

Parkhill fire claims three

By DERWIN GOWAN
Managing Editor

At press time an inquest was planned for the fire which killed three persons, one of them a UNB graduate student, and left twelve other students and six UNB employees homeless.

The fire broke out on Friday, February fourth in the Parkhill apartments. A large part of the building was destroyed, and all 42 apartment units had to be evacuated.

Neither the Fredericton fire department nor Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the federal agency which owns the building, have released information on the causes of the fire.

There were problems with this building last year, particularly with water leaking through the roof and interfering with the electrical wiring. However, it is not known whether or not the fire was related to this.

Two students who lived at Parkhill, Paul Duffett and Harold Alexander, said the fire alarms did not go off. Duffett said there were a number of false alarms before Christmas and repairs were called in.

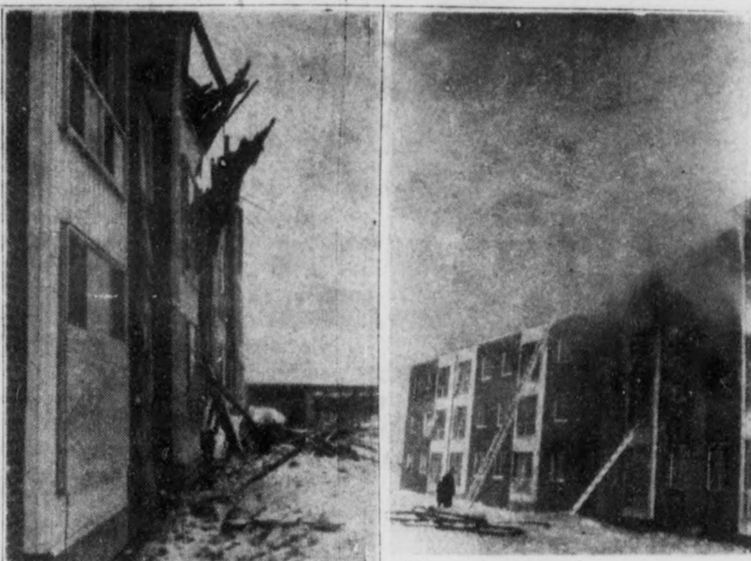
Duffett also said that fire doors tended to be left open, facilitating the spread of fire from one level to the next.

"The fire was well under way before most people knew it was

going," said Duffett. "By the time they realized what was happening it was too late." He said he believed the fire started on the second floor of the three story structure.

Alexander said the fire department was there before he was out of the building.

Duffett lost "a good bit" of his possessions in the blaze, but Alexander said his belonging suffered only minor smoke damage, as his apartment was in the other part of the building. Alexander estimated that one-half of the occupants of the building lost everything.



Last Friday three people lost their lives in a blaze at the Parkhill Apts.

Murray comments on first week as president

By SARAH INGERSOLL

Is there a chance that another NUS referendum will be upcoming in the near future?

James Murray, newly elected president of the Student Union plans to meet with executive of the SRC and fieldworkers from NUS to discuss the possibility of holding a referendum for UNB. The reason, he states, is because he feels that the students of UNB do not get their money's worth belonging to NUS. What he would like to see is, instead of taking the \$1.00 from each student, and giving this to NUS to put to use for all the students across Canada, he wants to take the same \$1.00 and keep it here to use for bettering clubs and organizations on this campus. He feels that UNB students would personally benefit more if this were the case.

Upon being asked what his first impressions were on being on council, Murray stated that no major issues were facing the union at present and that he is spending most of his time now information gathering. He has attended a Senate meeting and has had a meeting with Dean of Students, Barry Thompson.

At his first meeting in the position of president (he had attended others before being elected) Murray noted that the new councillors have much enthusiasm and he is anticipating a lot of flexibility in them along with the rest of council. He added that one councillor tended to be quite long-winded and said absolutely nothing but that this particular person has just completed his term.

The actual transfer of presidents has been completed but past president Jim Smith is planning to spend time with Murray this weekend "coaching" him on the ins and outs of the position.

Murray states that he is looking forward to working with Comptroller Brian Pryde, and getting into the financial areas of council. He is hoping to restructure club budgets so that they will be more fair to the average club person. He also would like to better entertainment on campus so as to increase activity for students.

Murray mentioned that the Saga contract is being negotiated at present and would like to see one part of the contract changed concerning the monopoly they have on food services on campus.

He wants to see some other type of food service on campus that would enable students in residence and off-campus alike to buy food at night for parties, midnight snacks, etc.

