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Honoraria still favourite topic of council debate



Photo by Steve Patriquen

Comptroller Peter Davidson supported a motion which would increase his own honoraria during a chaotic council meeting Monday.

By DERWIN GOWAN
News Editor

During a disorderly meeting, Students' Representative Council decided to reconsider the recommended honorarium schedule passed one week before at their last meeting.

Arts Representative Chris Pratt described council's action as "basically irresponsible," although he seconded the motion the week before.

After a lengthy debate, other councillors agreed and they decided to strike a five man committee to reconsider honoraria levels after a series of motions which left the whole issue in doubt.

The beginnings of the honoraria debate go back to the report submitted to council by outgoing comptroller Wenceslaus Batanyita the most contentious point being the raising of the comptrollers honorarium. Present comptroller Peter Davidson described this report as the result of consultation across Canada. "Unfortunately," he said, "council didn't realize the work that went into that honoraria report."

Council decided a committee was needed to discuss the proposals and over the March break, council vice-president Gordon Kennedy, the only executive member in town, struck a three man committee composed of himself, Brunswickan Editor-in-Chief Tom Benjamin, and SUB Board of Directors chairperson J. David Miller. This report was accepted by council.

However, there were some persons in disagreement, and the issue was re-opened at last Monday's council meeting.

The most controversial points of this report centred around the

proposed honorarium of \$60 per issue of The Brunswickan for the Editor-in-Chief up to \$1500 and the fact that the station director of CHSH was to receive \$500, the same as last year. Also, the comptroller was to receive \$1350

plus half tuition and yearbook editor Dianne Phillips was on hand, explaining that she was allowed only \$700 for her whole staff and herself. According to Phillips, she would be left with only \$75 for herself if she gave other staff members what they deserved. She claimed she would be working on Up The Hill 1976 for one month after school closes. She asked for \$700 for herself plus \$800 for the rest of her staff.

The first motion considered by council would leave the honoraria report unchanged. However, there were two amendments which would cut The Brunswickan honorarium by \$500 and increase the yearbook's by \$300 and increase the CHSR station director's honorarium to \$1000.

These proposals were defeated. Mover of the original motion, Arts Representative Jim Donovan then withdrew his original motion, saying his view had changed after receiving the additional information.

Council then struck the five person committee, to be composed of three councillors not working for the yearbook, CHSR, or The Brunswickan, plus former student union comptroller Wenceslaus Batanyita and SRC Administrator Ted Hudson. The other members are Business Representative Steve Berube, Science Representative Alexa Morrison,

and Education Representative Stephen Whalen.

The move to exclude councillors from the committee who worked for the three organizations came after Miller protested that members of organizations should not be setting their own honoraria. Miller pointed out that he and Benjamin would not be personally affected by the changes, unlike some councillors.

Other speakers said the comptroller should not receive less money than The Brunswickan Editor-in-Chief.

However, comptroller Peter Davidson said later in an interview, "I never said that I should get what he got . . . I just thought that his was too high." He further added, "I never said that I should get more." He said he did suggest that "possibly" the two honoraria should be equalized by reducing that of the Editor-in-Chief.

"There were a few people," said Davidson, "who were concerned over the differences in levels for honoraria in different organizations, so I thought I should bring it up." He said yearbook personnel in particular were not satisfied.

Davidson said the idea of a weekly honoraria for The Brunswickan Editor-in-Chief was a good one, "but overall, it was a bit high."

He attributed the passing of the Miller-Benjamin report to a "lack

of insight." "It came up rather fast," Davidson said. He claimed it was presented to him on the same day on which it was to be presented to council.

Davidson then became more critical. "I find it inconsistent that The Brunswickan Editor can be critical of a former comptroller for wanting an increase in the comptroller's honoraria, then a week later proposing a 300 per cent increase in the Editor's honoraria." He mentioned that Benjamin originally proposed a \$2,000 honoraria for the position.

Berube commented, "There's definitely readjustments needed. The whole idea behind honoraria has to be re-evaluated." He was particularly critical of the allotment for the yearbook. He said the work involved warranted more. "When everybody else is getting a 200 per cent raise," he said, "jeez, I can't blame her (Phillips) for being a little upset."

Kennedy explained the remarks he made at the meeting. He said he heard the following theory which he believes sums up the honoraria problem. "It is all a case of power tripping. Each one of us thinks we are more important in our lots in life than anyone else. Each of us thinks we do more work! The question we should be asking is, Can we justify to the students that I (we) are worth what we are paying ourselves."

Winter Carni deficit at least \$9,000

Winter Carnival 1976 ran up a deficit of \$9,000 or more almost \$7,000 over projected loss and \$4,000 over budgeted loss, reported student union comptroller Peter Davidson.

Although final figures are not available, he said, until all billings come in, it appears the deficit will be \$9,300 in total. Actual figures are available at the comptroller's office.

Davidson said the main problems with carnival were a combination of lack of experience, rising costs, underbudgeting, unrealistic projections on attendance and consumption of beverages at events, and some mismanagement.

"Hopefully," he said, "next year's committee shall learn from this year. Winter Carnival is not a profitable event, however, losses can and must be reduced."

First on the list of costs was damages. Although \$175 was budgeted for damages, the actual amount rose to \$794 due to damages at McConnell Hall and to Residence buildings, according to a report released by Davidson. He said that although it is doubtful that this much damage actually took place, the student union was

billed for this much by the Residence Office.

Included in the damage were eight cigarette burns to the new finished table tops at McConnell Hall at a cost of \$300, seven broken chairs costing \$425, one missing fire extinguisher at \$42 and miscellaneous damages of \$27. As an agreement existed to pay all damages, the Winter Carnival budget had to foot the complete expense of these "alleged damages," said Davidson.

Due to poor attendance, London Madhouse Theatre was the biggest loss, said Davidson. Although a \$668 loss was projected, the final figure turned out to be \$1587 more than this. "In the future," he said, "it is hoped that high cost acts like this shall be more closely reviewed before signing contracts."

New regulations requiring the campus police to patrol the residence system during pubs at McConnell Hall raised the cost for campus police from \$971 to \$1389.47, the report states.

The net profit from extravaganza was \$917.92, some \$360 less than projected, said Davidson. He explained that although all tickets were sold, the loss is attributable to a combination of other circum-



Winter Carnival chairperson Barry Newcombe has still not explained how various events accumulated a deficit of over \$9,000.

stances. He claimed estimates furnished by Student Union Building personnel turned out to be about \$550 less than the actual figure for rental, mix, and labour. Ticket sales were about \$100 less than expected.

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