

BLOOD & THUNDER

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OPINION

BY STEPHEN DUGGAN

THE PUB IN THE SUB

As stated in last Friday's Brunswickan, the discussion concerning "The Pub in the Sub" is now over. Everyone knows that the Student Union will re-open the Pub in September. This opinion will deal with my personal feelings on what lead (sic) to the Student Union gaining control of the Pub.

Having been an employee of Bar Services for the past four years I have seen the problems that have occurred and the reasons behind these decisions. When I started in 1990 there was already talk of Bar Services opening up a permanent operation to serve the university community. Throughout this process the university constantly stated that they would allow Bar Services to run this business without any meddling. But, as one can see, this promise did not happen. The university wanted the Pub because it hoped to reduce the loss accrued to Bar Services. On paper this idea looks really pleasing but when implemented the university refused to let the Pub run properly because they would look bad and be seen as supporting the consumption of alcohol on campus. It makes you wonder why the university even approved the plans in the beginning when they knew of the position it would put them in.

The university states that the Pub was closed due to financial problems. This may be true but I believe it is the university themselves that caused this problem. By constantly meddling in the affairs of the Pub, almost on a daily basis, they stopped the Pub from being run effectively. One wonders why they bothered to hire two permanent employees to run Bar Services, in the first place. The university could have run Bar Services themselves and avoided the cost of two permanent salaries, since they felt they knew best. But if you think about it, when you want to make a business fail you must find someone to put the blame on, and I believe that it was the reason these employees were hired for.

An example is the price structuring of the Pub. Why would you put the price of bottled beer lower than that of draught? If you own a bar situated to serve draught you would think that it would become your most popular product. Another area is on how the Pub should have been marketed. Those who were hired to run the Pub realized that the Pub could not compete with other bars. They wanted to create a clientele that would frequent the bar on a regular basis. With the Pub's low overhead financial stability could be achieved by

only selling a certain amount - an amount that could have been easily reached if allowed to try. The university in their infinite wisdom believed that it should compete with every bar in town. This idea alone started the death of "The Pub in the Sub".

By operating in this manner the university wasted valuable money, time and effort especially from those directly involved. Why support the hands-off approach, and at the same time meddle in every detail to the point that nothing can be accomplished? This is still going on today, just wait until the Student Union opens the Pub. The university will return to its usual routine to make themselves look good in the public eye. I hope the Student Union realizes this and prepares for it before they open the Pub in September.

In closing the Pub, and soon the rest of Bar Services, the university has created even more problems. Once Bar Services is finished the following changes will happen. Areas that were previously used to hold student functions will be closed. If you want to hold a function you have to undergo the process of obtaining a special events permit, purchase the product you want to sell, hire bartenders. This process will cost residences a lot of money that

could be better spent in other areas. Previously all of this was supplied by the university through Bar Services.

Another problem is the dismissal of 20-25 part-time employees. The income received from this job helps us to survive throughout the school year. Now that the income is gone we must look towards other places, one such place is Financial Aid. We now enter a system that is badly underfunded and overworked.

The intent of this opinion was to

voice my feelings and concerns about the demise of Bar Services. After writing this opinion I have come to the conclusion that many students, including myself, have been cheated by the university. There is not much I can do to stop this from happening again, but once this letter is read it may lead to students gathering together who want fundamental change in what the university decides is in our best interests. We have a student government, why not use it to its fullest purpose; to represent the needs of the student.

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GOOD-BYE GAMERS

Dear Editor;

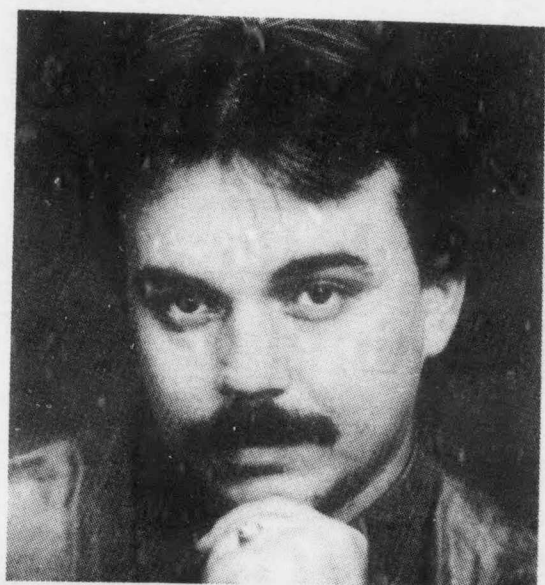
As a fourth year student here at UNB, I would like to wish my friends of the Blue Room a happy good-bye. Gone are the gamey "gamers" and their putrid greasy stench, au revoir to their filthy trails of refuse and salut! to their flatulence, belches, bad jokes and bawdy displays. A question - why in the hell don't you cretins pick up your own damn messes? Did those trays get there under your double order of large fries, or did they grow legs (like your collective underwear) and walk up there from the cafeteria? Perhaps instead of using trays, our resident dungeon and dragon gurus should petition Kim Norris for a set

of stainless steel troughs from which they can suck up their daily fill of mash and slop. At least with the troughs we normal commuters could get through that room without wading through french fry boxes, trays, hamburger wrappers, chip bags and sunflower shells left (or in gamer vocabulary... neatly deposited) on the carpet. Anyways, thanks for the memories and the burnt-out nasal membranes. I'm just thankful that no one has had their contact lenses welded to their eyes from the acrid fumes (which are the legacy) of the dreaded Blue Room.

— Sincerely Pissed-Off

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