

# Executive rescinds referendum motion

- Earl tells councillors to lie

By SUSAN REED  
Staff Writer

The SRC passed a motion Monday night approving the holding of a referendum to determine if student fees should be raised \$15. On Wednesday morning, the Brunswickan received a press release from the executive committee of the student union stating that this motion be rescinded. The executive had reached this decision, the release said because "after the vote was taken many of the council members stated they were in opposition to any fee increase. In view of the negative feelings of these members...the Executive Committee feels it is not appropriate to go to referendum without the support of the council."

At Monday's meeting, the following members of council wanted it on record that while they had voted for the holding of a referendum, this did not mean they were in favor of it: Graduate Student Rep Don Andrew; David Lawrence and Kent Guptill, engineering reps; Lynn Fraser and Bryce Bowman, arts reps; and Rep-At-Large Kathleen Gail Owens.

Results were to have been determined by a simple majority of 50 per cent plus one vote.

In the course of the debate over the motion, engineering rep David Lawrence had suggested the motion be changed to read that council gives approval for the question of fee increase to go to a referendum not for approval of the issue itself.

SRC Vice-President Chris Earl replied that if councillors did not agree with the issue but wanted to give the students a chance to vote on it, they should vote yes to

the motion. No one will know who voted yes and councillors can disavow it until they are "blue in the face," he said.

It was then decided by council to change the motion according to Lawrence's suggestion.

SRC President Perry Thorbourne said this is the first time a fee increase has gone to a referendum.

Thorbourne said the mortgage could be paid of by October 1980 if the increase goes through, otherwise it will take three to four more years.

Thorbourne said if union fees had been indexed to the cost of living, they would now be around \$67.

This proposal has been made, he said, because of the poor condition of the building and because what the union used to have, in terms of space for activities and providing services for students is dwindling. He said it was not because of the Goldberg and Stacey reports, which council has decided to ignore in regards to this issue.

Steve Berube, chairman of the board of directors of the SUB, said he and SUB director Cindy Stacey had received permission from the board to begin negotiations for UNB to take over financial control of the building. Minor renovations for the building should take place every five years, said Berube at a cost of \$100,000. The SUB has never had any of these renovations, he said, except for new carpets which had been provided by an Alterations and Renovations Grant from the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission.

Berube said there are five options regarding the SUB. The first is to go to the Beaverbrook Foundation after the Aitken Centre has been paid off but the

chances of receiving money are nil, he said. The second would be to hold a fund-raising drive downtown. Berube said there would be a problem with this as the university might be holding one too.

The union could approach the alumnae, he said, but their main concerns are scholarships and bursaries.

The fourth option, said Berube is to ask the university to take control. This is an attractive proposition, he said, but is not in the students' best interests.

Lastly, the student union fees could be increased. Berube said this was the best idea as he feels students should retain control of the building.

Berube mentioned that the mortgage rate on the building is the prime rate plus one-half and present mortgage rates are 14 to 14 1/2 per cent.

Berube said he is not prepared to negotiate for university control and would resign if he were placed in that position.

Thorbourne said the university gaining control would mean that students are "giving up and passing the buck." He said the union has digressed from what it is supposed to be; it must show responsibility for its members.

After the mortgage has been paid off, Thorbourne said the extra money could be used by the SRC for such projects as dental care programs, the establishment of a student ombudsman, day care centres for married students, craft fairs and quality entertainments and events for students.

Representative-at-large Kathleen Gail Owen asked it if would be possible to lower fees after the mortgage is paid. Thorbourne replied that this would be up to future councils.

"We should remember we are a community within a community,"



Chris Earl

said Thorbourne, "We should interact with the city of Fredericton."

Bryce Bowman, arts rep, said if the university gains control of the building, they will increase tuition and then allot money to the SUB so students would have to pay more anyway.

He said the organization of the building "leaves a lot to be desired" and in the future the proposed \$60 student fee should be used to revamp the whole student program.

Engineering rep Lawrence raised the question of whether the proposed programs would be long in coming because of the need for renovations. Berube answered that the union can't get into renovations because of its present debt.

Don Andrew, graduate student rep, seconded by Owens, motioned that the chair make know the contents of the proposed referendum before the motion was voted on. Chairman David Kay ruled that the present motion was in order. It was then passed, with only science rep Mike Hughson voting against it.



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## Robert Macmillan elected Brunswickan editor

By GORDON LOANE

Third-year business student Robert Macmillan has been elected editor-in-chief of the Brunswickan. He defeated one other staff member for the position at the annual election Wednesday night. He replaces Kathryn Wake-

ling whose term expires before the final issue of the Brunswickan this year.

New editors for all staff departments will be appointed quickly, he said, in fact by Monday if all goes well.

Several changes in the paper

are planned for next year, Macmillan said.

"I plan to place a higher emphasis on campus news and concentrate on issues that students are really concerned about. I also plan to evaluate several areas of our paper including our

quality and content and try to come up with improvements in our total design and layout," he said.

Macmillan, a Toronto native, has been a Brunswickan staff member for the past three years.