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## STU to hold CHSR funding referendum

by James Rowan

On Tuesday, the St. Thomas Student Union passed three motions with regards to the funding of CHSR which could see all funding from STU withheld for the upcoming year.

The motions, which were all moved by STU SU President Jeff London, called for a referendum to be held during the general STU SRC elections on March 18.

The first motion was the actual referendum and called for students to decide whether or not they wished to fund CHSR through a separate media fee.

If the referendum passes, the fees collected, \$5 per student, would be given to the SRC, who would then have the option of funding CHSR or not.

The second motion states that STU will not contribute any funds to CHSR until their

Board is controlled by students.

"We're advising our students that right now the organization is not working within their best interests and not representing their money properly. It's up to them to decide that, however," says London.

"We're not going to give ANY money to CHSR-FM until the Board of Directors of that station is controlled by elected members of the student bodies of this campus,"

London continued. He also wants representation on CHSR to be proportional to the funding contribution.

London said that direct elections to the Board from the student body would satisfy the SRC, and that student control need not mean student union control. At the moment however, the automatic fee is not in the best interests of the students.

Supporting this view is the UNB Student Union, which passed a motion Wednesday night supporting STU. UNB SU President Greg Lutes presented a draft of the External Organization Policy, a brief document examining the structure of CHSR and its relationship to the Student Union. The report provoked much discussion in council. The report raised points in some respects similar to London's, specifically in regards to student representation. The report questions whether CHSR is now and will continue to be a student organization. VP External Tammy Yates emphasized that, "This isn't meant to be a plot by the Student Union."

This concern over CHSR's student membership is shared by London. He also questions whether CHSR is a student organization. When it was started 31 years ago, the executive was solely students and they were elected, he said, but this is no longer the case.

"[CHSR] is saying 'listen, you guys are missing the point. We're not a campus radio station, we're a campus community radio station'. And we're saying, okay, if that is the case, we fund money because we are interested in the interests of the students. If

its going to be serving other groups, outside our students, what I'm saying is, do we really want to fund at that level to basically provide services for an audience outside students?

"Basically, you're asking us to make a big charitable donation for the good of the community," London said "I don't know if we're ready to do that."

London feels that the membership still deserves membership in the board, owing to their financial contribution to the station.

This concern over the makeup of CHSR's Board is shared by the UNB Student Union, which tonight approved the recommendation of the Program and Services Review Committee, which was to propose a restructuring of CHSR's Board of Directors to better represent student organizations with a direct interest in CHSR.

London accepts the possibility that the current events could result in the closure of the station, but feels that that is acceptable if the station is failing to "serve our needs and meet our requirements for funding it." Then not funding CHSR and the resultant consequences are acceptable.

"A radio station that can represent students and bring the community together, if we can get a license application together to do something like that, I'm all for it. I'll be the first to jump on the bandwagon," London said. Radio is a wonderful medium for bringing the community together and for serving the needs of students, he said, "but it doesn't seem like CHSR has an interest in doing that."



Shown are the participants in a drum ceremony held on Monday evening at the STU cafeteria. The ceremony was part of the celebrations held during Native Awareness days. Kent Rainville photo

## Second annual Native Awareness Days observed

by Pierre St. Amand

On February 24th and 25th, St. Thomas University held the second annual Native Awareness Days.

The event consisted of two days of various activities and discussions in an effort to raise awareness concerning native lifestyles and issues. Hosted by Harry Leperte, Alma Brookes and various other prominent members of the native community, the events centered around sensitizing the public to an alternative lifestyle closer to nature.

The various speakers (elders) spoke of tradition and crafts of the Indians of the past and

present. They urged the public to take care of the earth and not abuse it.

Also prominent in the discussion was the fund drive concerning the building of a medicine lodge. The medicine lodge, when complete, will be a place where ceremonies, feasts, and teaching in traditional Indian medicine and crafts will take place. The lodge, they say, is vital for keeping Indian traditions alive as well as reviving old customs that have so long been repressed and have no place in a sterile-environment.

The elders also spoke of traditional medicine and emphasized the fact that all can

be found in nature.

On the second day, a short documentary was shown on Indians in Bolivia, and later the elders spoke of native solutions to the constitutional problems.

They also voiced their discontent at the structure of the Canadian government. One of the speakers forcefully asked the group why they should fight for what is already theirs.

The supper, the drum ceremony held at the STU cafeteria, and the various other visuals and discussions that were held throughout the event were all tastefully done and helped make Native Awareness Days a success.

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