

NEWS

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

Students to interact on constitution

by Mark I. Minor

A group of students from the University of Victoria who are interested in issues surrounding our constitution are scheduling trips to campuses across Canada. They propose to discuss constitutional ideas with students from other schools including the University of New Brunswick.

It is hoped that these visits will culminate in a conference to be held in Victoria during the month of April.

In a letter to professor Ernie Forbes of the U.N.B. History Department from Professor Kenneth Coates of the University of Victoria History Department, the venture is described as an "event to provide students from across the country with an opportunity to discuss their

concerns about Canada's future and to consider possible solutions to the problems facing this most remarkable county."

The Victoria students don't get academic credit, nor do they receive university funding for their endeavors. They "simply believe that they cannot be passive observers during these troubled times" explains Dr. Coates. The students are handling their own fundraising and Dr. Forbes has already arranged billets in Fredericton for three visitors.

Dr. Coates elaborates on the spirit of this constitutional project: "As you know, Canada's constitutional fabric appears to be unravelling. People across the country are, in many different ways, expressing dissatisfaction with the status quo and are

demanding the radical restructuring of confederation. For many Canadians, the evident bitterness, division and frustration are a cause for great concern. Many of us fear for our country's future, and wonder just what shape Canada will have in the years to come. These circumstances present each of us with an important challenge. We must decide if we simply let national affairs find their own

course. Alternatively, we can seek ways to respond to the malaise that appears to have gripped the country."

The Victoria students are not necessarily seeking out political science students or activists. They are interested in sharing ideas with anyone who has an interest in constitutional affairs. Dr. Coates supports the students. He writes: "In my career at

university, I have never before come across a group of students as determined to do something about the political and social troubles of their country."

The exact dates of the visit to U.N.B. are not as yet determined but it appears that the project is moving forward very quickly. Watch the Brunswickan for further details. More will be revealed.

Student Union elections called

by Aime Phillips

The call for Student Union Elections was made at Wednesday night's council meeting, although the needed changes involved in this year's process have yet to be decided.

Nominations open February 10, close on February 26 and the election day is planned for March 18.

Due to increased enrollments of full time students, there will be one Engineering representative added to council, bringing the total to four.

SU Councillor Anna MacDonald explained the seats are representative of last year's enrollment, with one seat allotted to every 300 hundred students, or the greater part of 300.

Chief Returning Officer, Troy Morehouse planned to propose changes to the election process at the council meeting, but due to time restrictions only the motion for the election date, to be amended if need be, was passed.

In an interview with the Brunswickan, Morehouse discussed some problems in the election process and cited some proposals to relieve the difficulties.

In terms of poor voter turnout, which was recorded as approximately 10% at last fall's bi-election, Morehouse said there is a possibility that assigned polling stations and a two day election period would increase voter turnout.

Assigned polling stations, explained Morehouse, would mean each faculty would vote

at a specific location, for example Engineering and Computer Science would vote at the Head Hall poll station and the faculty of Arts at Tilley Hall.

