

Campus poster policy almost non-existent

Unauthorized advertising by off campus establishments hurts student bar, says manager

by Nathan White

Returning from class to find unsolicited advertising on your car windshield may be annoying, but there's nothing you can do about it.

A downtown bar has been plastering parking lots, benches, and bulletin boards around campus with brightly-coloured flyers over the past week and, according to UNB's Director of Security and Traffic, the bar is fully within its rights to do so.

"I know the frustration," said Reg Jerrett of the ads. "[But] the alcohol policy basically allows this to happen and there's no regulation as to the extent of that advertisement."

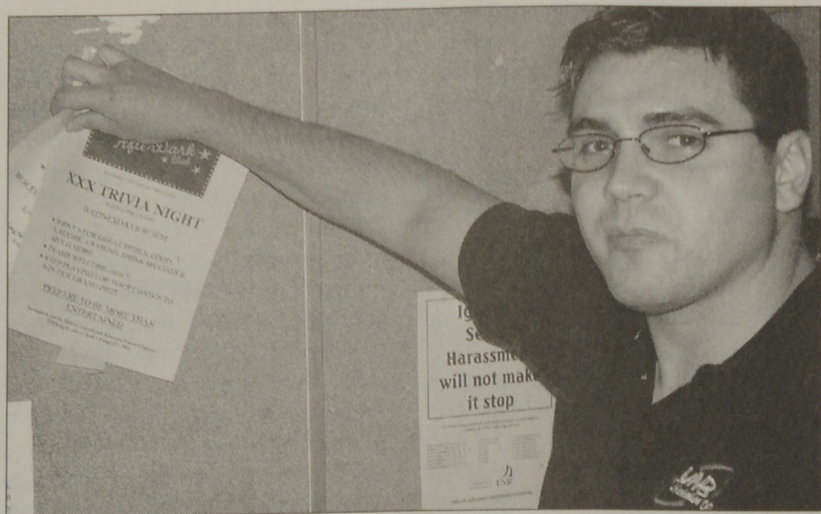
Jerrett is referring to the Alcohol on Campus Policy and Procedures Handbook, a nine-page document approved by the UNB Board of Governors in February 1999. The policy, which is separate from the UNB Residence Community Alcohol Policy of 1994, provides guidelines for things such as alcohol delivery and promotion on university property, as well as licensed events on and off campus, and home brewed alcohol.

On the subject of advertising and posters, the policy is brief. Section 3.2 indicates that "[b]rewery and distillery companies may assist in the promotion of special events by the printing of posters, programs and tickets. Such advertising must adhere to NBLL regulations."

"Right now, the policy as it stands simply states they can come on campus to do this," explained Jerrett.

Mike Babineau is the manager of The Cellar Pub and Grill, and he says the advertising war between downtown bars may be hurting business at the Student Union-owned establishment.

"It's a struggle just to fill the place," said Babineau. "Out of a campus of 12000 people or so, it's hard to get 200 in to check out a really talented band... Competition's healthy for the soul, it's good for business, but when they're plastering [posters] around, putting them up like they're doing, it's just killing me."



Nathan White / The Brunswickan

SUB employee Matthew Spinney removes two of many unauthorized advertisements found in the building.

Babineau is a member of the Alcohol Policy Advisory Group, a committee featuring reps from various student groups and university departments. The group is working on new recommendations surrounding alcohol on campus and plans to make its presentation to the university administration in the coming months. Babineau called the current lack of poster regulations "one of the major concerns" of the group.

"This stuff is not going to be allowed in the new policy," said Babineau. "[The university] doesn't want it being done now, but unfortunately it hasn't passed yet... That is one of the things we're working on."

As the manager of a student bar, Babineau said he would receive complaints if The Cellar were to distribute posters in the same manner as its competitors.

"It's easy for [the university] to come down on me; they can shut me down if they want to here. I can't break the rules here, nor do I want to. I'm not saying I'd want to, because I think that's a waste of paper just going around [distributing flyers on campus], but as a student bar on campus, I have to abide by the 'laws' more than probably everybody else does."

The Cellar and The Social Club rent showcases in the Student Union Building for their display advertising. The SUB charges a monthly fee for the showcases, and is the only building on campus with any sort of regulations governing outside advertisements.

