

Open letter to Sodexho

I'm not sure when it became fashionable to decide on how a consumer can use what he/she paid for, but Sodexho appears to be following in the footsteps of the RIAA. What provoked this comparison? A sandwich.

All I wanted to do was get a sandwich on my way back up the hill to McLeod. My meal plan says I have 10 meals a week, and I just assumed I was responsible for spending them as I wished. Sodexho has kindly gone out of their way to ensure that I don't use too many in a single day. I had lunch at McLeod around noon -- not an uncommon thing to do at lunch time. It's also fairly common to be hungry later in the day. I would normally grab a slice of pizza at the Head Rest. Today, I decided I'd like to make my own sandwich, maybe have two sandwiches. So, I make my way up to McConnell Hall, mildly excited to have a sandwich or two, and some chocolate milk. The lady swipes my card, and

says, "You've already used your lunch today."

This does not sit well with me. I don't recall reading anywhere that four hours are required between meals. Most people probably don't want to eat at a cafeteria twice in three

hours, but that day, I did.

Acadia recently booted Sodexho. Why? Precisely this kind of treatment. Even without mentioning the quality of the food, the absolute ass-raping that is constantly given to the students is getting to be a little much. Actually, to be fair, the only time I recall Acadia students getting treated well by Sodexho was near the end of the contract when Acadia was considering replacing them. When this happened, food quality improved, meals were carried over, and meals were allowed to be used at on-campus dining outlets.

But I've only got one more year left here. What can I really do about this? Realistically, nothing. I can bitch about it, and that'll make me feel good. What will also make me feel good is this... As long as I shall live, I will never knowingly spend a single dollar at any Sodexho run operation. I will order delivery while in Head Hall before I buy a single item from the Head Rest. I can't think of any business that will mind if I order from them more often.

A still hungry, but very angry,
Chris Gallant

J. Stone speaks!

Dear editor,
I wrote my previous letter because I hoped to give a voice to the other side of the story. I do not have any personal problem with Aitken House and actually wish them my best. I am greatly encouraged to have read the responses that were sent in to the Brunswickian after my initial piece and think that Aitken can become better next year (if it is kept open). Furthermore, I am especially happy to hear from the new President, Brian Beaudette, who sounds like a very stable, ambitious and clear-minded individual. I imagine with such leadership we will (hopefully) see a lot of good come from Aitken next year.

With that said though, Aitken does need to see change. This is not an attack, merely an observation. This year's

Aitken Annie is known by many Aitken residents, and [her identity] has been leaked outside of the house. Given how hurt she would be if she found out, I will obviously not publish her name, but I am confident this tradition will be put to rest under the new house committee.

In closing, I did not intend to offend, or to "label" the entire house. I merely wished to express the opinions of other students on campus because they have been silenced by members (possibly just a few) of Aitken house through threats and insults. One obviously cannot judge an entire house by a few (or even a lot) of "bad apples," but we all hope to see more positive attitudes from Aitken in the future. Good luck, boys.

J. Stone

In defense of J. Stone

Dear editor,
I know you must be getting tons of emails about this aitken thing. And to tell you the truth, I'm sick of it too. First of all, all the people that are saying that there is nothing true about what J. Stone said... Well, they are full of crap.

I know a former "Aitken Annie" and I was completely aware of the first person to have sex in the sand at Mardi Gras too. Secondly, I don't think that the situation of the closure should be looked at, since Jones didn't have the chance to speak out about their closure, nor did Lady Dunn when they became connected with Tibbits -- or how about

the closure of Tibbits East? If they didn't have a say, then neither should the "Animals."

Also, I've noticed that many people feel the same way that I do. Look at the view point thing in The Bruns... there was like one person that doesn't want Aitken closed. The rest either condone it or don't care.

It's one of the oldest buildings on campus, therefore it should get closed before any other. And if the closure is for budget reasons then CLOSE IT!! I don't want to pay any more money to this school than I have to.

Nicole

Debunking Aitken House myths

Dear Editor,

I'm greatly pleased that so many people responded to the last article in your paper by one J. Stone. And while reading these responses I noticed a good point made by a few of these responses. There were no responses from the all-female house point of view. As a first year student from Lady Dunn Hall, which was directly depicted in J. Stone's article, I feel that I need to inform the campus community of exactly how misleading J. Stone's article really is.

I first heard of this article after briefly stopping by Aitken House to pick up my friend for our midterm. My friend, an Aitken House resident, handed me the article and told me to give it a read. Thinking it was just another generic, number crunching, statistic loaded article on why Aitken should be closed, I waited until after my midterm to read it.

Upon leaving my midterm, I settled on the steps outside my next class to leisurely read the article as I waited for my professor to arrive. Once I began reading the actual article, the shock from the ridiculousness of J. Stone's accusations actually caused me to choke on my Pepsi. I could not believe what I was reading and had to take a moment to be convinced it was real.

I would like to begin with the accusation that Aitken residents are chauvinistic and degrading to women. This was what stuck out the most to me. As I mentioned before, I am a female resident in my first year

at Lady Dunn. It could be said that I spend quite an amount of time at Aitken, and I am well acquainted with a majority of the Aitken residents.

I would like to say that I have never been disrespected by any Aitken resident. I consider these men to be an extension of my family. They have been like brothers to me. They are by far the most respectable group of men that I have met in my short experience here at UNB. I have never felt unsafe walking the halls of Aitken House and have never been coerced into any of the activities mentioned by J. Stone. Nor have I witnessed such behavior.

Also, I would like to point out that there is no "Aitken Annie" as it is referred to. The only way I have ever heard of an Aitken Annie is from the article written by J. Stone. The fact that a "first year Lady Dunner" has been singled out as the Aitken Annie is also ridiculous, and I am quite curious as to where this information has come from. To be honest, that statement made me laugh out loud. This resulted in a few strange glances from passersby as I read the article.

