

SRC supports U de M with \$1,000

By DERWIN GOWAN
News Editor

The SRC allocated \$1,000 to buy food for Universite de Moncton students occupying the Centennial building at last Monday's meeting. "We are going to benefit," said council president Jim Smith, speaking of the Francophone students. Smith said it was council's "duty" to support the demonstrators as long as all New Brunswick students would benefit if their demands were met.

Comptroller Wenceslaus Batanyita said, "I think we have got an obligation. We have got nothing to lose. We have a responsibility to help students who are trying to fight for other students." Further, he said, he did not want to burden the contingency budget more than necessary as the UNB student union is already doing such things as bussing students back and forth from showers, making long distance phone calls, et cetera.

All councillors, however, did not agree. Engineering representative Eric Semple said, "I think we should find out if the students are backing it if we are going to spend this much money."

Science representative Kevin Garland said very few UNB students went down to the Centennial Building or showed any interest in the demonstration and Arts representative Damian Bone stated, "We're here for the students, not for our own personal views."

"I got an emphatic no," said Business representative Elizabeth Phillips, from almost everyone she talked to. "If we look at all the facts, we really can't give the money."

Some councillors charged that the SRC executive spent over \$800 on the previous demonstration to which vice president Gordon Kennedy said the referendum was manned by volunteers, thus mitigating the expense.

Kennedy is in charge of supplying food for the demonstrators and he said, "We are taxed to our limit right now." There was not enough resources to handle 75 more people, he said.

Former student union president Warren McKenzie said that the SRC should show leadership and added, "Of course the campus will drift as long as we let it." Universite de Moncton students were working on "our behalf," he said, and council should vote "based on what you know is right."

Student union lawyer Peter Forbes said he was not against the aims of the demonstrators but he cautioned against going too far. "I hope that people know when to quit," he said. He said the demonstration would soon reach the point where the disadvantages would outweigh the advantages. Said Forbes, New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield made a speech the night before saying, "There ain't no money left." "We have to assume they're honest," Forbes said. He said there were numerous areas on which the province could spend money, and student aid was only one of them. Forbes suggested the health department might soon move in and clear the Centennial Building of demonstrators.

According to Forbes, when less well off persons across the province were aroused against the demonstrators, then it was time call the demonstration off.

"When it becomes a piss-off to the administrators of government and the people of the province," said Forbes, then the "point of diminishing returns" was reached and the demonstration should be called off. "Your political wallow amounts to zero," said Forbes, and speaking of Hatfield, he said, "I

know he knows enough to know where his votes come from."

The government was not obligated to appoint representatives, much less student representatives, to student aid policy making bodies, he said.

Arts representative Chris Pratt said \$1,000 was not substantial enough to help the demonstrators and might turn others away from supporting the cause. He suggested that Senate be asked to close classes to encourage more persons to participate in the demonstration.

Forestry representative Terry Downing said, "Moncton and the people down there are doing all the dirty work," and said New

Brunswick students "sure won't complain" if student aid is increased. "Why should they pay the full shot," asked Downing, and he added that the Universite de Moncton students would have to make up for lost class time, thus shortening summers and reducing summer earnings.

Semple said he saw very few UNB students at the demonstration. "They've had absolutely no support down there," he said. "They should get the opinion of the student body first," he said.

McKenzie said less well off persons would benefit the most if the demonstrators' demands were met. Further, he said most of the students voting against the motion

were from the "elite" and would not qualify for a student loan. "There are students down there carrying on a student struggle and we should support them," he said.

Smith added that although only a minority of UNB students voted yes in the recent referendum, the turnout was the highest in recent years. "Maybe if we decided to get up and decided to push something as an SRC...you would see a student body that is interested."

"The \$1,000 is our due right now," said Smith. A roll call vote was held which passed the motion with 10 in favour, and seven against, with an abstention. Smith, Batanyita, Law representative Jim MacLean,

Nursing representative Sally Davis, representative at large Ursula Wawer, science representative Stephen Patriquen, Computer Science representative Bill Sanderson, Business representative Stephen Berube, Forestry representative Terry Downing, and Kennedy were in favour. Against were Arts representative Theresa Bone, Arts representative Damian Bone, Science representative Kevin Garland, Education representative Dwight Tranquilla, Engineering representative Eric Semple, Arts representative Chris Pratt, and Business representative Elizabeth Phillips were against. Engineering representative Dave Smith abstained.

New coffee house facility for UNB

By DERWIN GOWAN
News Editor

Students' Representative Council decided last Monday to borrow \$10,000 to spend on changing the games room in the Student Union Building into a coffee house type lounge.

The lounge will seat 99 people and will cost over \$16,000. According to council president Jim Smith, the Alumni promised from between \$5- and \$7,000 and the Student Union Building allocated \$1,200. Smith said Saint Thomas University is also planning on supporting the project financially, said Smith.

