

In The Beginning, There Was The STUD

In 1955, UNB opened the doors of the Memorial Student Centre, now the Alumni Memorial Building. Affectionately known as "the old Stud", the building was widely used by students during its years but it soon became obvious that it could not accommodate the growing enrolment on the UNB campus. In 1961, only six years after the opening of the Memorial Student Centre, a committee was struck to look into the problem of inadequate space. Initially the committee looked into an expansion of the existing location, but it became apparent that this approach was not proactive in meeting the long-term needs of the University community. It was not until 1963 that the idea for creating a new structure gained momentum. The idea for the SUB came from two UNB students, SRC President Sandy LeBlanc and Richard Oland, first chair of the SUB Committee. These two initiated the project that would end with the opening of the SUB.

In 1964, the need for a student centre greatly increased with the relocation of Saint Thomas University and the Teachers' College (now the Faculty of Education) to the UNB campus. This brought over 1000 students, as well as faculty and staff. The committee decided that the new student centre should serve all students on the campus, and that a central location should be chosen to accommodate the three institutions. Originally, the UNB Student Council passed a motion to levy a \$10.00 student building fee, but later a referendum was held to determine student support for continuing this fee. The referendum passed with over 64% support.

The ambitious members of what became known as the SUB committee held their first sod turning ceremony

in October, 1965, two years before the actual construction began. What had begun as a \$400,000 addition to the Memorial Student Centre to be completed by 1965 was now planned to be a \$1.2 million building behind Bridges House and Harrison House, aimed to be finished by 1967.

In April of 1966, a second referendum was held with two questions concerning the SUB. The first question involved choosing the exterior of the building. Two designs were given, and the winner was the one we enjoy today. The second question involved increasing the Student Union SUB fee to \$15.00, to be paid by every full-time student annually until the mortgage was retired. The result revealed that 75% of voters favoured the higher fee.

In late 1968, as the SUB was nearing completion, meetings were held to determine what the name of the building would be. While it was always referred to as the SUB during the project stages, it had been planned that it would be named after a person when it was completed. The most popular choice was to name the building after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was assassinated in 1968. Other choices included then Premier Joey Smallwood of Newfoundland and former Governor-General Georges Vanier.

While the SUB would not open for a few months yet, the cornerstone of the SUB was laid in October of 1968. Lady Violet Aitken was present for the ceremony, at which three first-year students from UNB, STU and the Teachers' College set the cornerstone in place.

On January 29, 1969 the SUB celebrated the opening of its doors. During the three-day event, there were dances, a party, and a slave auction. It represented the culmination of eight

years of effort. Unfortunately, there were complaints from the beginning about the lack of accessibility for those students with physical disabilities, about the poor ventilation, and the omission of some requested features.

The SUB in 1969 was different from that of today in a number of ways. The Social Club for instance was on the basement level, where the PUB in the SUB had been until this term. The cafeteria area was divided into the main cafeteria and a separate coffee house. The coffee house was very popular because of its jukebox, which made it a favourite hangout. The top floor housed the ballroom, and the backstage area occupied the space

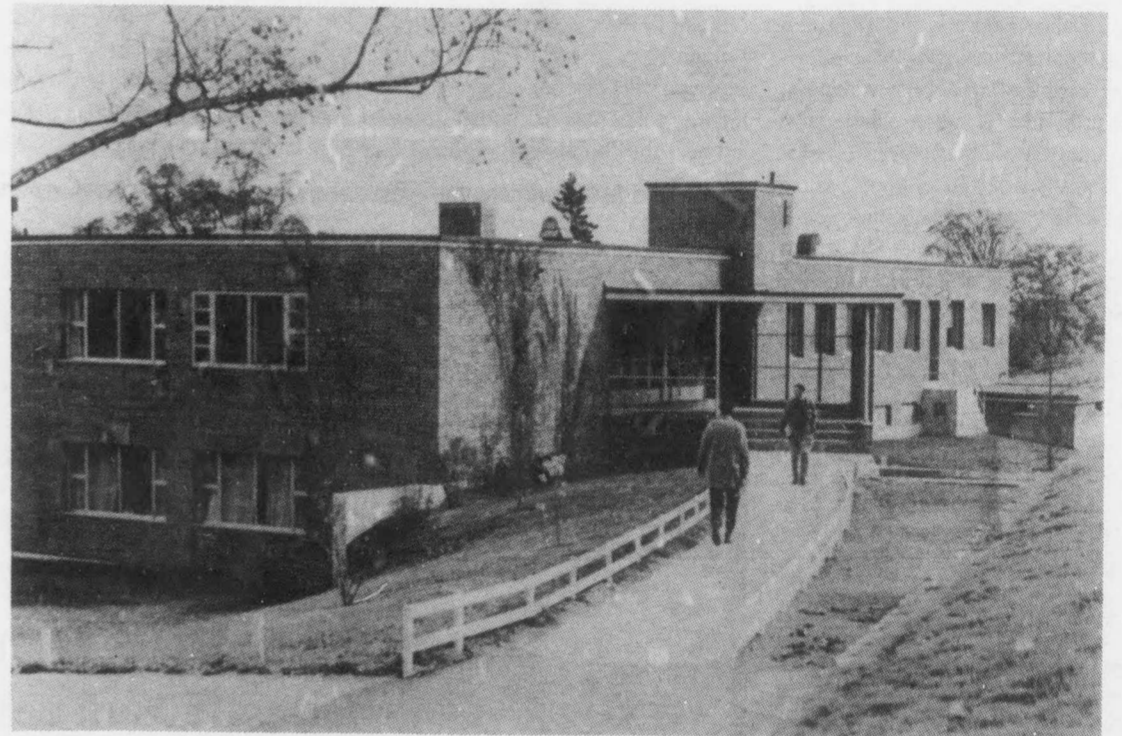
which now holds the Social Club.

One benefit for students of the new SUB was the availability of part-time jobs which it offered. Among these were the Student Supervisors, now known as SUB Staff, who earned \$1.25 per hour, and worked from 5:00 p.m. to the time the building closed at around midnight.

In 1975, SUB expansion became a major issue on the UNB campus only six years after its opening. An architectural firm was hired to prepare a proposal for a major expansion of the SUB, and it was noted that at this time that the UNB Administration was in favour of housing all Student Services under one roof. A referendum was held

in October, 1976 to determine student support for expansion. The referendum was not successful, and the reasons given included a dislike of the design proposed, the cost of the newly built Aitken University Centre, and the financial difficulty that the UNB SU Council was encountering.

Since this time SUB expansion has continued to be an issue at UNB, but progress has been extremely limited. There have been some renovations to the building. In 1981, Beaver Foods Ltd. renovated the cafeteria to its current form. The following year in 1982 the College Hill Social Club moved to its present location from the basement of the building.



Memorial Student Centre (Alumni Memorial Building)

25

Happy 25th Anniversary to the SUB.

In your honor Travel Cuts will be drawing 25 prizes.

Come into Travel Cuts anytime during week of January 24 - January 28 and fill out a ballot
No Purchase Required.

On Monday, January 31st we will draw the 25 lucky winners.

TRAVEL CUTS
Going Your Way!

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COLLEGE HILL Social Club

The Members and Staff
of the Social Club

would like to
join in celebrating

the
25TH
ANNIVERSARY
of the
STUDENT
UNION
BUILDING