

# Another referendum in works

SRC to seek student support

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE  
Brunswickan Staff

The SRC held two meetings this week on the SUB renovations issue. The second one ended with President Gerard Finnan walking out along with Business Rep Brent Blizzard, and the passage of motion by Engineering Rep John Bosnitch to send the issue for a new public study.

At Monday's regular meeting, two architects explained space-allocation plans they had drawn up for two possible renovations to the SUB. The first would see the College Hill Social Club moved

to the ballroom floor, and the second would see it expand laterally.

The main objections to the ballroom-floor plan were that it would restrict the use of the ballroom. Some councillors felt Social Club noise would penetrate sound-proofing, despite assurances that the noise would be reduced as much as is necessary. Doubt was also expressed about decreases in ballroom floor space when a new portable stage was in use.

Another perceived problem was the possible need for more security.

The Social Club has offered

to pay the money needed to renovate the second floor. The main benefits expressed at the meeting include the expansion of capacity to almost double the club's present level, allowing it to accept an unlimited number of students as members. The Social Club would be using presently under-utilized space which would free the basement for a games room and a possible laundryroom for off campus students.

Finnan was initially strongly opposed to this option for the Social Club, but later changed his mind and came to support the plan after discussing the

issue with the architects.

The second proposal for the Social Club would be a lateral expansion of their present basement facilities, doubling their capacity. The Social Club has not offered to pay for this option, which would be substantially more expensive. The main problems with this proposal expressed to council were that it would involve the movement of boiler systems and the heating and lighting of a whole new extension to the already under-used building.

The intent of the whole council discussion was to hold a referendum to re-establish a \$15 student levy to pay for the renovations. The referendum would have had to have been held prior to the board of governors meeting March 31, as at that time all fees for the coming year are approved.

Bosnitch came out in opposition to the proposed referendum for two reasons. He felt the procedure carried out to determine what renovations are needed was improper because it had not been extensive enough. He was opposed to both Social Club plans, favouring a lengthwise expansion CAUSE had proposed.

Debate on the issue dragged on for several hours without anything being accomplished. The adjournment time for the meeting was extended twice and finally on Monday a referendum was approved to simply ask the students if they will release a trust fund for SUB renovations. This fund contains monies left over from this year's SUB levy which was not used to make the last mortgage payment. This referendum is still tentatively set for March 29; however, Finnan has indicated the referendum should be stopped because if the money is left in the trust fund until needed, it will earn a higher rate of interest.

The impasse on the renovations issue led Finnan to call an emergency meeting Wednesday. He said he was disgusted at the lack of decisions at Monday's meeting. As on Monday, representatives of the SUB Board were present to present their case. These included SUB Director Cindy Stacey, and Peter Forbes, legal advisor.

After a little over an hour, it became apparent council was simply rehashing the same points made on Monday. At this point the SUB board representatives left, Forbes later describing the actions of the SRC as "dizziness."

Several motions were made in an attempt at compromise. One of these was to reduce the proposed SUB levy to \$10. Bosnitch rejected this, and then said the whole meeting

was a waste of time because he felt it would be necessary to co-ordinate a referendum with the Saint Thomas SRC. A motion was then introduced to have a joint session of the UNB and STU SRCs.

At that point President Finnan complained the SRC was totally unable to reach a decision on renovations, and he said a joint session would be useless.

After this Bosnitch introduced the following motion which was later passed by a margin of one vote: 1. The SRC acknowledged that changes are needed in functions of, and allocations of space in the SUB. 2. The SRC will immediately begin: a) the formation of an extensive questionnaire, b) the holding of general public meetings, c) the convening of constituency and residence meetings, d) a consultation with the permanent user groups of the SUB; all to ascertain the student demand for SUB changes. 3. On the basis of all the information gained by the SRC, a list of priorities be developed for change which would be embodied in a "general framework plan" for alteration and renovations. 4. Subject to the approval of the SRC, SUB Board, user groups and student organizations, the UNB SRC then send the "general framework plan" to design consultants to draw up an accurate space allocation plan, including a written explanation. 5. An estimation of costs of the design plan be made on the basis of said estimation, a calculation of a levy, if needed, be undertaken. 6. On the basis of points 1-5 inclusive, a referendum question be passed to the students. 7. That this entire process, steps 1-6 inclusive, be undertaken in co-operation with the STU SRC.

