NEWS

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

CHNA meets with concerned students

by Karen Burgess

The College Hill Neighbourhood Association held a meeting on Tuesday November 19 to discuss initiatives with concerned students.

The Association's most recent prospective project is the compilation of an Approved List of Available Housing. The list would disclose the findings of team of CHNA Representatives, the majority of whom would be students, who would inspect housing units in the area available for student rental.

Kent Thompson, Vice President of the CHNA, says that before the list can be composed, the group would like to solicit the involvement of St. Thomas representative.

At present, a list of available student housing exists, but there is no screening process in place to identify which of these units are acceptable.

As well as overseeing the conditions in which students and residents live, the Association also advocates the establishment of regular interaction between university administrators and members of the city council to discuss matters of mutual concern.

Absentee landlords, vandalism and theft are issues which negatively effect both the university's image, and that of the City as a whole. George Bidlake, President of the CHNA says that the group is just hoping for its endeavours to result in better enforcement of the city's bi-laws.

As Thompson puts it "Even an absentee landlord with the best of intentions can't get anything done."

The CHNA also encourages all resident of the College Hill area to report immediately any incidents of vandalism, rowdiness or excessive noise as this will help the city police identify the area as one of high priorities.

Bidlake says that he recently contacted the police to get a summary of what kinds of incidents were being reported by Neighbourhood residents.

"Of 94 calls which were made in two months, which is a high number for such a small neighbourhood, over 45 were concerning things that we were concerned with. Loud parties, drunks going through the neighbourhood, theft and assaults."

"Those are the kinds of things we want the police to be aware of so that we can have a safe neighbourhood."

Dawn DeCourcey, the group's treasurer, added that the majority of complaints occur "from 9:00 pm Thursday to until 3:00 am Sunday. I wanted then to be aware that weekends begin being celebrated on Thursday night so they can begin surveillance accordingly."

The executive is hoping to hear from residents of the area surrounding the campus, and are calling for all concerned to join an Expanded Executive to meet regularly and deal with new issues and complaints.

At Tuesday's meeting were (front row) Jodi Cruickshank and Stephanie More, and (back row) Dawn Decourcey, Kent Thompson and George Bidlake. David Smith photo

Youth Council tours N.B.

by Pierre St. Amand

During the month of November the Youth Council of New Brunswick will be touring the province in an effort to promote the well being of young people between the ages of 15 to 24.

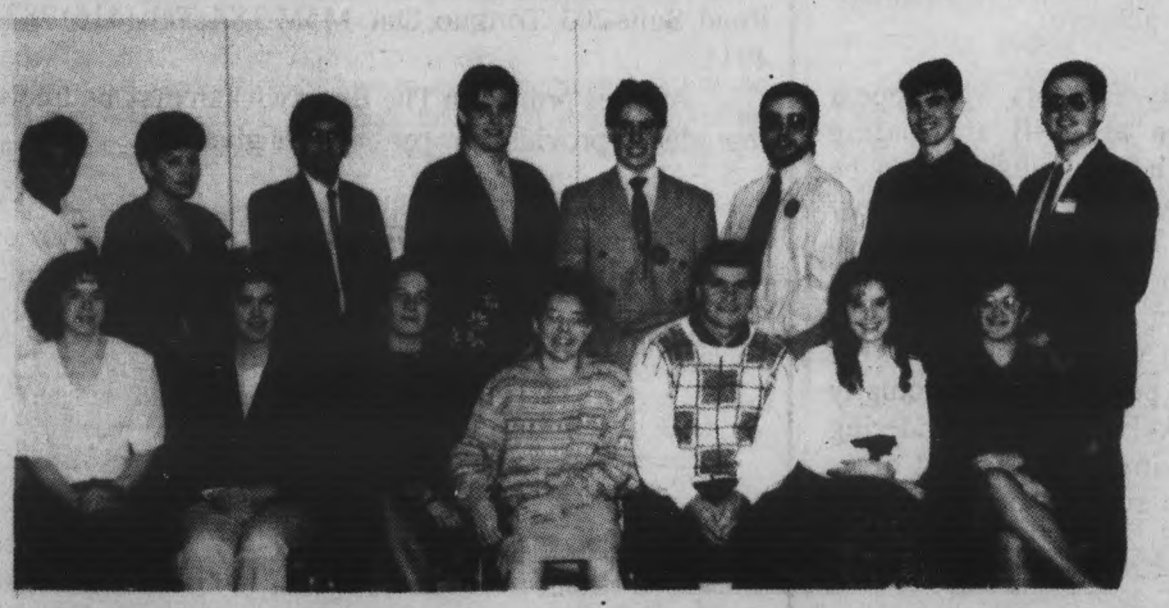
The provincial tour is part of the councils strategy to gather information and concerns of young people and the issues that involve them.

The YCNB will be visiting over 11 locations this month. This also includes many other events that are taking place during November with which the YCNB is involved. Among these is the Drug Awareness Week, the Youth Appreciation Week and the Annual Symposium on Safety.

In a recent news letter Youth Council President Stephanie Kuttner revealed that the tour was the people's chance "to stand up and be heard."

Members of the council will be at UNB on November 27. The information accumulated from concerned youth during the tour will go toward a written report that outlines the results of the meetings. This report is expected in January 1992. The next regular meeting for the YCNB is tentatively scheduled in January of 1992 in Fredericton. The council also has interest in other organisations such at the Multicultural Youth of New Brunswick. Child Welfare Association, as well as issues dealing with our environment and the development of Teen Centres which was undertaken by the YCNB this summer providing young people with a drug free and alcohol free environment where meet.

With such accomplishments, the YCNB can be termed a very adequate and productive organisation.



Youth Council members for 1991-92: Front row, l-r: Marcia Cook, Lizon Chiasson, Stephanie Kuttner, Stephanie Pollock, Premier McKenna, Renee Tremblay and Monique Doiron. Back row, l-r: Angella Saulnier, Pamela Ward-Levi, Kapil Kamra, Donald Martel, Gino Fournier, Sebastien Michaud, Peter Toner and Ivan Corbett. Youth Council photo

Caribbean Circle budget frozen by Student Union

by Erin Campbell

Recently, the Caribbean Circle discovered that the Student Union, in return for a loan, was going to freeze part of its budget.

The Caribbean Circle is an organisation for all students, especially those from Central and South America. The group has as its objectives educating Canadian students about the Caribbean region and helping foreign students to adjust to a new country and a new lifestyle.

The Caribbean Circle's budget had initially been approved by last year's Student Union executiv, but because of changing circumstances, the organisation found it necessary to ask this year's student government for a loan.

In an unusual move, the Student Union wanted a security against the loan. The action it took to minimize the risks of lending the funds was to freeze nearly half of the Caribbean Circle's budget.

In the end, the organisation did not gain anything even with the loan. According to Fitzgerald Providence, the treasurer of the Caribbean Circle, the situation is more or less the same as before.

This is not the first time the Caribbean Circle has asked for a loan, but it is the first time its budget has been frozen. The members can not remember ever having problems with the Student Union concerning financial matters. Every time the group took out a loan, it was repaid in full.

Providence is not sure how the Caribbean Circle will cope with the lack of funds. The part of the budget being held by the Student Union will be released on the condition of the loan being repaid.

In addition to running various programmes on a "half-budget", the Caribbean Circle must discover a way to reimburse the loan. Providence believes that the organisation's fate depends on the success of the upcoming Caribbean festival. If it does not meet the Caribbean Circle's expectations, the group will try to reach a compromise with the Student Union. Beyond that, the future is uncertain.