

New motion with same intent introduced

Referendum will be held

By GORDON LOANE

UNB students will be asked to approve a \$15 increase in their student fee in a referendum to be held March 26. If the referendum is approved by the majority of students who cast their ballot, student fees will increase from \$45 to \$60 beginning in September.

The motion to hold a referendum was the second one introduced before council in as many weeks. The original motion introduced at last week's council meeting met with considerable objection. In a press release issued last Wednesday the SRC executive said the original motion to go to referendum would be rescinded.

At Monday's council meeting the original motion was indeed rescinded but a new motion with the same basic intention was introduced. The referendum motion passed by the Student's representative council by a vote of 15 to four said, "Be it resolved that council affix a \$15 increase in student fees, bringing them to \$60."

SRC president Perry Thorbourne said the increase was needed to "pay the mortgage and interest on the student union building, therefore completely eliminating the debt in one year."

Thorbourne also circulated a letter signed by John A. Weatherhead CA, the auditor for the student union. Weatherhead said he was in basic agreement with the proposal to pay off the debt as soon as possible.

"I have reviewed the proposal of increasing the student levy as a source of funds to liquidate the mortgage on the student union building," he said in the letter. "Because of rising interest rates there would be a substantial savings as a result of this action. I therefore support the proposal as a sound business transaction on the part of the Student Union Inc." Weatherhead concluded.

Thorbourne said that paying off the debt on the student union building in one year instead of over several years will mean a cost saving of some \$15-20,000.

In succeeding years, the additional \$15 fee will be used to operate the student union, help finance renovations to the student union building and offer more services to students that cannot be provided at present, Thorbourne said. "We simply do not have the money to provide extra services," he said.

Physical Education Representative Margaret Bannister asked for an accounting of where the money will be spent after the first year and questioned why the money was needed by the student union.

Former CHSR Chief Engineer Jim



ANNE KILFOIL Photo

Perry Thorbourne

Nason questioned the need for extra money to operate the student union.

"While I might be able to support the proposal to pay off the SUB mortgage quickly, I cannot support the student union's wish for more operating funds," said Nason. He suggested that cutbacks in certain areas of the student union's present budget might be in order at this time.

SUB Board Chairman Steve Berube supported Thorbourne's decision to increase student fees to pay off the SUB mortgage as quickly as possible. As well, he said he felt this would provide money for possible renovations to the building in the future.

SRC Vice-President Chris Earl at one point in the proceedings suggested that council should go into committee of the whole to discuss and debate the issue of the fee increase and the proposed referendum. After several objections from the press, who were about to be excluded from the proceedings, Chairman Steve Dutcher was asked to rule on whether this could take place. After a brief recess the chairman ruled that the press and broadcast media could stay while the debate continued.

After a lengthy debate council passed the following referendum question to be voted upon March 26: "Do you approve of a \$15 increase to your student union fees effective in the fall of 1980?"

Business Representative Doug Moore said after the meeting he would support the increase requested.

"The increase is needed to pay off the SUB mortgage in one year," Moore said. "By paying off the mortgage the SUB will be under the control of the students to a large extent." In addition, he said, \$15-\$18,000 in interest payments over the next couple of



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Chris Earl

years would be eliminated.

"As well, money will be freed up to do renovations in the building," Moore said. "More money will be available in the future to increase student services and provide higher budgets for various clubs and organizations that depend on funding from the UNB student union."

In other council business, President Thorbourne said fears about a new amusement tax being applicable to a non-profit organization like the student union were unfounded. Although the student union is a non-profit organization, all educational institutions are exempt from the new tax provisions. To clarify the matter, Thorbourne and SRC



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Doug Moore

Comptroller Steve Howes met with New Brunswick Finance Minister Fernand Dube yesterday.

Earl announced that three seats would be open for election March 26: one law seat and two education seats. Two deputy returning officers were also named for the upcoming election, Andy Young and Tim Gorman.

At the conclusion of the meeting Arts Representative Bryce Bowman gave notice of a motion that will ask the executive of the student union to look into several complaints and problems involving campus manpower.

The next regularly-scheduled council meeting and the last meeting before the referendum will take place Monday.

See also stories page 4.

Students take note:

Hear a live presentation of the referendum case by Perry Thorbourne, Sunday at 6 p.m. on CHSR. Phone in and ask your own questions to the president of the student union.

Call CHSR at 453-4949, Sunday after 6 p.m.

\$500 damage caused

By CINDY CAMERON
Staff Writer

About \$500 worth of damage resulted from an incident last Thursday evening involving a university employee's automobile and a fire extinguisher alleged-

ly stolen from the student union building.

The Fredericton City Police were called onto campus that evening, and the incident is now under investigation. Those involved would not comment on the matter.