The motion was made by Bosnitch and seconded by Rep-at-Large Elizabeth Lynch. Voting against were John McLeod, Vice-President Susan Lynch, Marijke Blok, David Reckziegel and Kim Rogers. The final vote was six for, five against and one abstention.

In other SRC business, the national Week of Action was discussed and a motion was made by Bosnitch to vest all responsibility for this in the executive. Finnan noted the plans were approved for a march to legislature - student leadership conference held had gone well, Saturday and announced another to be held later this month.

The next regular SRC meeting will be Monday night and will be broadcast live on CHSR-FM.

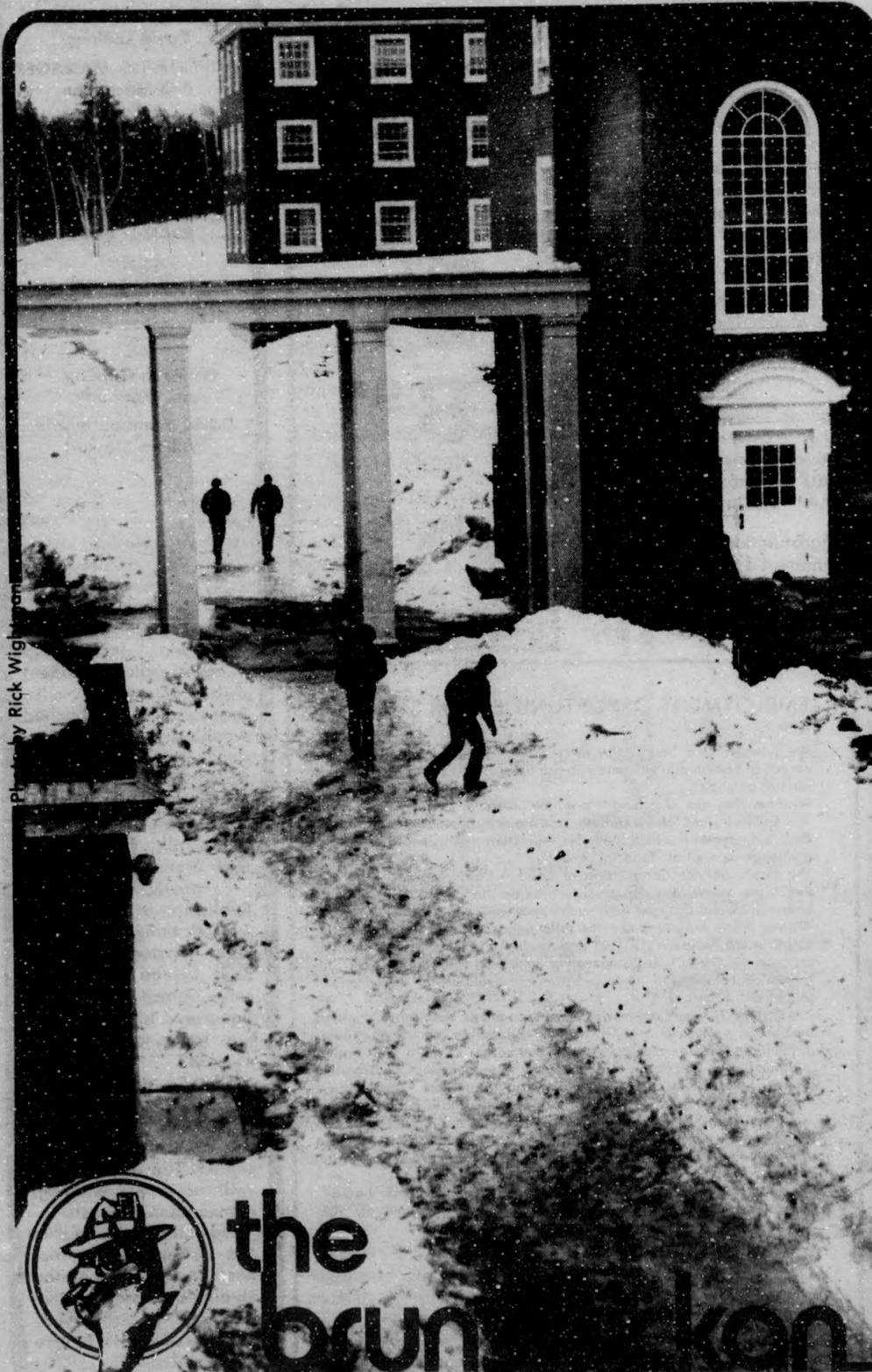


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