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SUB Expansion Rejected at STU-

In a close referendum vote, STU students voted down a proposal to use the student building fee to pay for the SUB expansion. For fallout and reaction- see page 1

SU Emergency Loans Changed -

The Student Union has transferred responsibility for their student loan fund to the university Financial Aid office, citing collection difficulties—but they still have to collect all outstanding monies - see page 3

SU Fees: From \$99 to \$103 to \$100.31

Second reading of the Student Union budget took place on Wednesday night, and Council had their chainsaws primed and ready. In five and a half hours of debate, honoraria were lowered, as were conferences. Summer Executive salaries, the student directory and SMART-PACC avoided cuts. Bucking the trend, AIESEC tried for a budget increase, but failed to garner support. - see page 3.

Sports

The Year in Review

Bruce and his staff take a look back at campus sports for the past year- see p. 21

Wrestling Wrap-Up

The Sports staff sum up the wrestling season- see p.22

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AAARGH! - THE FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

New President hopeful results may change

STU rejects SUB expansion

by Gordon Loane

Saint Thomas students have rejected a proposed \$15 yearly fee for SUB expansion, but elected a Student Union president who vows to give the issue a second try next spring.

Shane Donovan, who defeated incumbent Melanie White by a vote of 334 to 169, says the SUB expansion plan was too vague and needs to be more detailed before a second vote next spring.

"I expect that in the normal course of events the expansion plan will be quite detailed by then," said Donovan. "But for now the cost of the plan was a little too much for STU students to give it the go-ahead."

The result of the referendum did not come as a complete surprise to Kelly Lamrock, currently Vice-President of the SU and co-chair of the 'Yes' campaign.

"Naturally, I'm disappointed in the vote which turned out 280 to 203 against the SUB expansion fee. But people seem strapped for cash at the moment and are worried about summer jobs," he said. "I hope STU students will be able to participate in SUB expansion plans as non-voting committee members. I don't think we deserve full voting status at this time given the 'No' referendum result."

Meantime, a referendum question on autonomy for the campus newspaper *The Aquinian*, and a new separate fee for the newspaper passed handily by a vote of 379 to 112.

Karen Strang, Editor-in-Chief of *The Aquinian*, who will serve on the paper's Board of Directors next year, was pleased with the referendum result.

"We were initially concerned about whether the referendum question might be misunderstood. But a reader survey was quite favourable," she said. "I think people were reasonably pleased with the product we put out this year and this reflected favourably when it came time for the referendum vote. But these are challenges for next year as we try to concentrate on increasing our content."

Other election winners included Linda Gionet as Vice-President External. She defeated two other candidates, Rochelle Chisholm and Chris Daigle by a wide margin. Gionet gathered 224 votes to 146 for Daigle and 137 for Chisholm.

John Desmond won a three-way contest for Vice-President Activities. He received 211 to 175 for Darren Priest and 94 for Jacqueline McLean, a current

VP of the Student Union.

For Vice-President Finance, Cindy Kenny defeated two other candidates. Kenny garnered 224 votes to 137 for Darren McIntyre and 124 for Mike Allen.

In the closest contest of the election, it came down to the wire before education student and former SU Vice-President

Finance Colleen Moore defeated Kelly Lamrock and three others for valedictorian of this spring's graduating class.

Moore edged Lamrock by just three votes, gathering 36 to Lamrock's 33. Bill McKibbin finished a close third, tied with Rachel Jones with 27 votes each. Harold

Coughlan trailed with just nine votes.

Just over 24% of STU students turned out for Wednesday's election.

In a referendum earlier this term, UNB students approved a yearly \$25 SUB expansion fee. Construction will begin this summer.



An artist's conception of the proposed SUB expansion.

SU eases its Emergency Loans headache

by Jonathan Stone

The Student Union is handing over responsibility of its Emergency Student Loans program to the university's Financial Aid Office.

The move comes only a year-and-a-half after the program's inception in January 1993. The reason, according to VP Finance Paul Estabrooks, stems from problems faced in collecting delinquent loans.

"It's an administrative headache, and we basically decided that the university would be better equipped to run it. It's a bit of a pain and they have their own systems and they can do a much better job at it."

The Student Union will still provide the funding under its name, but it will be treated as a donation to the university and awarded according to stipulations set forth by the Student Union.

"Each year we're going to keep increasing that amount by \$2500, and they run it, and we'll have our own terms and conditions on it that we have set out," said Estabrooks.

This relieves most of the pressure off the SU. However, the university will not take over the collection of currently outstanding loans.

Heidi Hawkins, council member on the Emergency Loan committee, said there are six

outstanding \$500 loans which have not been repaid at all. With interest, these are valued at approximately \$658 each. That means the Student Union has to collect more than \$3900 in delinquent loans. Hawkins said four of these cases have been referred to a collection agency, and two others are with a lawyer.

Estabrooks said that there are about 23 loan recipients each year, so the majority have repaid.

"We really haven't had that awful a delinquency rate. When we looked it over and did the percentage work, it really wasn't quite as bad as we thought it was."

The Emergency Student Loans Program is a fund created by the Student Union to help students in financial turmoil. It grew from the philosophy of 'students helping students.'

Estabrooks said the loans, which carry a four percent interest rate, are provided for academic use only.

"It will always be that if they (students) need to pay for second term tuition, they'll just come in and apply for that loan and get it and use it against tuition. As tuition increases, the maximum amount that they can get will increase by that same amount. The more money that's available, the more money that will go."

McCain to chair UNB Foundation

by Gordon Loane

The provincial Cabinet has appointed five prominent New Brunswickers to the Board of Directors of the newly created University of New Brunswick Foundation.

It was announced that Florenceville Businessman Harrison McCain will chair the Foundation Board. Other members include UNB President Emeritus Colin B. MacKay of Rothesay and three Fredericton residents Rebecca Watson, retired manager of the campus branch of the Bank of Montreal and two lawyers David Hashey, Q. C. and Lorraine King, Q.C.

The appointments are for three years, and were announced in the December 29 issue of the Royal Gazette.

The Foundation Board is expected to meet for the first time next week, according to Susan Montague, UNB's Director of Development and Public Relations.

The UNB Foundation was created as a result of legislation passed in 1992. The Higher Education Foundation Act will allow the UNB Foundation to receive donations on behalf of the university. Individual and corporate donors can then expect to receive certain tax deductions as a result.