during the confusion of

Frosh Week and Orientation.

In addition to the four polls in the Student Union Building, which served those in residence, Fredericton South also had another 68 other polling stations where off campus students may have been

registered to vote along with the general public.

Gormley points out that because students may have voted in polls other than those in the SUB, the poor turnout there is not indicative of the student body as a whole.

Fredericton South returns overall were approximately 75% for the 72 polling stations, with approximately 12,050 people voting, of 15,855 potential voters enumerated.

Dr. Russ King, re-elected as MLA for Fredericton South, is one of 46 Liberal candidates elected throughout New Brunswick. The Confederation of Regions opposition is made up of 8 seats, most of which came from the greater Fredericton area, and of the remaining seats, 3 went to the Progressive Conservatives and 1 to the New Democratic Party.



During the provincial election last Monday, campus polls were lacking in voters.
Michael David Smith photo

SWAT: Peer educators

Press Release

It is the beginning of another school year and the members of SWAT would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all the upperclassmen and to extend a special welcome to all freshmen.

For those who have not heard of this group yet, SWAT stands for Sex Without AIDS Today. SWAT members are peer educators hoping to help prevent the spread of AIDS and other STD's (sexually transmitted diseases) by educating their peers about practising safe sex. This is important since at least 83% of all students at UNB are sexually active and out of this number, 8% have had at least one STD. Out of 613 students sampled at least one is HIV+.

This year SWAT has set up a new peer educators resource room in MacGlaggan Hall which is open to all students during the day. Material is available to read or look at, and someone will be present to answer any questions. As

well, SWAT has supplied a mailbox at the SUB in the Help Centre. If you have a question you would like answered, please drop it in Box #118 and an answer will be provided in SWAT's weekly article.

AIDS Awareness Week begins Monday, October 7th and continues until Friday, October 11th. The Visual AIDS Exhibition, starting on October 7th, has been split up into three separate displays. One display is being held at Memorial Hall until October 18th., another at Saint Thomas University until the 11th, and one more at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery lasting the entire month of October. In these provocative displays four themes will remain constant: Death, Desire, Defense, and

Defiance. Gerrard Pas, one of the artists represented in this exhibition, will be on hand at Memorial Hall on Thursday at 12:30 giving a talk on "Artists and AIDS".

Sexual assault survey to be conducted

by Kelly McDermott

A total of 1500 students from both U.N.B. and S.T.U. will be selected to participate in a sexual assault on campus survey that is being conducted by U.N.B. Counselling Services in October.

Larry Finkelman, who will supervise the survey, hopes to obtain information that will reveal: "...how many students experienced unwanted sexual activity and the circumstances under which it occurred, as well as a lot of situational information such as the location, the relationship

between perpetrator and victim, and any involvement of drugs and alcohol".

Finkelman hopes to gain this information from confidential questionnaires that will be mailed to the selected students

"We want to assure participants that their anonymity will be strictly guaranteed, so nobody will be asked to provide any form of identification with the return questionnaire."

The main goal of the survey is "...to develop a comprehensive educational initiative to help men and

women clarify and challenge their values and attitudes and to develop more appropriate behaviour," says U.N.B.'s Director of Counselling, Dr. Fred Horsely.

The administration of both U.N.B. and S.T.U. are helping to make this goal attainable by funding the survey, and U.N.B.'s Student Union is contributing \$1000.

The result of the survey, as well as conclusion and recommendations for preventive measures, will become available in September 1992.

Condom machines in residence

by Jodi Cruickshank

The Residence Administration has decided not to give out condoms to students. Originally residence proctors gave out condoms to students living in residence, mainly for educational purposes.

Proctors were given the responsibility because condom vending machines were not available in residences. The university could not find a contractor who would be responsible for the installation and upkeep of such machines.

According to the Dean of

Residence, Marylou Stirling, a contractor has been found. The Machines were supposed to be installed before September but the university is still negotiating with the contractor. The condom machines should be installed very shortly.

The condoms supplied to proctors in past years came from UNB Aids Awareness coordinator, Grace Getty. In an interview, Getty said that condoms will be supplied to proctors within the next few weeks.

Getty feels that the condom

machines are a positive move as they will be available to students at all times. She feels that some students are shy or embarrassed to get condoms from their proctors and condom machines will help alleviate this embarrassment. The condoms in the machines will be of "good quality", says Getty.

With Aids Awareness Week beginning on October 7, the addition of condom machines is seen as being a positive move by the Residence Administration.