

# Brunswickan

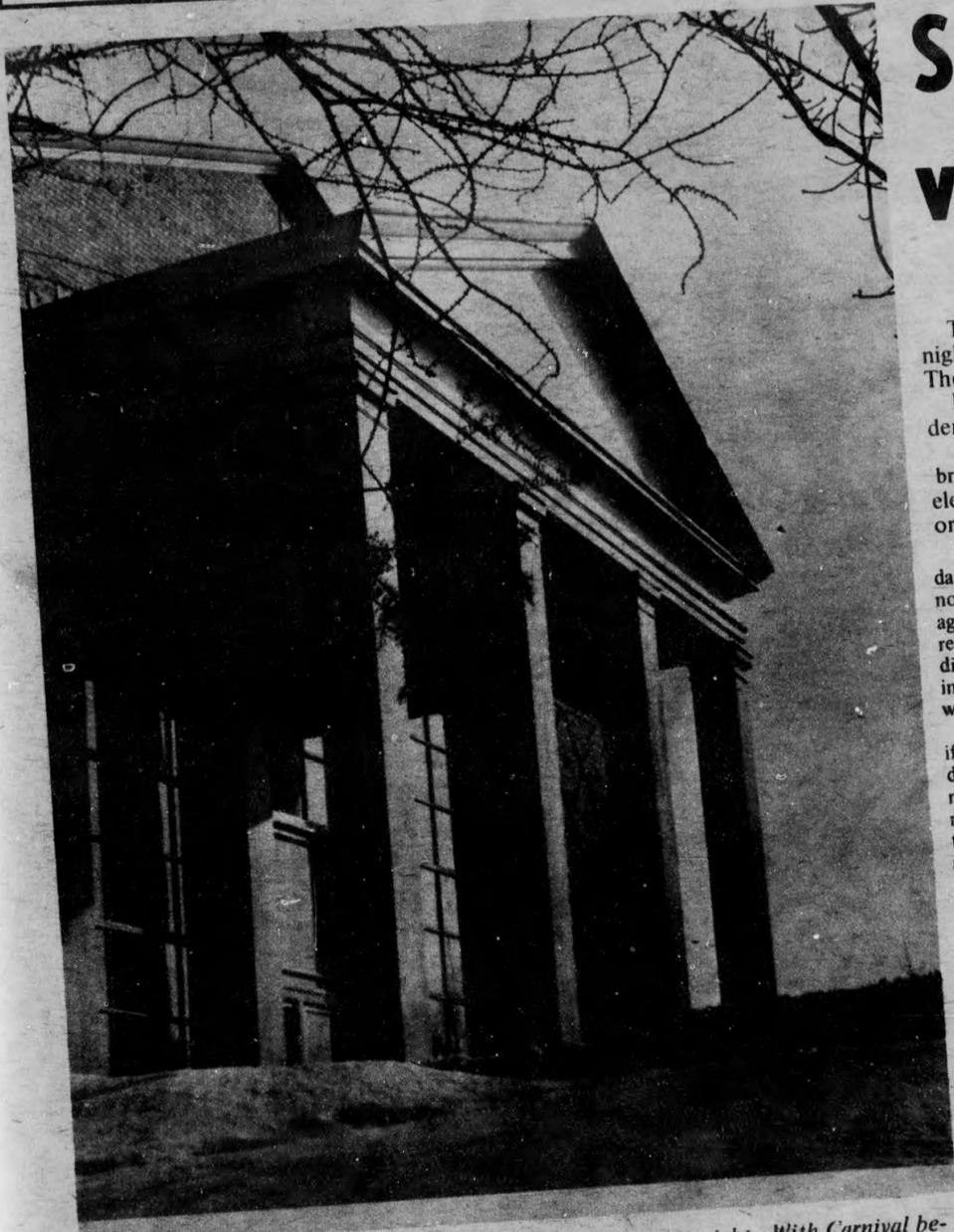
UNIVERSITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

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The student union building begins its inaugural weekend tonight. With Carnival beginning tomorrow, next week should be one of the busiest this year for the SUB. These majestic portals stand guard over the front entrance of the building, facing Teachers' College.  
— brunswickan photo by doug pincock

## Dances, parties kick off SUB opening

by dave etheridge  
brunswickan staff

"The opening of the SUB is more than an opening, it is a series of events," says Gary Davis, Operations Manager of the new Student Union Building.