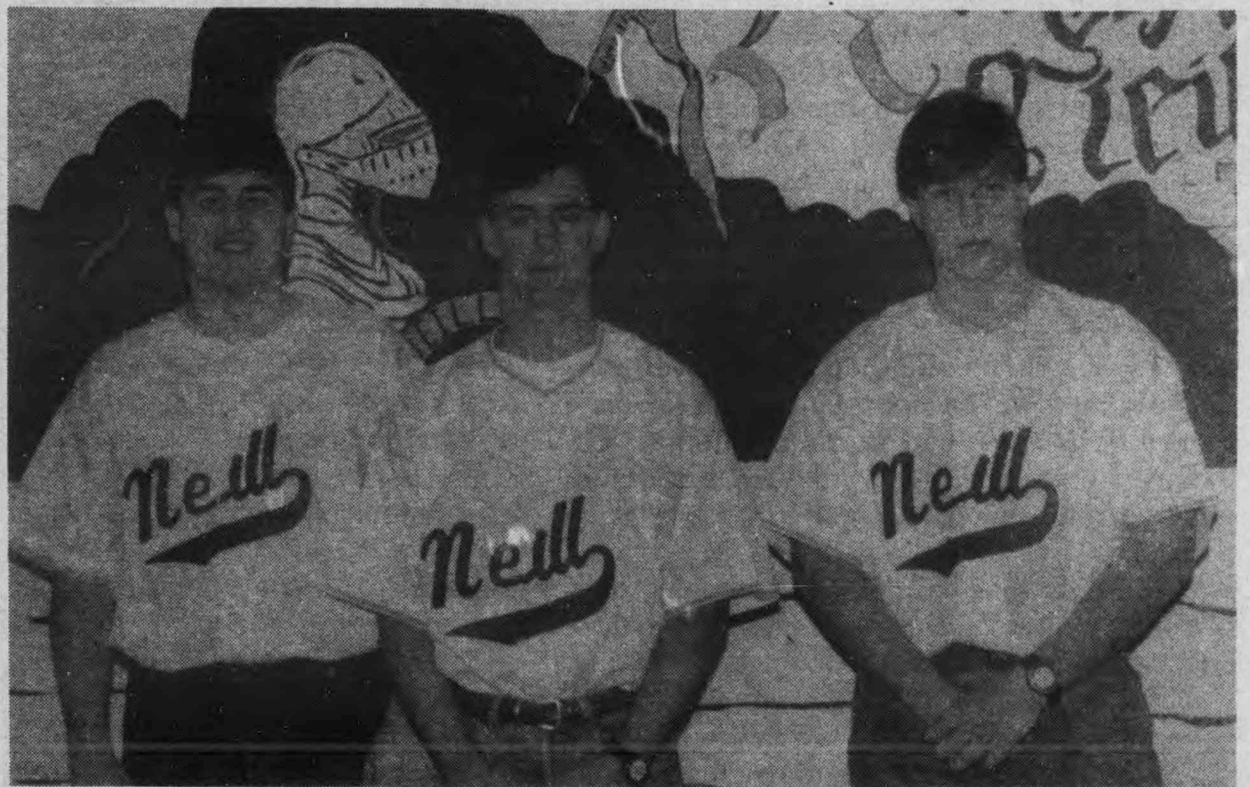
This process would also eliminate the need to punch a whole in student ID's, which Morehouse claims is not only a deterrent for students, but the tactic for verifying students' vote has limited use due to a lack of available space.

The proposal for specific polling stations met with discord when brought up briefly at the council meeting, with counsellors arguing the general access polls in the SUB and especially the Residence Dining Halls usually total a large portion of the votes.

This led to Morehouse's disclosure of a proposed two day voting period. James van Raalte, V.P. Finance and Administration, explained during council the feasibility of holding the voting period over two days.

Due to course schedules, many students do not have classes on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays and some students do not have classes except for those days. Van Raalte claimed extended voting period would possibly result in a larger voter turnout, with the increased chance students would be on campus.

Morehouse also mentioned the possibility of having a general poll station on one day and assigned stations the next, which would reduce the number of poll stations needed for the campaign.



Shown are three volunteers who participate in Neill House's security program. Kent Rainville photo

Neill begins security program

by Jeffery Czopor

Living in residence is often classified as living on the "wild side", and with this lifestyle often brings about excessive behavior leading to unnecessary damages within houses. However, Neill House has found an innovative way to alleviate many of these problems.

Recently, Neill House has implemented an in-house Security program consisting of twenty volunteers. Established to reduce damages caused by social activities "livelier events", and also dissuade unwelcomed activities and behavior, the fellows participating have attended special training seminars and lectures on the subject of maintaining civility.

On the average weekends, there are usually two volunteers on duty. During Socials and special events, four or more will be asked to keep an eye on things.

The volunteers themselves wish to express that they are not there to intimidate people, but are there for the good of everyone on campus. With this program, outside vandals and inebriated guests will be less

likely to get away with costly offenses. With a reduction in vandalism, and excessive rowdiness, the residence Administration will be more lenient in allowing houses, such as Neill to organize their own socials and preserve various privileges.

The security team is also beneficial for those who might become ill or in need of

medical assistance during the course of an evening.

The program has already proven to be quite successful in that security members were able to identify two guests of the house who broke a window. Whereas the house would have been charged prior to the security team, the charge for this inappropriate action was targeted to the individual offenders.

CAMPUS proposes SU fee increase

by Jane Simpson

Members of CAMPUS (Continuing Adult, Mature and Part-time Students) met with Student Union president Greg Lutes to discuss an increase to all full-time students' Student Union fees, in order to fund a scholarship for part-time students.

CAMPUS is requesting that each full-time, undergraduate student pay an additional six dollars on their Union fee, which is presently \$93.

Through a transfer of funds, the extra six dollars full-time students pay would be put toward a part-time student

scholarship.

As it is now, the part-time student reaps the benefits of such university organizations as CHSR, the Paper Post, and the Brunswickan, for free.

The full-time student pays \$93 to support such organizations. Now, full-time undergraduates may be asked to fund a part-time scholarship as well.

Though this concern was not raised at the Board of Governors meeting held on Jan 30th, president Lutes said that there will be an attempt to solve the issue through informal discussions.