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Aitken resident lodges complaint about e-mail

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THE BRUNSWICKAN

A complaint about a potentially offensive e-mail has thrown university officials for a loop. Officials, both in and out of the Residence system, seem uncertain how to handle a complaint arising from an e-mail distributed to the residents of Aitken House, an all-male residence on the UNB campus.

The e-mail message, sent last Friday to each resident of Aitken House, resulted in a complaint by a student in the House to Residence officials this past Monday. The e-mail, apparently written as a parody of advice columns includes a request for relationship advice and is considered by the complainant to be derogatory in describing homosexual sex between the author of the letter and his former roommate. It

concludes by asking that the recipient, whom it alleges is also gay, to respond with any advice.

A copy of the e-mail in question was provided to *The Brunswickan* by the complainant. According to its header information, the message was sent to Derick Lord, an Academic Resource Person in Aitken House, by another House resident. The same header further suggests that it was Lord who forwarded the message to his housemates. At press time, University and Residence officials had been unable to ascertain who wrote the original message, or whether it was Lord who actually forwarded the message to the House.

In discussions with *The Brunswickan*, the student confirmed that his complaint was against Lord specifically and that he had provided the Dean of Students' Office with a copy of the e-

mail, although he had not signed any paperwork for the complaint.

When contacted Tuesday, Acting Dean of Residence John Craighead confirmed receipt of the letter and complaint, stating that, "the e-mail message in question was only brought to our attention late [Monday] afternoon and we are in the process of investigating it right now. We have not been successful in ascertaining whether or not it was sent from the source which is identified [in the header]."

Contacted in his residence room early Tuesday evening, Lord stated that he did not wish to comment on the e-mail message or the complaint which arose from it, stating "I heard this was going to happen. I really don't want to say anything. That [message] was within the House and I don't think anyone else needs to know what was going on. I

have no comment."

The manner in which the complaint will be dealt with, however, is still in question. When asked whether the disposition of the complaint would fall to his office or to another university official, Craighead was uncertain, stating "We are all aware that e-mail is a new technology and it is not fully understood by everybody. Resident access to the internet is a relatively new thing and there are university policies controlling e-mail, and so those policies would apply."

While acknowledging that in his opinion "it is certainly an offensive message," Craighead stated that it would be "premature to speculate" whether the issue was one which should be dealt with under the University's Sexual Harassment Policy.

UNB's information brochure on the

Policy and Procedure on Sexual Harassment states that "you could be a victim of sexual harassment if you are uneasy with ... suggestive remarks of a sexual nature or ... sexist remarks about your clothing, body, sexual activities."

Prof. Tom Austin, who, as Dean of Student Affairs and Services, is Craighead's immediate supervisor, could only confirm that an investigation was in process. "Assuming [the e-mail] is legitimate, we have to get to the bottom of how it managed to get transmitted this way. If it becomes a matter of e-mail abuse, then it goes to Dave MacNeil as the Director of Computing Services." Austin did not indicate whether or not he felt that this was a matter which would fall under the provisions of UNB's Sexual Harassment Policy.

Computing Services Director David

MacNeil disagreed, saying that "Policies for e-mail are not different than policies for paper mail. If it was on paper, by telephone, or on a bulletin board in the House, the same law applies and the same university regulations apply."

When asked if the disposition of the complaint would then remain within the Residence system or whether his office would participate, MacNeil stated, "The fact that it is electronic is as irrelevant as whether it was on green paper or whether it was on red paper. The university's regulations are no different..."

As to the issue of penalties and whether or not they could include suspension or restriction of e-mail privileges, MacNeil stated "It's exactly what it would be on paper." CSD's own publications take a different view. In

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Cellar will show \$15,000 year-end loss

JOSEPH FITZPATRICK
THE BRUNSWICKAN

By the end of April, the Cellar Pub will realize a loss of approximately \$15,000 according to Shona Bertrand, Chair of the Board of Directors of Student Union Beverage Services, the company which oversees the operations of the Cellar and bar services.

"In terms of performance during the academic year, it's about the same as last year," she points out.

Last year, the bottom line of the Cellar was a \$3,000 loss. However, she notes, that was realized only because \$14,000 given to the Cellar from the UNB Student Union was counted as revenue whereas the \$12,000 transferred from the SU this year will be counted as a loan.

The \$15,000 deficit is principally the result of the losses incurred when the Cellar was open for the Summer of 1996.

"The summer put us back two steps that we haven't really been able to catch up," she admitted. Over the summer between \$10,000 and \$15,000 was lost.

As to whether the Cellar should be open this summer, Bertrand is a bit cautious.

"There's been talk about trying [again]," she said. "But our position hasn't changed. We can't offer anything new."