The opening promises to be an exciting affair as it comes just at the time of the biggest social event of the year — Winter Carnival. During the three-day event there will be dances, a party, and slave auction. The sale auction will take place today, with

dances on Saturday and Monday nights. On Monday, February 2, there will be a UNB Drama Club dance and a Radio UNB party. Later in the week there will be a Coffee House running from February 6-8. There will also be a Winter Carnival dance and a formal held on February 6 and 7.

Excepting the barber shop, all concessions will be open as scheduled. There will be a laundry and dry-cleaning depot, The Smoke Shoppe, a barber

shop and possibly, in the future, a Co-op bookstore. On Tuesday the Smoke Shoppe sold its first package of cigarettes to Mr. Charters.

"We are still uncertain of Mrs. Martin Luther King's presence for the official opening in late February, but if she is unable to attend, someone from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference will be here; possibly Rev. Abernathy," says Davis. "Committee Chairman Lawson Hunter has been in touch with the people of the SCLC."

## Scanty field, vote cancelled

The SRC ignored its constitution and by-laws Sunday night and illegally cancelled the Wednesday elections. The council will decide the date from new elections.

In doing so they prevented the legally-acclaimed president-elect, Allan Pressman from assuming his position. Pressman came to the council meeting armed with a brief showing that any action by council to cancel the elections would be illegal. The brief was prepared by one of Pressman's solicitors.

There had been two candidates for the presidency when nominations closed two weeks ago. But afterward the chief returning officer Padraic Finlay discovered that Joe Yule was ineligible because his average was less than 60 percent.

The constitution says that if there are less than two candidates for the presidency when nominations close then they are reopened for four days. If there is only one nomination after four days, then that person is acclaimed to the position.

This was the situation when council met Monday. Council president Alistair Robertson said that no one realized there was only one eligible candidate until after the four-day period.

### Rule not used

"As no one knew Yule was ineligible, the rule wasn't really in operation and no one had the opportunity to submit another nomination. The intention of the constitution is to avoid a vacant presidency or a president-by-acclamation.

"Since the public was prevented from making use of the four-day provision, effectively it wasn't in operation, and the four-day rule was violated."

But pressman's brief emphatically points out that council must follow its constitution and that according to that constitution he is legally president of the SRC.

Council ignored this although and decided to rescind article four of its bylaws, the section dealing with elections, retroactive to Jan. 1. This effectively cancels all nominations and the date of the election which is, according to the bylaws, the last Wednesday in January.

### Claims legal expenses

The legal president-elect said he was disappointed. "They have taken away, retroactively, what was mine. It's a big thing but there's little I can do."

"I've proved it to myself and I don't have to prove it to everyone. I've contemplated legal action but it's expensive and I don't know whether I'll go ahead with it."

At a regular administrative board meeting Tuesday night Pressman tried to claim legal expenses from the SRC as part of his campaign cost. The attempt followed the board's action of refunding money to Pressman and comptroller candidate Brian Sullivan for campaign material they had prepared before the cancellation. The board refused to grant Pressman the extra money and referred the matter to the next SRC meeting.

Pressman collected \$22.58 and Sullivan, \$140. Pressman was also trying to claim \$155 legal expenses. Some members of the board suggested that the money granted to Pressman be confiscated because, council alleges, he owes it approximately \$100 accrued in expenses during a visit to a Montreal printer last year.

### Done for students

There were also several ineligible candidates for elections to council seats as well as several vacancies. If the elections had been held, forestry, business and postgrad would have been without representation and arts and engineering would have had one vacancy each.

Robertson said the SRC felt the best alternative was to have new elections and invalidate Wednesday's.

"I would not generally favor retroactive legislation, nor am I usually in favor of suspending constitutions in any way," he said.

"I felt there was only one course of action which would be fair to the student body, and their interests must come first. That was to hold new elections."

Robertson said he had no particular desire to be unfair to Pressman.

"I realize he has put quite a

see page 2