

SUB expansion: two plans proposed

by Gordon Loane

A report designed by the UNB Student Union is proposing a 9.8 million dollar expansion to the Student Union Building.

The expansion could begin as early as next spring, if the plan gets the go-ahead in a student referendum slated for March.

The executive group of the university's administration will see the proposal next week, *The Brunswickan* has learned.

The expansion proposal will mean the centralization of student services in one building. Just what services is still unclear, but most frequently mentioned include the Dean Of Students' office, Counselling Services, Health Centre, Bank, Bookstore and Financial Aid offices.

Three million dollars would come from the university administration through an upcoming fundraising initiative, while the remainder would come from student pockets over the next 30 years.

The mortgage would be paid off through a five dollar per-year fee beginning next fall until 1996/97, or until the expansion opens. The fee would be increased to 25 dollars after that, plus any cost-of-living adjustment.

The Fredericton-based architectural firm, Goguen and Smyth, has prepared two designs which, according to the report, "Offers A Balance Between Commercial Space, Student Union/Club Space and University Student Service's Space."

One design would see the existing SUB expanded at the front and west side towards the residence system.

A second design would see an expansion along the street to the east side of the current building. The second proposal is believed to be the front runner, but no final decision has yet been reached.

The architects have also prepared a floor plan for each proposal but it is not yet detailed. In either proposal approximately 46 thousand square-feet of net floor space will be added.

The SUB expansion proposal comes after nearly one-and-a-half years of study.

A student survey conducted last fall on both the UNB and STU campuses favoured SUB expansion and identified certain needs, such as more meeting rooms and places for group study.

Also, both graduate students and international student groups have asked for a central location to co-ordinate their efforts. Another area identified was lack of space in the

cafeteria. The Student Union report says only 6.6 per cent of students can use the cafeteria at any one time.

As well, the financing package includes nearly two million dollars to renovate and improve the current building, including improved accessibility and public elevators.

A committee, chaired by former Student Union President Eric Burchill and including several members of the UNB Administration, worked all last academic year on the plan.

A student summer co-ordinator has been hired each of the last two summers to prepare back ground material, co-ordinate plans, prepare a preliminary report and prepare a publicity campaign for the upcoming referendum.

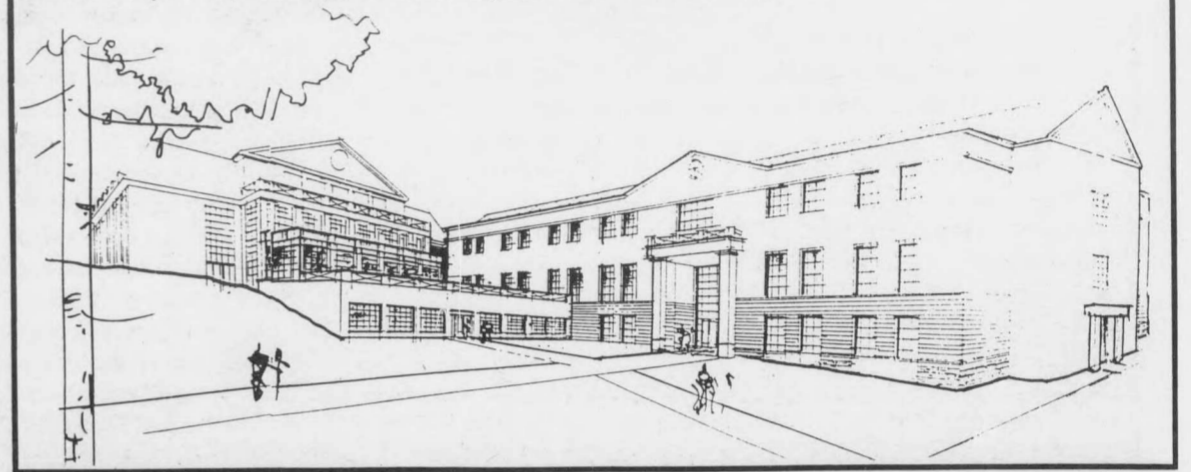
The current SUB, constructed and opened in 1969 with the help of a student buy and mortgage, has never been expanded.

