

A New Student Centre

The *Brunswickan* reviews the history of the Student Building Committee, the continual opposition which the Committee has faced, and the plans that are at present adopted.

by SCOTT WADE

Thumbs Down

Nobody knows when it all happened, but human nature being what it is, we can probably state with accuracy that when the Memorial Student Centre was opened in 1955, someone was there to say that it wasn't big enough, and that within a matter of years expansion would be necessary.

It is interesting to read *Brunswickans* of many years ago to follow the feeling on campus towards the extension of the Memorial Student Centre and eventually the radical break and demands by some extremists for an altogether new and different structure. "The *Brunswickan*, with its entire editorial staff, is emphatically opposed to the plans for the erection of a Student Union Building at this time." And then, some years later, "We have been repeatedly told that further opposition to the student union building at this time will have the effect of wrecking all plans for student fund-raising. Very well, let's drop the matter for the time being."

"Will UNB have a new student union building by the fall of 1964? This is the date mentioned by informed sources on the Student Building Committee." Because the extent of the opposition was so great, in 1963 a referendum for student opinion was

requested. The answers were generally discouraging to the committee. "I think the whole thing is a big farce. It seems to be an attempt on the part of the elite to gain even further pres-



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tige, glory . . . and red ink!" "We need a room for special purposes eg. drying area for parachutes." "I think that what we really need is a chocolate milk dispenser which dispenses chocolate milk." "What is the story with these expensive questionnaires?" "Forget it!" and "Who paid for this?"

In following the progress of the Student Building Committee we can note that two significant stages were achieved. The most important was the final decision to erect a new building rather

than add to the old or join Memorial Hall and the existing Student Centre. Secondly was the final location of the proposed building and that wasn't settled until the Spring of 1965. At that time an agreement was reached that the new Student Union should sit at the centre of the campus. It was therefore allotted a position above the Men's residence complex.

As attitudes changed, the Students Representative Council agreed to levy students ten dollars per year, the funds to be directed towards the construction of the new Student Centre. Only last year, the levy was raised to fifteen dollars as the original plan of a \$750,000 Centre was expanded to a project which is now in the vicinity of two million dollars. Teacher's College and Saint Thomas have, within the last year, agreed to levy their students and the Student Building Committee is now the first organization to involve full cooperation of the three institutions.

More Red Brick!

In May of 1965, the American architectural firm of Larson and Larson submitted a plan for the building. The preliminary drawings were revised and last fall presented to the student body.