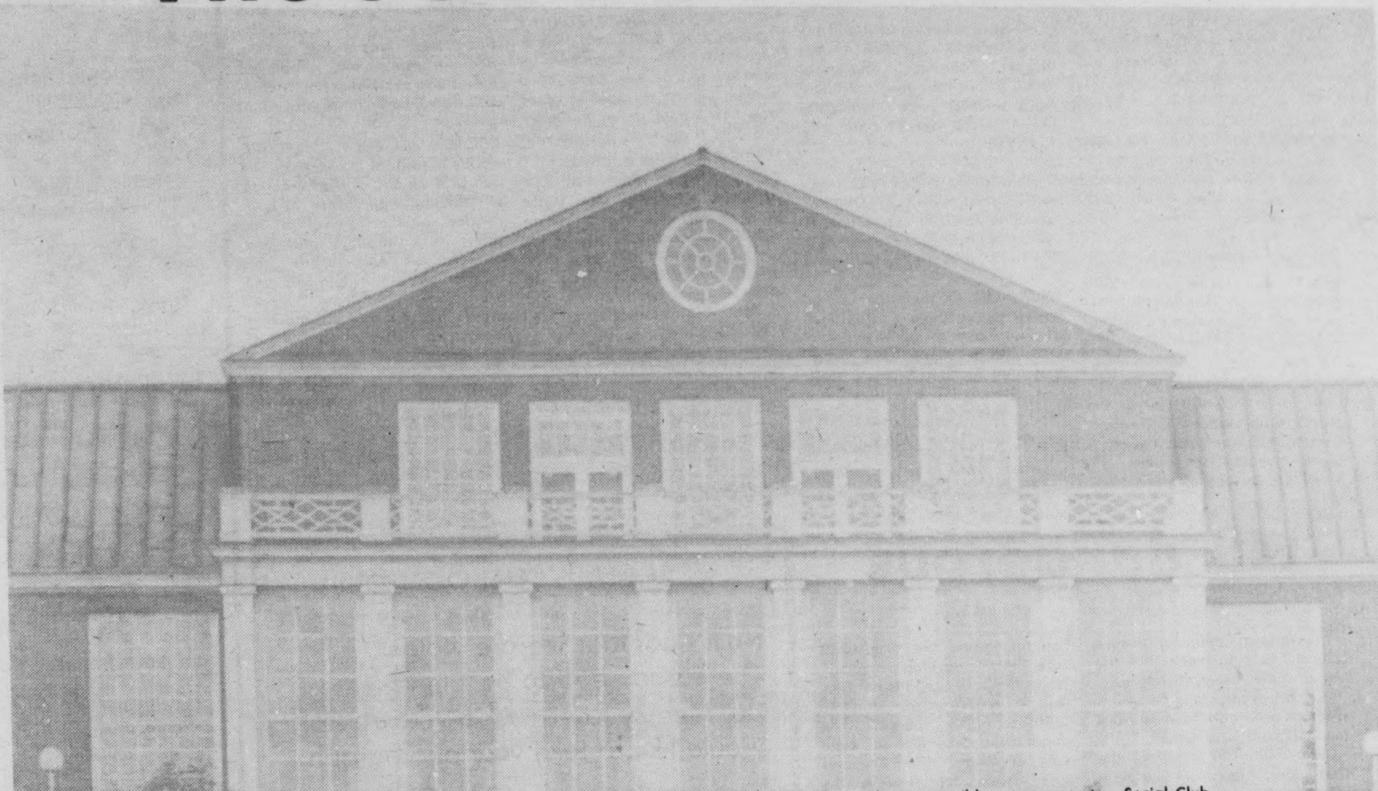


The SUB : in the red?



EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to the size of this undertaking, *The Brunswickan* will be discussing this report in two parts, the second which will appear in next week's issue.

Next issue *The Brunswickan* will discuss the problems of the SUB in more detail. The task force recommendations will also be considered in depth.

Please follow this important issue. This is your building, show you care. Send any comments to *The Brunswickan*, Room 35, SUB, Campus Mail.

By SHEENAGH MURPHY

The Student Union Building is in trouble.

Financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 77 show considerable losses.

An important issue which will seriously jeopardize the already shaky finances concerns Saga foods. Saga is the food concession which operates within the University of New Brunswick. Previously Saga had given a 19 percent rebate on food sales with the SUB. This has, in the past brought a great deal of operating income to the student union.

