

DO IT YOURSELVERS! SAVE BIG NOW!

For the third time the SRC will go through the process of formulating plans for SUB renovations - why couldn't they have done it right the last time? By their indecision and apparent incompetence, the SRC are reflecting badly on the student body and indeed the university as a whole at a time when we should be improving our image before the Third Century Fund Campaign starts.

The SRC had the job of choosing between two renovation proposals and then submitting their choice to the students for approval. Admittedly the process for arriving at these proposals was incomplete but with the professional advice of architects, lawyers and a full-time building manager, as well as the input from student groups going into the plans, the SRC was foolish to think they knew better.

The Social Club has offered to pay for renovations to the ballroom floor, saving thousands of dollars of students' money while at the same time improving their services and taking up under-utilized space. A lateral expansion is economically unfeasible as it would mean heating and lighting a new section while there is still unused space, not to mention the complications of digging a new foundation and making an aesthetically appealing roof for the place.

The choice of plans was the SRC's option: they chose neither. It is unfortunate that those who were successful in totally reversing President Finnan's position did not do the same with John Bosnitch. It has become obvious recently that Bosnitch has a lot of political power both as leader of the Student Party, and with his exceptional debating and persuasion abilities. The SRC should not submit and agree with him, but should attempt to ensure he agrees with them before embarking on something he will oppose.

Bosnitch's main complaint in this issue was the method used by the SRC study committee to arrive at SUB renovation proposals. He is totally correct in saying a questionnaire should have been circulated in the *Brunswickan* to get individual student's views; he is also correct in recommending public forums and door to door questioning of students. This process has indeed been approved for the upcoming third try at proposing renovations, due to Bosnitch's efforts.

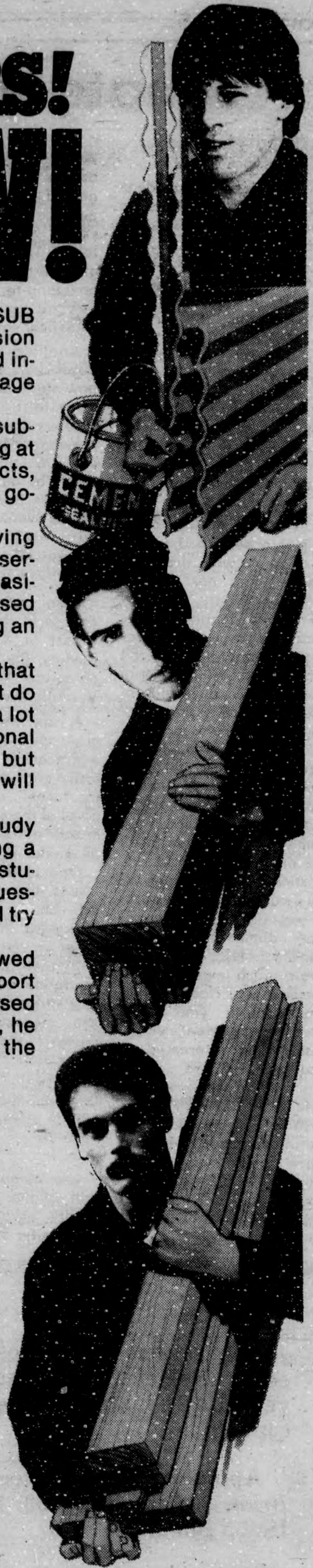
It is unfortunate that President Finnan did not ensure the study committee followed such a procedure, both to gain Bosnitch's support (he has said he will support anything students demonstrate their approval for) and to ensure the question passed in a referendum. Even if a proposal had passed the SRC with Bosnitch opposed, he would probably have been able to rally support among the students and defeat the referendum as he did last time.

What is more unfortunate though, is that Bosnitch did not support the proposals anyway. It is almost certain that the long process of getting proper student input would have arrived at the same conclusions. Bosnitch's method of twisting and dominating council until he gets his way is severely damaging the public's impression of the student council.

The SRC needs the backing of public opinion at this time both for their government pressure against cutbacks, and for the upcoming university fund campaign. A large number of alumni, and members of the general public listen to the live broadcasts on CHSR-FM. If they hear constant indecision, and repetitive, trivia-filled debates, they are hardly likely to support a fund campaign, a portion of which will be going to the SUB. Why should they fund refurbishing the Student Union Building when the students cannot agree on it themselves? Another point worth considering is the board of governors has not approved the inclusion of SUB renovations in the campaign yet.

The motion has been passed to seek public input again. The \$15 fees has been lost for a year so renovations will now take longer. However, the SRC should forget about the past and make sure this time it is done right. President Finnan should not walk out of meetings when he gets disgusted, but should prevent the necessity by having individual meetings with Bosnitch to resolve issues. They should work together. This would not be giving Bosnitch power he does not deserve; Bosnitch only gains power when he opposes something.

The over-riding concern we have is that our SRC present a good image to the public and re-establish its reputation. Members should work together to demonstrate they mean business, and are not just a group of confused students.



editorial

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