Regarding the petition that Alan Hildebrand is circulating about campus, which states that students should have the freedom to choose whether they want to pay the student union fees "above and beyond the SUB mortgage payment" Murray says that this is

a "non issue". What Hildebrand and signers of the petition should realize is that Student Union fees are not mandatory at present, that if a student chooses not to pay he or she will not be able to obtain a student ID card.

However, Murray says, these people (Hildebrand and supporters of the petition) should also think about what they would be doing to themselves and other students if what they want is realized. The amount of money

that would be lost would mean that many organizations, including the Bailey Geological Society of which Hildebrand and some signers are members, would be affected to such a degree that they could have their budgets cut considerably or completely. Pubs and other such activities would not be able to survive.

In closing, Murray would like to direct this quote to Hildebrand and supporters, "Don't bite the hand that feeds you".

Down 'Memory Lane'

By GERRY LASKEY

The more astute readers of The Brunswickan will remember that at its first 1977 meeting the SRC passed a motion abolishing the \$100 honoraria for councillors. This presumably took effect immediately.

The same council, before the new councillors took office, this week passed the following motions:

MOTION 18 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Stephen Whalen receive his honoraria of \$100.00. Davidson: Smith 8-4-3.

MOTION 19 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Alexa Morrison be granted her honoraria of \$100.00. Davidson: Smith 7-4-4.

MOTION 20 BE IT RESOLVED THAT Stephen Berube receive his honoraria of \$100.00. Davidson: Smith 7-4-4.

MOTION 21 BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Alan Patrick receive his honoraria of \$100.00. Davidson: Smith 9-4-2.

MOTION 22 BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Patty Fields receive her honoraria of \$100.00. Davidson: Smith 7-4-4.

The four dissenting votes were Alan Hildebrand, Sue Lamoreux, Mike Bleakney, and King. They all echoed Hildebrand's concern that "no councillor deserves it", and voted against them on that understanding, in light of the previous abolition motion.

It was argued back in January that the old councillors took office with the understanding that they would receive them. Nevertheless the motion of abolition passed.

The acceptance of the honoraria is a personal choice. At press time the checks were made ready but none had been picked up.

Hildebrand fights on

On Wednesday former councillor Alan Hildebrand told the Brunswickan that he had 635 signatures on his petition asking the SRC to reconsider the motion which was defeated concerning student fees.

The motion was intended to recognize the SRC fees as being optional. The motion failed in a close vote.

The constitution specifies that a petition of 10 percent of the student body forces the SRC to reconsider the motion under question. Should the SRC fail to change their minds at the next meeting, the constitution specifies that a further petition of 5 percent of the students will force a referendum within 2 weeks.

Asked what he thought the SRC would do this week with the petition he said that "It remains to be seen".

In an interview before press time, President Murray noted that the petition was several days past the specified time period as per the constitution, "but it still warrants consideration."

"The petition must be considered out of respect for the students who organized it and signed it. Students often don't realize exactly what the student union actually does." "Any drop in funds will force many changes in the level of services available for their \$30.," according to Murray.

"I don't believe in what the petition is saying," says Murray. "The philosophy behind it is totally alien to any concept of a student union." Murray says that he will recommend to council that the motion be defeated again.

Donations needed

Donations are being sought to a special relief fund established to aid those at the University of New Brunswick who suffered loss in the recent Park Hill Apartments fire.

Donations in any amount to the University Relief Fund are urgently needed and can be made through Public Relations and Development office, or through the business offices of either the UNB Students' Representative Council or St. Thomas University.

All gifts should be earmarked for the University Emergency Relief Fund. Cheques should be made payable to the University of New Brunswick. Receipts good for income tax purposes will be issued to donors.

At least 12 students and six staff members suffered loss in the

fire last Friday that claimed three lives, one of whom was an instructor at UNB. The names of those students involved were still being received Tuesday by the dean of students.

All UNB persons suffering loss as a result of the fire are asked to

contact either Barry Thompson, dean of students, or Doug McConnell, personnel officer in the personnel services department. Complete information about the nature of the individual's loss is necessary before any aid is forthcoming.

Emergency fund chairman, Father Joseph Higgins of the campus ministry, said the need of those caught in the tragedy was urgent and that he hoped all donations could be received within a week.

Awards

A total of 25 university students from the Province of New Brunswick will share \$32,000 as the first recipients of the Scoudouc River University Awards for 1977-78.

The award money was donated by the late Dr. William L. Webster of Shediac. The awards are tenable at any New Brunswick university or at a university outside the province when specific programs are not available.

Announcements of the awards was made in Fredericton, Monday, Feb. 7 by UNB president John M. Anderson, awarding agent for the Scoudouc River University Awards.