

Student Activity Fee Examined

By David Saunier

Today, Friday November 18th, the Student Association Cabinet and Senate implement one of three courses of action as regards the proposed increase of the Student Activity Fee.

It is technically possible that yesterday (Thurs., Nov. 17) the Senate and the Cabinet were unable to agree on one of the proposals. Then the Cabinet could pursue one option and the Senate another, yet this is highly unlikely viewing how the Senate and Cabinet have interacted in the past. For at least the past four (4) years the Cabinet and Senate have through cooperation, flexibility, or simple united opinion been able to reach a consensus on almost everything that they have jointly considered.

Assuming that the Cabinet and Senate have agreed on the SAF question, they have either made no proposal, because they felt the student response in the surveys was inadequate to provide a basis for proposing change, or they have proposed a ten or fifteen dollar increase in the Student Activity Fee, feeling that they have sufficient student backing to make such a proposal.

The proposal is essentially a tax increase on the students by their government to generate additional revenues. All these revenues are to be allocated by students towards their own clubs, organizations, and activities. The students, through a survey, were to pursue a ten dollar increase in the Student Activity Fee, a fifteen dollar increase, or not to propose any changes at all. Because it was an increase in what students would have to pay the Student Association did not make any decisions without first making sure that the students had been consulted and that a majority of the students were in agreement with the action taken.

At present students pay a Student Activity Fee of roughly \$65 per student. The SAF multiplied by the Full Time Equivalency figure (which is number of four courses taken) determines what the Student Association Budget actually is. The FTE is always below the number of students enrolled because not all students take four courses.

The Student Association, which receives \$50 of the \$65 in the SAF with the other \$15 going to the "Lamp and Shield" and the Lance, received \$34,000 this year.

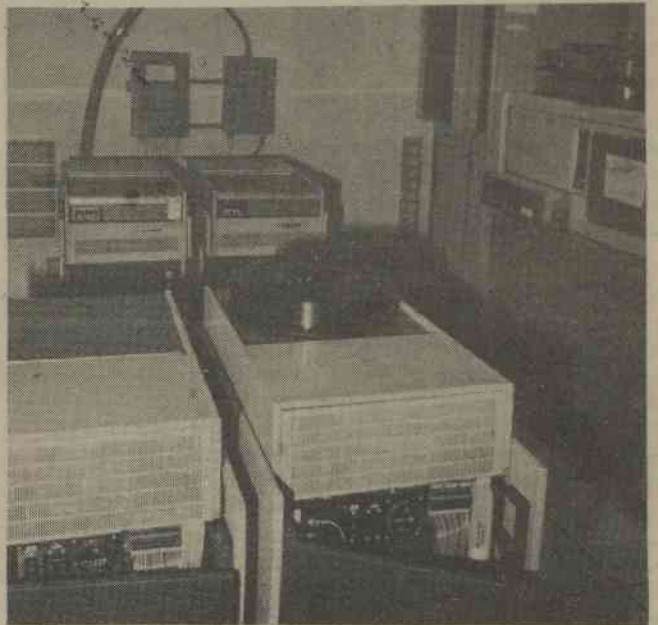
This figure was arrived at by multiplying \$50 by this year's FTE of 680. The Student Association, which funds all the clubs and organizations on campus, feels that this \$34,000 is not enough to fit student needs.

According to the Student Association there are several reasons for an increase in the SAF. One is that student buying power has decreased drastically over the past five years alone through the rise in prices. While inflation keeps prices rising the SAF has been remaining constant. The Student Association contends, using general inflation statistics for the past five years, that \$50 students spend today can only purchase 70% of what it could in 1979. Hence students suffer a 30% drop in purchasing power over just the last five year. Student Association officers also contend that students' interests and activities are on the increase yet the financial resources are not expanding with these interests.

The Student Association Senate and Cabinet also would like to play a more direct and active role in campus life but budget pressures in the past have made it too difficult for the Cabinet and Senate to leave themselves with enough money to play this type of role. The average total request for funds from all clubs and organizations for the past three years has been around \$50,000 with the Student Senate having around \$34,000 to allocate each year. Clubs and organizations have been generally good about reducing their budget requests and the Student Association feels that all possible ways of cutting waste have been used and that in order to balance the budget the Senate must deny funds that would be used for creative and productive events and activities.

If in fact the Student Association does make a proposal for an increase in the Student Activity Fee the Administrative Council if acting responsibly and responsibly should approve of such an increase and support its adoption to the Board of Trustees. Assuming that the Student Association

continued on page 4



Scene of this year's Computer Problems

Computer System Crashes

By George Robbins

The fact that the computer age is upon us has become increasingly evident to the administration and the students over the past few weeks since our computer had been down. Almost everything that the administration does needs to be run through the computer. Some of these functions, like the payrolls, had to be done by hand while others that were not as urgent have been put off until the computer becomes fully operative again. For the students this meant that there were no printouts of mid-term grades. It has also effected the computer classes because they did not have access to the terminals.

The breakdown was an unusually long one because so many things went wrong at the same time. The problems started with three different head crashes within a period of eight hours. It is uncommon to see more than one head crash at a time. One of the crashes occurred while the back-up for a damaged disk pack was mounted. This meant that the pack had to be sent off to see if any of the information could be retrieved. Fifty percent of the data was saved.

While the disk pack was being worked on, all four of the disk drives were experiencing hardware problems. A maintenance man was called in from the computer company to help get the drives working. As the problem of time became more acute the company supplied two

specialists to help get the job done as quick as possible. Finally at about two a.m. on Tuesday morning things were pulled together and the system was operating again. This was due to the coordinated effort of the computer center staff and the team sent by the company. The system is covered under a maintenance contract otherwise it would have cost the school around ten thousand dollars. Now the biggest thing remaining to do is to rewrite the programs that were lost. The administration showed great confidence in our computer program by hiring two Computer Science majors to help write these programs.

The cause of the head crashes is dust getting into the disk drives. The dust came off of the rough edges of the sheet rock that was installed during the renovation of the computer center over the summer. When air from the ventilation system was blown across the edges microscopic particles were knocked loose into the air. They eventually found their way into the drives.

To keep the situation from happening again several things were done. First, the computer room that houses the CPU was cleaned three times. Second, all the rough edges of the sheet rock were taped. Third, a sticky filament was installed to catch the extremely small particles of dust. Hopefully, with all of these measures in place it will be a long time before the St. Andrews heads crash again.

Ride Sharing Made Easy

By Beth Davison

In searching for a ride home over the Thanksgiving holiday, students may want to check into "The Ride Board," which is located on the bulletin board by the post office. According to David Saunier, "The Ride Board" sponsored by the Student Government Association, "is a way in which students seeking rides can get together in an organized fashion to save money and time."

There are two purposes of the board: to bring people together who live in the same region that are willing to split cost and to organize rides to and from the airports, bus or train stations.

Prices of St. Andrews transportation for an individual are \$50.00 to the Charlotte or Raleigh airport,

\$25.00 for the Fayetteville airport, \$15.00 to the Hamlet train station, and \$2.00 for the Laurinburg bus station. Kenneth McCombs states, "If five people can come together to share a ride to the Fayetteville airport then the cost can be reduced to \$5.00 a piece."

Applications will be distributed for those needing the school transportation service. There will be a scheduled meeting to organize when people will be leaving and returning. Only two vans will leave in one day. However, McCombs said, "Services cannot be provided for anyone wanting to leave before the designated break."

Also, information will be posted concerning rides and meetings so that "The Ride Board" will become a permanent service for students.