

Neill House Appeals from Page 1

not returned our telephone call.

This week, the four who were kicked out of Neill House decided to break their silence and sit down, in an exclusive interview with *The Brunswickan*, to talk about their appeals.

All four are disappointed and surprised that Armstrong would not even meet with them to hear their side of the story, or refer their case to the Board of Deans.

"I figured at least something would happen like we would have our day to tell our story and I thought at least they would have to drop our banishment from the residence community," said Shane Betts. "I was just shocked."

"I cannot believe that they can get away with not even hearing our appeals, especially when Craighead said we were each expelled for individual misconduct, yet you can look at the whole Neill House situation and say 'well all four of them are gone, they don't deserve to be heard,'" Betts said.

Craig Rayner has similar thoughts. "I think we did this the most responsible way we could do it."

"I think as far as the way we handled the situation we did it responsibly and we tried to go through all the right routes," Rayner said. "Nobody even really listened seriously to us."

"It just seemed like after Craighead gave his ruling, everybody just stood behind him and never really gave us a chance to speak."

"In the letter there are a lot of facts we have been disagreeing with the whole time and it doesn't seem anyone has given us a change to even tell them, especially we didn't even get a chance to meet with Armstrong," Rayner said.

Lyle DeMerchant felt that, at the least, Armstrong might lift their ban from the residence community.

"I am very disappointed about it," he said.

"They wouldn't even hear what we had to say," he continued.

"Nobody listened to us."

"Dr. Armstrong looked at our letter and basically gave us a slap in the face," DeMerchant said.

Jamie Robinson dropped his appeal even before Armstrong replied. "After



Things are far from over at Neill House

Photo: Warren Watson

speaking with University Secretary Stephen Strole, I did not feel we were going to be given a fair deal so it was my decision not to continue," he said.

"I left it be."

"Actually, I thought the other three would be able to get before the Board of Deans in that they would actually be heard, but that it would not go any further than that, that they would actually get to have their say," Robinson said.

"But they didn't, and I'm surprised at that — that Armstrong stopped it right there."

Shane Betts feels most of the residence community realize what is going on.

"Most of them know we are getting railroaded, but they all can't help or they won't help, whether they fear for losing their jobs or what," he said.

"I don't know what it is. Anyone who is empowered doesn't seem to want to stand up for us."

Betts said all four would like to have the opportunity to see their records cleared and some justice served.

"There is no way he (Craighead) should

be able to get away with what he has been doing to us."

All four say they have been to visit Student Union President Kelly Lamrock, who sits as a student representative on the University's Board of Governors, and is seeking re-election to the Board next week.

Lamrock told *The Brunswickan* that an inquiry into the whole Neill House situation needs to be a looked at and thinks it's important for a number of reasons.

"I'm very skeptical of by what authority the University can go around shutting down a democratically elected student-run House Committee."

"If they were problems, those issues should have been put to the residents of Neill House," he said.

"I think if you go back to the start, there was a case where there were some

complaints against a Don."

"The letters were made public, and the names of the complainants were available to him [the Don]," said Lamrock.

"The administration took weeks to report back."

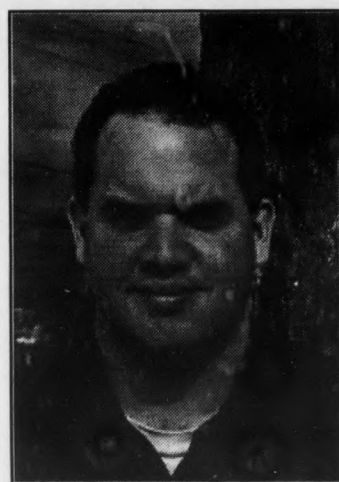
Lamrock said he has notice something else, not just after meeting with the four evicted, but with other residents of Neill.

"There is a complete demoralization at Neill House right now among the residents and something there has gone seriously wrong."

"Simply having some men thrown out because they were drinking too much does not explain what I'm seeing in Neill House, which is that people are quite sick of being there," Lamrock said.

"Something has gone serious wrong," he concluded.

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The proposed "Brunsmanj" and the letter "B"

The Brunswickan, in its 129th year of publication, is Canada's oldest official student publication. *The Brunswickan* is generally published every Friday during the school year by Brunswick Publishing Inc. with a circulation of 10,000. Membership is open to all University of New Brunswick Fredericton students, but all members of the university community are encouraged to contribute.

The opinions contained in this newspaper are those of the individual writers, and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Brunswickan*.

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The Brunswickan est imprimé avec flair par Acadie Press a Caraquet. The paper is impeccably delivered by Mark Bray. He has a license, really. Subscription rates are \$27 per year. Second class mail is in effect #8120.

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