Saga has now advised the union that they will no longer be able to give that rebate, and instead wish to pay a rental fee amounting to approximately \$10,000. The University under the new arrangement would lose in the area of \$25,000 for the 1977-78 budget.

Student Representative Council president Jim Murray pointed out several relevant issues in connection with this. He said that Saga

actually had benefited from UNB's patronage, because they have indirectly received other contracts on the strength of UNB's reputation.

Murray said it would be inadvisable for the administration to accept Saga's offer and said he feels the administration would be playing into Sagas hands. He said that Saga has an exclusive contract to serve all food on the University campus, an advantage for them.

Technically, it is illegal for any other service to come on campus, such as Luna Pizza. This is a disadvantage for the SUB according to Murray, who feels other food options would make the SUB more attractive to students.

Concerning Saga's assertion that they are losing money in the SUB, Murray was skeptical. He said that Saga technically owns the machinery they use, thus cutting costs in that area. In addition, the cooks do a lot of cooking in SUB kitchens, and take the food to other dining rooms on campus. Murray also said that Saga is already getting rebates from a carbonated drinks factory and possibly from others also.

Saga is already initiating new procedures which will cut costs. These include their decision to go "fast food", a process which will cut down on their salary costs, because professional cooks can be omitted from the budget. Presently, most of Saga's staff is paid the minimum wages.

Saga also informed Howard Goldberg, SUB director, that they are thinking of suspending catering services within the

building. This is a serious blow to the SUB budget. In the past the catering service offered by the Student Union Building had enabled them to attract outside groups, which were willing to pay the extra money for the service. To suspend this service means that those type of groups will more likely go to other establishments, where the rent is lower.

The administration appears amenable to Saga's proposition, as they are leery of going to tender. They are afraid that a new concession would cost too much money, among other things.

Murray offered some suggestions to alleviate the situation. He suggested a proposition to a private catering company, but specifically he thought the administration should tell Saga to "toe the line".

Dr. John Anderson, University president, established a Task Force to study the problem. The members are: D. McConnell, appointed by the president as chairperson, M.A.R. Shanks, appointed by the president, Mark Giberson, appointed by St. Thomas University, Brian Pryde, SRC rep., Norman Conde appointed by St. Thomas University SRC and John McEvoy, appointed by the Board of Directors.

The Task force was given terms of reference to base their report on. They were: 1) To examine present activities and programs making use of the Student Union Building's facilities and services. 2) To examine the present financial position of the Student Union Building and the causes of present budget problems. 3) To

evaluate possible measures to increase resources available to support Student Union Building programs and services. 4) To recommend an action plan to achieve a new balance between available resources and programs operated in the Student Union Building.

The task force first concentrated on an examination of the facilities and programs making use of the SUB at present time.

These facilities were put into classifications, consisting of office/conference rooms assigned to individual groups on a permanent basis, or a room used by non-class groups for meetings, tests or private discussions.

Then there were those labeled special use-these installations providing specialized services, and general use, primary space supporting those needs of the university population not specifically related to functions of instruction, administration or maintenance.

Finally there was support space — space required for the support of activities which take place in primary facilities.

The force noted a growth in primary facility space at the expense of secondary facilities. This was in the period 69/70-76/77.

They also noticed the "use" of non institutional agencies has grown to 10 percent of all assignable space within the SUB. The "use" is actually rental income from the Smoke Shop, Sub Towne, Barber Shop, Bellboy Cleaners, Little Records and College Hill

Social Club.

Saga remains the largest single operation in and source of revenue to the SUB. A consideration here is the apparent trend away from cafeteria style food, which casts doubt on the suitability of the dining/serving areas, as well as Saga's potential demand to suspend catering. The instigation of these two procedures will jeopardize the operation of the SUB.

The next issue concerns the SUB Board of Directors. They work within certain guidelines. In essence they are supposed to promote, encourage and direct activities within the building.

In general, the SUB operates the Campus Information Centre and Sub Terrain and supports the activities and programs of on and off campus organizations. These groups then reassign their allotments to the function within their control as they see fit. The remainder of SUB space is scheduled through the director's office in an event by event basis.

The various activities include dinners, dances, parties and banquets, seminars, meeting places, recruiting facilities, pubs, concerts, student productions and other miscellaneous activities.

The task force had several comments to make in connection with whether or not the board of directors fulfilled its duties.

They said that artistic and literary activities are generally neglected, but there is a fair representation of education, social, recreational and sporting activities.

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