"It's tough," she commented. "I mean, who wants to sit in a basement during the summer when you can go out on a patio?"

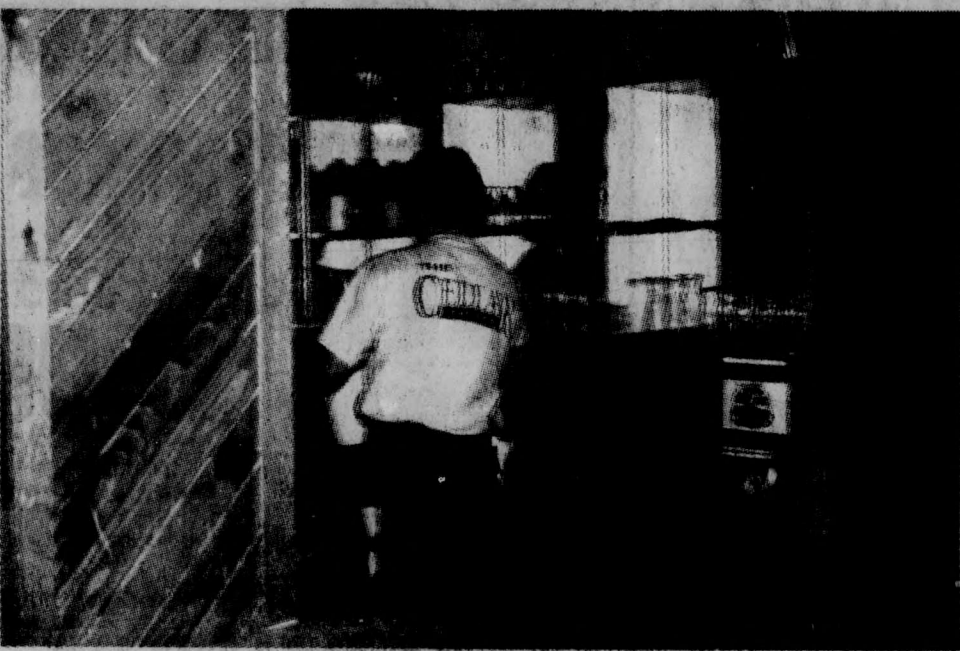
Additional revenues have partially offset the losses from the summer.

"Bar services is expanding, the experiment with campus entertainment was very successful, and crowds are always increasing," she claims.

This year, most of the coordination of campus entertainment events fell upon the bar manager of the Cellar, Darryl Kent.

"One of the early goals for the summer should be to bring campus entertainment under the umbrella of SUBS Inc.," Bertrand stated.

The \$35,000 budget for campus entertainment would still be part of the SU operating budget, but the bar manager, Darryl Kent, would



administer the fund, making official what has been the practice this year.

"Certainly it makes sense to coordinate the entertainment activities of the Union in a central company," she inquired, noting that there are opportunities for cooperation with clubs and societies and their entertainment events.

Bertrand has several ideas about why the Cellar has been having a difficult time breaking even, not the least of which is the presence of another bar on campus, the College Hill Social Club.

"There's a distinct disadvantage [to the Cellar]," she said. "We have to remain competitive [with the Social Club] without their membership revenue."

"Our bottom line is that we need to find a way to compensate for that," she commented.

This coming year will be a turning point for the Cellar, Bertrand said, "the goal for the Cellar has always been financial self-sufficiency. And next year is critical."

Next year, the three-year lease on

bar equipment, a \$12,000 expenditure, will be eliminated.

"Things certainly haven't got any worse," she said. Adding that there are big things in the future for the Cellar.

"SUB expansion is going to be really important for the bar. We need to be able to offer food services; to become a real bar."

When asked what sort of time frame she anticipates SUB expansion will happen, Bertrand is somewhat less clear.

"I think anything can happen if you have people willing to make it happen. I think sure, it can happen. All it takes is someone to decide that it will," she said.

However, Bertrand doesn't see any likelihood that the Cellar will be paying back anything in the first year of its repayment agreement of the \$30,000 loan from the SU.

"I think it's nonsensical," she said. "If I were the SU, I would think self-

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Noted historian speaks on Canadian Military's future



Myles, Boule win \$500 each



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THE UPPERDECK

SPORTS BAR

OPEN ALL Weekend

Fri, Sat, Sun & Mon
Noon - 2am

(Breakfast Noon - 4pm each day)

FOX HAPPY HOURS

Sat
Sun
Mon

"Cutter John"
Pop, party & Dance
No Cover

Next Weekend:
"BIG CITY BLUES"

Friday's 4-8pm
Sunday's 10pm - 2am
Monday's 10pm - 2am

457-1475

Saturday at The DOCK:
"MARACUJAH"
Latin, Funk, Reggae
Dance Sensation