Commercial advertising is not allowed on bulletin boards, and the SUB office must approve any other advertisements. Bar ads were ripped down from SUB bulletin boards by staff on Monday, as is the routine with any unauthorized advertising.

Anne Forrestall is the Director of Student Affairs and Services and Chair of the Alcohol Policy Advisory Group. She said that extensive research was done over the summer, including examination of policies at other universities, and that details will be released soon about the recommendations the committee will be making.

"There isn't a policy [regulating alcohol advertising on campus] and... there should be," said Forrestall. "But the details of that, I think, still need to be worked out."

She said that one thing they have discussed is a policy regulating all posters on campus, not just ones advertising alcohol.

"We realized that there was a bigger issue. If you said, 'you're only allowed to put one poster on a certain bulletin board because the poster has a beer advertisement, there's no policy around it,' we quickly became aware of the fact that that's just not right."

"What's the goal here? Is it just about limiting advertising for alcohol on campus or is it about making sure that people are not inundated with unwanted flyers, posters, etc."

"We think it's really a broader issue," she said. "We're working on it right now."

Students debate future of democracy in New Brunswick

Commission head says participation by youth vital to province's future

by David Shipley
The Baron

FREDERICTON (CUP) -- Inside a cavernous auditorium, four small groups of five to six university students discussed and debated the future of democracy in New Brunswick on September 17.

Some spoke with passion and conviction, others quietly asked questions or interjected with infrequent and anxious assertions.

Many different voices echoed through the auditorium throughout the day.

"It went great. They debated the issues, they debated with each other and they were not cynical. They were really positive about ideas and bringing change," said David McLaughlin, who heads up the province's Commission on Legislative Democracy.

"We got good ideas and good feedback."

About 25 students from the University of New Brunswick's Fredericton and Saint John campuses, as well as students from St. Thomas University, attended the meeting at Wu Conference Centre in Fredericton. The commission co-sponsored the one-day discussion with UNB's Next New Brunswick initiative.

The Commission on Legislative Democracy was formed last year with a broad mandate to modernize New Brunswick's electoral and democratic systems. It will examine issues such as fixed election dates, proportional representation voting systems and the role of the individual members of the legislative assembly.

Under Canada's and New Brunswick's current electoral systems, commonly referred to as first-past-the-post, the candidate in each riding with the majority of votes becomes the MLA or MP, and the party with the most elected representatives forms the government.

A proportional representation system means that political parties get seats in government based on their vote

percentages. MLAs or MPs would be selected from a list put forward by each party and selected in descending order.

The commission has held meetings across the province with various groups since its launch last December.

"It is the most comprehensive mandate on democratic renewal ever in New Brunswick, and the largest mandate of any province that is now examining this," said McLaughlin.

"The issues are fundamental to the nature of our province and the way we do political business in the province."

He compared his yearlong task with going back to school. "It's like Democratic Renewal 101."

Amber Klatt, 20, a UNB Renaissance College student from Saskatchewan, said she was impressed with the meeting and with the discussions.

"I'm kind of surprised that we are talking about the type of potential changes," she said.

Fellow Renaissance College student Youssef El-Khoury, from Fredericton, said he thought it was important for young people to attend such meetings.

"I only feel disconnected (from politics) when I'm not informed, and therefore the onus is on me to be informed," he said.

James Brittain, a 27-year-old sociology professor at UNB Saint John and a PhD candidate at UNB Fredericton, participated in the discussions and said he thought the meeting was very useful.

"I think that the topics presented were of great importance to the provincial and larger federal political dynamic."

He said he hopes the legislature seriously examines and debates the commission's final report when it is released.

Involving New Brunswick's university students in the discussions on political reforms in New Brunswick is vital for the province's future, said McLaughlin.

"There is a real danger that we are creating a lost generation of voters."

Younger New Brunswickers aren't voting because they feel apathetic, he said. They're not voting because they feel disconnected from the political process. Many are uncertain about what role each level of government plays

or how their vote affects government decisions.

It's a strange contradiction between the feeling of disconnect shared by so many youth in the province and how much information they have at their disposal through the Internet, he observed.

"It's almost counterintuitive, and it's almost bizarre when you think about it."

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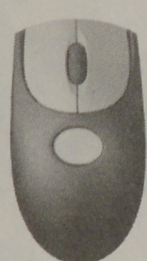
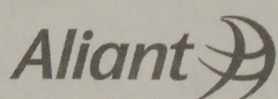
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