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Hobart may get facelift

By **BILL MADARAS**
Staff Writer

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a plan to conduct a feasibility study to determine the cost and practicality of a partial restoration of Hobart Manor at their last meeting.

"The restoration will involve a few rooms and possibly the main hallway. To restore the whole building would cost a fortune," said Ron McArthur, assistant director of admissions and head of the Hobart Manor Restoration Committee, an ad-hoc committee which include Professor of Elementary Education Ken Job, the Faculty Womens Club and Phi Magna Beta.

According to Judy Fernald, chairperson of the Student Alumni Community Affairs Committee brought up the plan for a vote saying that "the cost would be minimal." Basically price quotes from architects and decisions on which parts of the manor will be renovated will be looked into.

"It will not take any college funds. We will look and see if we can get matching funds from any groups or donations from any state and local historical clubs," said Fernald.

Fernald envisions Hobart Manor being used for wedding receptions and big parties for which it can be rented.

"We can easily fix up the front. The office walls can be taken down. (The walls were erected when the manor was purchased by the state.) There was once a ballroom on the second floor. It would have guided tours during certain hours. I think this is a way of getting young people on campus, a subtle way of recruiting," said Fernald.

McArthur expressed some caution since it is an open building and if antiques were to be brought in there would be the possibility of theft and vandalism.

"It is still an iffy thing. Where would we put the offices that are there?" asked Job, former coordinator of the WPC Bicentennial Historic Site Committee who added that he would welcome student involvement in the project.

Hobart was once the home of Garret A. Hobart, the nation's 24th vice-president from 1897 until 1899. The house was sold to the state for \$200,000 in 1948. Paterson State Teachers College was moved here from Paterson in 1952.

Job and McArthur founded the WPC Bicentennial Historic Site Committee in the spring of 1976. By July of that year, Hobart Hall was a national historic site in the state and on the national Register of Historic Places.

Ecology returns

The Youth Environmental Society (YES) will be sponsoring a weekend campus organizing workshop at YMCA Camp Kiamesha in Branchville, NJ on Feb. 10-12.

The workshop will explain how to organize to fight environmental problems on a grass roots level.

Representatives of YES are visiting several North Jersey colleges, including WPC, looking for potential activists to organize their campuses.

Interested students should contact Dr. Edwin Hutter in the Environmental Studies Department or call 828-6880.