

# Hilltop has had its 'last hurrah'

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Tavern business has been going steadily downhill for the past five years, according to Keith Neuman, manager of the new Last Hurrah cabaret on Prospect Street. The building was recently converted from the Hilltop Pub to a versatile club for that very reason. The disco craze made people more concerned about fashion, and rekindled the dance scene, he said.

In the past, the Hilltop operated under the basic restrictions imposed on all taverns in New Brunswick. The only alcohol served was beer and wine and the bar closed at 11:30 p.m. The only food served was of a fast, simple nature such as hamburgers. It attracted largely the blue collar and young working crowd as patrons. There was a small dance floor but it was only used to walk across—there was no fancy foot-work then.

The new Last Hurrah has hopefully improved on this situation. It is a cabaret which includes characteristics that offer greater opportunity for improved enjoyment and sales. The bar will remain open from 11 a.m. until 2 a.m. seven

days a week. The Last Hurrah currently holds the longest cocktail list in Fredericton, including the house speciality called a Brave Bull. It resembles a Blood Caesar but has a beef base. The price of beer is \$1.15 per pint and liquor prices run on a par with those of competing clubs.

There will be food served from noon until 9 p.m. daily. The new menus offer quite a variety of fairly simple dishes. The luncheon menu, designed for the working person, consists of several types of soups, salads and sandwiches. The supper menu presents the basics for good dining. Several steak meals, seafood, shish Kabob ranging in price from approximately \$4-\$9 are offered. To prepare these dishes, a chef from Le Martinique restaurant downtown was hired. In fact 70 per cent of the staff are recent arrivals.

The atmosphere is now more conducive to a relaxing, friendly afternoon and a lively, fun evening. Booths have been added, three seating areas have been elevated to break up the expanse of floor space, which seats 305 people. A large bar finished in natural pine is centred on the back wall in front of the new 840-



JEAN-LOUIS TREMBLEY Photo

square-foot dance floor. The stage, largest in Fredericton, is located for all patrons to view the entertainment. The decorative improvements such as carpeting, wall covering and antique framed photographs of the Fredericton area give the club a touch of subdued comfort. The \$85,000 renovation project was completed astonishingly in one week.

The major drawing card for the night crowd will be the live entertainment. The Last Hurrah

has no specific entertainment policy. They will experiment with different sounds and styles of music to gauge public taste. Upcoming artists include McLean and McLean, the Garrison Brothers (both appearing next week for the grand opening), Cement City—a country rock and bluegrass band, the new Sam Moon band, Percy and the Tear-drops offering 50s nostalgia, Red-eye and Molly Oliver. Newman said he feels that variety in entertainment will attract a mixed clientele. He adds, however, that it is too early to judge who the regulars will be, as present customers are largely curiosity seekers. Some of their patrons will undoubtedly be university

students. The Last Hurrah offers student organizations the opportunity to use the club for social gatherings. The Phys ed society will be having one such event there this Sunday night, complete with happy hour and complimentary snacks.

The name of the new club was taken from a book of that title concerning the great American dream of working from the bottom up to success. Hopefully the Last Hurrah will achieve such success. Newman says, "We just want to be another club in town. We are not trying to put anyone out of business. We'll offer good food, entertainment and liquor at reasonable prices."

## KIVA opens tonight

'Kiva' a new outlet for music, theatre, poetry, dance and the visual arts will be opening tonight at 8 p.m. in the gallery basement of the Craft School, right next to the guard house on Queen Street. The opening celebration will feature the poetry of the renowned Alden Nowlan, the music of Lusia and Paul Lauzon, duo and single celtic harp with John Thompson of the Thompson Consort and two UNB students Michael Corbett and Michael Zito performing a play by David Mamet, Duck Variations. Refreshments will be created by Aura Foods and Country Fare and admission is \$2.50.

Mike Zito explains that "Kiva was an idea of a number of UNB students and Fredericton residents who felt there was a need for a creative center in the community. There seems to be a number of places whose center is basically alcohol and there's nothing wrong with that, but we felt a need for a place which centers on art. With the help of George Fry, director of the Craft School, the idea has taken off. A lot of people are very excited and the energy is sure to grow as more get involved."

The name Kiva comes from the Hopi Indians. To them Kiva is an underground council chamber, where new songs and dances are taught and learned. Paul Lauzon who researched the name, says the name Kiva seems to envelope the feeling of the gallery. We envision a dramatic and exciting interchange between everyone



Paul and Lusia Lauzon

involved. In fact, we're entirely sure what Kiva will be like a year or even a month from now. That's because we'll be free enough to

let it evolve, to go wherever the creative energies of the community takes it. Wherever that is will be very special.



## Acrobats coming

The world famous ACROBATS OF CANTON arrive at Vancouver's International Airport on Tuesday September 2nd to begin the Canadian leg of this first-ever North American tour. The seventy artists from the People's Republic of China will be arriving with over 4 tons of splendid stage props, backdrops, wardrobe trunks, lion and dragon heads, jars, plates and special effects equipment not to mention the variety of other necessities from herbal medicines to ancient Chinese musical instruments. They'll be spending four months in Canada and the United

States this fall performing daring and spectacular acrobatics in theatres and arenas from coast to coast.

Tumbling and diving-leaping and spinning—the ACROBATS OF CANTON have been hailed as one of the most outstanding acrobatic troupes in the world. They have performed in over 20 countries throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe. This upcoming tour marks their North American debut.

The ACROBATS OF CANTON will be in Fredericton at the Aitken Center on Thursday, Oct. 23.