

# COSA raises students' union fees for graduate students

By ELAINE VERBICKY

Graduate Students' Association president Peter Boothroyd walked out of a Council on Student Affairs meeting Tuesday, in protest of what he termed "bad faith".

He and eight graduate student supporters left just as a motion that COSA approve in principle a proposed revision of the students' union fee structure was being put to a vote.

Boothroyd and his supporters had been arguing for two hours against COSA approval of the new fee structure. If adopted, it would raise compulsory students' union fees for graduate students from \$5 to \$15.

"I was given to understand that on issues affecting the internal affairs of those represented on COSA, no vote would be taken," said Boothroyd before leaving. "I feel bad faith is indicated here if this comes to a vote."

COSA chairman Provost A. A. Ryan

said he had been requested by university president Dr. Walter H. Johns to try to obtain a consensus on the fee structure question at the meeting. The vote went unanimously in favor of approval in principle.

"If this council were made up of pressure groups, it would not be effective," said Prof. Ryan. "It is the duty of COSA to see the rights of each body on it are protected. If a matter goes to the General Faculty Council from here, it goes after both sides have been heard."

"It is not our purpose to be a dictatorial body."

"But if possible we will give a general conclusion," he added.

Boothroyd had not opposed the fee proposal at the COSA meeting of Jan. 16.

But during the interval between it and Tuesday's meeting, GSA conducted a referendum on the question of paying the extra students' union fee. Three al-

ternatives were presented to 1,867 graduate students; join the students' union outright and pay the new fee; pay the new fee but retain just associate membership; or fight the students' union fee hike all the way.

Only 13 per cent of the graduate students voted—97 for full membership, 95 for fighting and 10 for paying but maintaining autonomy of the students' union.

A GSA meeting on the Wednesday previous to COSA had mandated Boothroyd to deny compulsory membership of any kind in the students' union.

His supporters claimed graduate students do not use SUB facilities enough to warrant the fee hike and students' union membership would take away graduate student power and autonomy on various policy-making boards in the university administration and government.

Students' union president Al Anderson commented on the COSA outcome, "I was appalled at the commentary that went on,

and pleased at the vote. It was necessary a COSA opinion be rendered.

"The students' union doesn't want to take away graduate student powers. It just wants them to pay their fair share. For them to say they do not use union facilities is ludicrous," he added.

"The fact that 87 per cent of the graduate students didn't bother to vote in the referendum implies, to me, implicit approval of students' union membership," Anderson said. "It's got to come, and it will come."

He attributed the new GSA move to leave the union all together, renouncing even associate graduate student membership, to a pressure group which was vocal against the students' union at the last GSA meeting.

The revised students' union fee structure was to have been presented today to the Board of Governors for approval. The GSA was expected to prepare a brief of protest.

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are here

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### Michener residents present brief to Board of Governors

#### Married students circulate petition opposing increase in housing rents

Residents at the married student housing project are "unequivocally opposed to any rent increase at Michener Park."

A brief to be presented to the Board of Governors today said 117 of 227 families signed a petition opposing the increase from \$110 to \$131.

The increase was announced Jan. 29 by director of housing and food services Derek Bone.

At Portland State College where student residences are privately-owned rents start at \$80 a month for unfurnished suites.

Rents as low as \$55 a month for married student housing were reported for two other American universities at last week's students' council meeting.

The brief says in January, 1966 when the plan was announced by J. R. B. Jones, then director of housing and food services, the target rental was \$90.

In a letter at that time Mr.

Jones said, "an economic analysis to determine the way in which the project can be self-liquidating" would be undertaken.

The fee increase, if passed, would leave rents 46 per cent higher than the target rental, set two years ago.

The brief says the average earnings per family is \$3,878 per year of which \$1,572 would go for rent if the increase is accepted.

Grad student Jack Chambers, who helped prepare the brief said emotions are "very high" in Michener Park.

Some students feel "very threatened" by the increase and say it "would take the bread off their table."

"If the brief doesn't work then nothing will keep the lid on things down there (Michener Park)," he said.

### Moncton students on strike in protest of tuition hike

MONCTON, N.B. (CUP)—University of Moncton students left classes Monday to strike against a proposed tuition fee increase.

In a Friday referendum 850 out of 1,000 students voting were in favor of the strike. The University of Moncton has 1,100 students.

The strike vote came after the Board of Governors approved fee increases ranging from \$75 to \$110 beginning next September. Moncton's fees now are from \$430 to \$525.

The students asked for a freeze in tuition fees, increased scholarships and bursaries, greater government subsidies to the university, and a government commitment to gradual phase out of tuition fees.

Moncton fees are among the lowest in the province. Student leaders say the Acadian French students at Moncton and its affiliated College of Bathurst come from the lowest income groups in New Brunswick.

The students say they will not return to class until their demands are met.

A strike committee has organized students on a picket line and committee head Gaetan Lemieux said he "nationalized" the campus police

force to help him in a campaign against strike-breakers.

A protest march of 800 Moncton and 350 Bathurst students were to petition the New Brunswick government Tuesday.



—Neil Driscoll photo

**ALL FIRED UP**—The natural gas flame at the west of the main floor SUB, got lit Tuesday night and one of the brighter aspects of the building, Della Burford, house ec 2, was on hand to add a little more radiance.

### Religious studies to be expanded; Davis stays on

Dr. Charles Davis has been appointed for another two years as Visiting Professor of Religious Studies.

Dr. Davis said the department head has not been appointed as yet, and the staff and courses to be offered are still uncertain.

A new freshman course which will be taught by Dr. Davis next year, "Introduction to the Study of Religion," is an academic and scientific study of different religions. At least four other courses may be offered, depending upon the available staff.

Dr. Davis said he is not certain of his plans when the extension expires in July, 1970.

### Birth control booth livens up SUB

Birth control information is being distributed every day around noon in the SUB theatre lobby.

Five pamphlets, three of which have approval of the building policy board of the students' union, discuss venereal diseases, the philosophy of the booth, and all methods of birth control.

The booth is set up by the month-old Student Committee on the Status of Women.

"We are trying to get people to realize it is not unrespectable to talk about birth control," said committee spokesman Lynn Hannley, sci 3.

The committee maintains women have the right to decide what happens to their own bodies.

The committee was given permission to set up the booth provided they did not distribute information on birth control methods. The criminal code specifically prohibits dissemination of birth control information.

The SUB policy board also objected to dissemination of methods information because "birth control is such a complex medical problem."

"We approved three of the five pamphlets," commented students' union president Al Anderson. "They have gone beyond the limits we set up, but I am not going to lift any of the sheets. If they get in trouble with the law, it's their own fault."

"This is all pre-campaigning for a student power platform in the coming students' union elections," he charged.

Hannley said the committee is "aware of the legal question."

"We have tried to build in protection for us by circulating a petition. We have about 1,000 signatures in favor of the booth now. We think an expression this strong of the will of the people will stand against the law," she said.

She said the booth will be set up as long as people keep coming. The committee is ready to supply the names of doctors who will prescribe birth control pills to girls requesting them, as well as information on all other methods. Anderson has instructed them to take down the booth for the duration of Varsity Guest Weekend.