

# EDITORIAL

*This week's editorial is written by Bill Traer a former Sports editor, Advertising Manager, Manager Editor, and Editor in Chief of The Brunswickan. He has also sat on the College Hill social Club's Board of Directors as Chairman for two years. We feel that his appreciation of the issues involved in this difficult situation allows him to take an informed look at the dilemma facing UNB today. K.D.*

## Should the Student Union take over the Social Club?

Recently the idea of the Student Union taking over the College Hill Social Club has arisen. Why has this idea come to light only now.

Many Student Unions across the country have their own campus bar so why shouldn't the UNB SU have their own also? By owning a bar themselves the SU will be able to avoid Bar Services for their events, thus saving a great deal of money which can be further used in other areas. This will also enable the SU to justify a full-time entertainment programming position, probably losing the VP Ent position as a result. They will be able to hold house dinners in the ballroom/CHSC as wet/dry events. Lower membership costs for students and everyone will not one. They will be able to put the profits back into other services for students. They will also give the students a unified voice when speaking to the administration on alcohol policies.

Though these ideas sound promising on paper there are a few problems. Presently, due to licensing the Social Club is allowed to use the ballroom twice a term and occasionally for special events, the SU will be subject to the same regulations, thus major events will still be held in the cafeteria and still going through bar services. Also wet/dry events are not allowed to be advertised as such except inside the club and said wet/dry events must be applied for on an individual basis to the NBLLB. One of the reasons Bar Services was set up with a blanket license was for the NBLLB to avoid the hassle of approving all those wet/dry events on campus every week. They won't want to do this again. Also, how will underage people find out about wet/dry events since they are not allowed in the club in the first place

Membership costs won't disappear if the SU takes over. It'll just be distributed more evenly over the whole student population and everyone will be a member, unless you're under nineteen, a STU or a Grad Student. So say you were 18, you would end up paying about 5 bucks for a bar that you couldn't use. Also, STU students have part ownership in the CHSC (how many positions will they get on the board) which is a legal entity owned by its members, they're probably not going to be impressed when the SU tries this takeover and it definitely will be a hostile one. Takeovers of this nature often cause bad blood and are not terribly good for business. So much for employer/staff relations. Any business is only as good as its staff, especially when you're in the service business as the CHSC well knows. Presently the club is running better than it ever has and is making a profit. Three years ago when the place was near bankrupt and they asked the SU to bail them out the SU refused. If they're not willing to be there when times are tough but willing to jump on the bandwagon you've got to wonder. All they see is a cash cow ie: it's pure greed. The SU won't be able to transfer funds about as they wish. Since the CHSC is a non-profit corporation most of the money earned would have to stay with the corporation, thus in order for the SU to gain money for other services they would have come from some other budget and the social club would be expected to use its cash flow to subsidize entertainment so if there is a bad season who will make up the shortfall. Also some organizations would suffer as the CHSC donates funds to campus groups, in a perhaps more liberal manner than the student union. Presently the CHSC is in the process of purchasing new weight room equipment for the gym.

When the Social Club was first incorporated in 1970, it was specifically set up as a separate body from the Student Union because the then Student Union realized that it would only become a political football if they ran it. One also has to remember that it was the Student Union that lost the students liquor license in the first place. It was also the SU that refused to seat VP-Finance Tony Tracy (a duely elected representative) merely because he was a Known Bosnitch affiliate. They had no real reason, they didn't like him. Responsible government wouldn't have done that. The Social Club has sponsored alcohol awareness programs such as P.A.L.E. and S.M.A.R.T.T. P.A.C.C. as part of their mandate well before it was prudent to do so. The Student Union for years offered to help the CHSC sponsor P.A.L.E. but dropped out conveniently every year when it was time to put up with the money. It is true, though, that in recent years relations between the two organizations have been good what with co-sponsoring events and such. we should try to keep it that way.

By doing all this the students are putting all their eggs in one basket. The Board of Govenors doesn't really want alcohol on campus, especially in light of liability for alcohol related events. If something bad happens, well you know...

By Bill Traer

# The Brunswickan

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by Barry

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