

SUB expansion and the SUB board

By J. DAVID MILLER

It is said that people get the government that they deserve. One area where student government has been so bad that they couldn't possibly deserve it is the SUB Board.

In 1973, Kevin McKinney, then SUB Director wrote with respect to SUB expansion "Working in close liason with the SRCs is also essential, and input from as many sources as possible is highly desirable so that the Board can have all necessary information to aid in its decision-making."

SUB expansion/renovation is not a new idea. Considerable attention was paid to this problem between the years 1973 and 1975. Student leaders from the Brunswickan and CHSR held a lot of meetings to

address this question. This resulted in two reports (McKinney, 1973, Roy A.F. Neale, 1975), \$20,000 worth of preliminary design work and finally, a referendum. The referendum was held in the fall, 1975 and asked the students to authorize the SUB Board to seek all possible ways to finance construction. The referendum also noted that SRC fees might have to go up, to match funds from other sources. This referendum passed overwhelmingly.

After 1975, absolutely nothing was done. Two years of very hard work by literally dozens of individuals was ignored by the so-called student leaders who followed.

Recent events have forced some action from the SUB Board. However, this action

has not encompassed the principles outlined in McKinney's statement quoted above. The SUB Board has chosen to adopt a course of independent action with apparent disregard for existing planning and without express consultation with the SRC's (who largely appoint the board) and the University (which owns the building.)

The 1973 and 1975 reports together with the engineering studies done in 1975 revealed certain problems. All sources stress the need for a larger social club. With the closing of the residence bars, this point is particularly relevant. All reports agree on the need to extensively redesign the SUB cafeteria. Some of this redesign is included in the proposed food contract.

Serious shortcomings remain in the SUB with regard to washrooms, ventilation, storage space, meeting room space and other fairly important functional aspects. Since 1974, the areas on campus where pubs can be held has become limited. The present SUB ballroom is about the only place now, and was not designed for such a purpose. The engineering studies also revealed problems in the way the building was constructed with regard to heat loss and lack of full separation between floors.

Without express prior consultation with the university, the SUB Director has recently hired an architect. No con-

sultation whatsoever has been held with the SRCs which have been charged with the responsibility to hold a referendum on any plan the SUB develops.

Students cannot be asked to continue payments to a building fund which is not used to provide a significant im-

provement in services. I would never vote for a plan which merely tarted up the old SUB.

About 10,000 graduates of UNB and STU have paid a lot of

money into the SUB. The actions of the SUB Board for the past five years have let us all down. I only hope that the current Board gets off its high horse before its too late and a referendum fails.

EDITORS NOTE: David Miller is a graduate student who has been actively involved with CHSR and the Brunswickan, as well as being keen observer of campus politics in his years at UNB.

Bad management

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crisis now. Unfortunately, those with accounting degrees make all the real decisions around here, not academics. In my experience, the administration as a whole treats academics with contempt. The past few years have seen appalling financial mismanagement (unexpected surpluses, etc). I do not know whether UNB deserves more government funding until it learns to look after it.

The future of UNB will depend on financial decisions which protect our ability to do the very best teaching and research. I would radically alter the way the university functions rather than fire one productive academic. Practices and comforts we acquired in the 70s will have to go out the window.

J. David Miller

Simon says

Dear Sir:

I wish to use your paper to thank all those members of the African Student Union who spent their valuable time to ask me not to reply an article that you put in last Friday's "Brunswickan." Their comments about the article were beneficial especially as they told me never to argue with a fool again as people may not notice the difference.

However, there are a few things that I wish to clarify in case anyone was left with any doubts. My earlier questions that I put to the author of "African Coups" still remain unanswered and instead he chose to deal with irrelevant issues such as wearing coats and frequenting the SUB. May I tell him that he has to be there frequently to be able to see me

there frequently. May I also tell him that if he is a religious "Saint," the Social Club does not sell Bibles nor Korans. If he has been seeing me at the Social Club on his way to Church or Mosque for that matter, he has already been doomed as we have no such buildings in the vicinity of the SUB basement. He has clearly missed his way to Church. I shall conclude by saying that Saints communicate with other Saints, donkeys understand other donkeys, imps communicate with other imps and men, with or men or with flat-terers. I shall not even bother to ask him to note what I have said here as sources close to him say "he still shall not understand."

Simon Kahari

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