The student population at UNB in 1969 was just half what it is today, the study says.



Scheme one (top): Looking Northwest, expansion towards Lady Dunn.

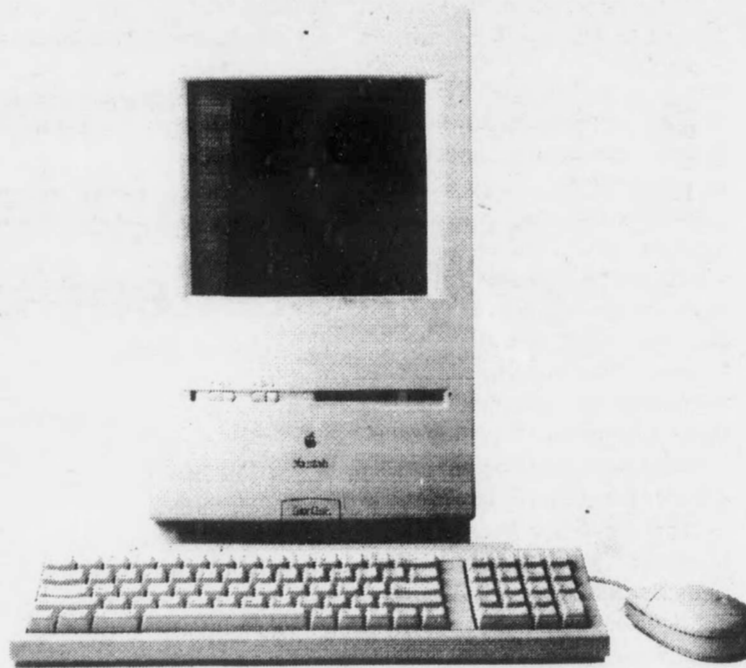
Scheme two (bottom): Looking Southwest, expansion towards Harrison House



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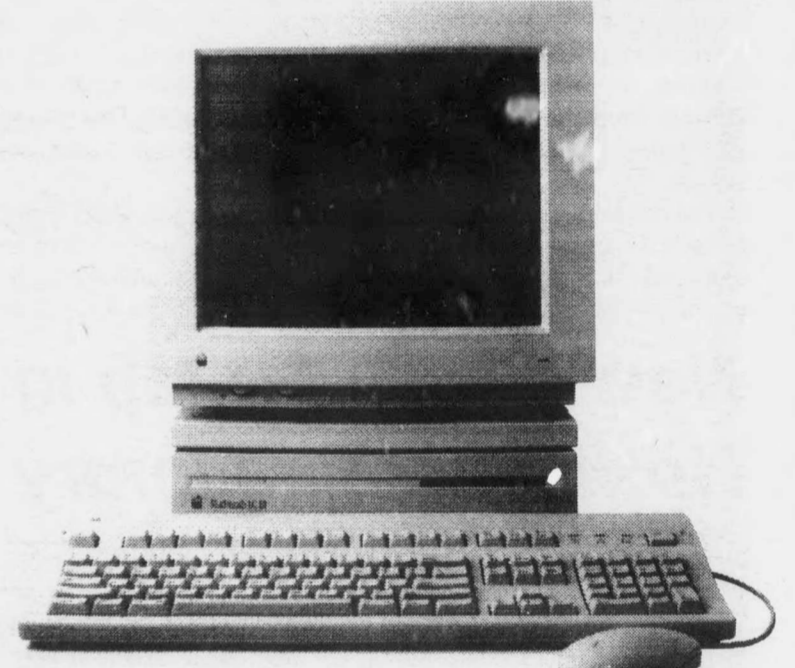
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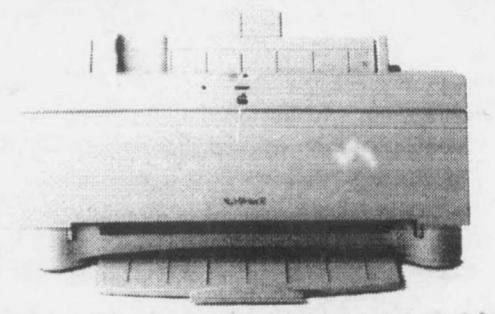
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