The loan would be paid back over a two year period.

The lounge would be finished by September 1976, at which time some of the games presently in the room would be moved upstairs to the coffee shop.

There will be no membership fees or admission charged. Wine and spirits will be served occasionally with a temporary liquor license for each event held, said Student Union Building board of directors chairman Dave Miller. However, he added, beer would not be allowed and most times only coffee would be served. Students will have first priority in using the lounge, Miller said, and the room will be programmed and run by the Student Union Building.

Engineering representative Eric Semple said he was against not allowing beer, yet allowing wine and spirits under some circumstances but vice president Gordon Kennedy said, "Beer drinkers tend to have the sole intention of getting drunk." The atmosphere of the room will be "different from any other place on campus," said Arts representative Chris Pratt.

"A lot of people have shown a lot of good feelings for this," said president Jim Smith. He added that the Fire Marshall said up to 166 persons could be let in the room at any one time.

The student union can afford the expense, said Comptroller Wenceslaus Batanyita. Council was authorized to borrow \$10,000 last year to provide off campus broadcasting facilities for CHSR, but the loan was never taken out.

Further, Batanyita said, the student union could borrow up to \$50,000, according to local bankers, so long as student union fees are paid. Batanyita further stated that it would be cheaper to borrow the money than take it out of the union's own funds. "It's unfortunate that more student unions don't do things in a businesslike manner," he said.



Photo by Tim Gorman

The present site of the games room in the basement of the SUB is to be changed to a coffee house type lounge by September of this year. Some of the games are to be moved into the coffee shop.

Jack Mbiza still missing

On a freezing day at the beginning of January, Jack Mbiza walked out of UNB for destinations unknown, and has not been heard of since. He left no indication as to his intentions and not a clue to trace him by. Was this a re-hash of the Captain Oates trick, or were the tempting climes of Florida beckoning a sun-tanned finger? Such frivolous speculation is doubtless tasteless, but Mbiza's strange, illogical disappearance provokes speculation of all kinds.

On the very day of his disappearance, Jack was to collect an air-ticket from Mrs. Joyce Stocker, Overseas Student Advisor which would take him home to Malawi, and at this point there was nowhere else he would rather be. So near and yet so far. Therein lies the mystery: that the opportunity to leave presented itself, and he turned his back on it.

I could pluck at your heart strings. I could say, "How many of you really care whether Jack Mbiza is alive or dead? He is one of our students, and we should be looking for him, out combing the bush - DOING something." However, emotions are overridden by commonsense which counters with the questions "How and where do we start looking?"

The beginning of this article may read like a light-hearted mystery novel, but the end may well be tragedy for Jack Mbiza, and bearing this in mind, it's as well to continue in a more serious vein.

We know little of the background of this first year Mechanical Engineering student; there are few details which may throw light on his disappearance, but one of the most disturbing is the fact that when he walked out he was in a very depressed, unhappy state of mind, according to W. Batanyita. For the few weeks prior to his disappearance, he had been feeling under pressure from his studies and had felt that he could not cope any longer.

Batanyita, Jack's proctor at Neville House, said: "Jack was a quiet guy, and not the sort of person who would tell you his problems". A bit of a loner, therefore, and uncommunicative, but it was evident to all who came in contact with him that Jack was very depressed. "He insisted he wanted to go home", said Batanyita. Jack asked Mrs. Stocker if, under the auspices of the C.I.D.A. (Canadian International Development Agency) she could arrange his passage home. All that day 8th January, Mrs. Stocker waited for him to appear to collect the longed-for ticket, but he never showed.

His behavior on the previous day is enough to illustrate the confused state of mind he was in. On 7th, he was found wandering down by Fredericton Junction "in a dazed state", and was taken in by the R.C.M.P. Upon talking with him they discovered he was very unhappy with the lack of progress

he was making in his studies, and also with his near non-existent social life. He was in a dilemma because to return to Malawi would be an admission of failure, and while on the one hand he wanted badly to go back, he would have faced shame on his return. According to a police spokesman, he told Fredericton City Police that "he was going to go just as far as his feet would carry him", an ominous statement for an unhappy person, especially one not used to the cold. Brought back to Neville House on 7th by city police and aware of the transport arrangements, come the next day he was agin missing. What is more, he was totally ill-equipped to survive the cold; no clothes were taken, and very little money. It is surmised he was probably wearing a parka.

Apparently, the first time the police took him in, he was heading in the direction of St. John. This may be the route he took on the 8th. It is possible that he caught a ship there, with the intention of working his passage somewhere.

Contact with his relatives in Malawi by police services proves that he has not gone home. At the end of every corridor of investigation mystery slams shut an exasperating door. He may not want to be found, but he probably doesn't want to be found lying under a snowdrift either. As a member of the constabulary put it, "Come the Springtime, we may find him lying dead in some ditch"