The legend of "sex in the sand" is, again, a laughable accusation. As an attendee of Club Med this passing year, I did not hear of nor witness any such an incident. I would also like to point out that the legend that existed before had the condition that the sex had to happen during Club Med. I assure you as an observant and paranoid person, I would have noticed if someone were having sexual relations in the same sand I was dancing on.

I am sure even you, J. Stone, could agree with that. I would also like to point out, for all those who could not attend, that all participants were decently clothed and the entire event was quite respectable.

As many know, Lady Dunn participates in many activities with Aitken House during orientation week. Having spent a majority of my orientation week at Aitken with my friends, who are first year residents as well, I can tell you here and now that there is no hazing. I have yet to recall any fish guts, or blood, or forced drinking of any kind. Aitken "frosh names" or house names are given out to give the residents a sense of belonging and make them feel as though they are part of a brotherhood. I know many who looked forward to their names and received them with great pride. Having visible house spirit and pride is something to be celebrated.

J. Stone's letter tore apart the spirit that makes Aitken House great by giving it the label of a cult. Quite honestly this also made me laugh. The residents of Aitken House share a bond created by house spirit and pride in their house. They stand up for each other because they feel a sense of family, not because they are brain-washed into it. Bonds like the ones between Aitken residents are what fill the heart and I hope someday you can experience a bond like that also.

What really bothered me was how J. Stone commented that Aitken did not contribute heavily to the residence community. This is a bold-faced untruth. I have never before seen a

group of residents so dedicated to the causes they support. When they take up a cause, they do it in full force. I have repeatedly been amazed by their commitment and participation and the care they take to make each event the best yet.

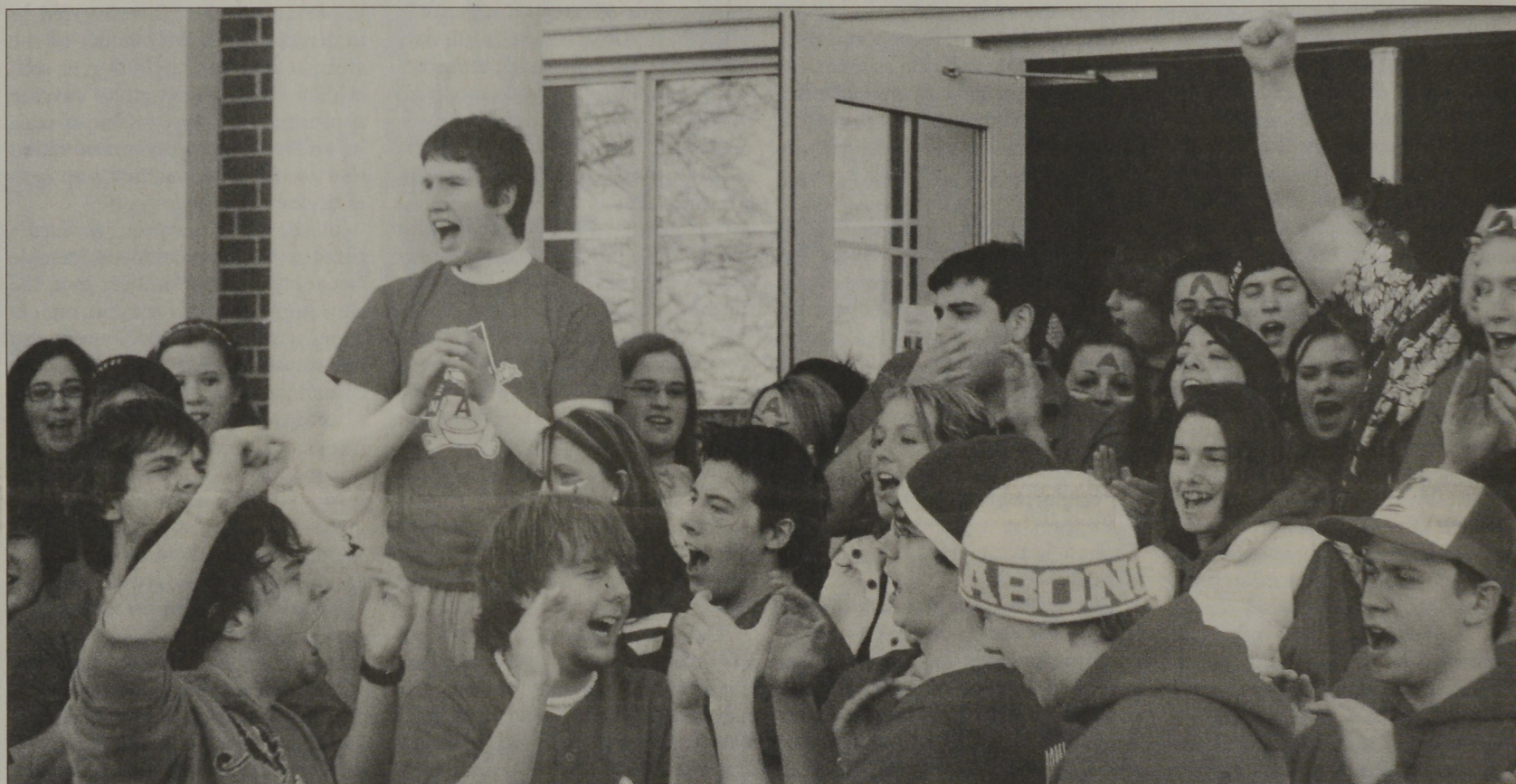
I would also like to point out the presence of Aitken at all other residence community events. Although an event may be put on by another house and not their cause, Aitken residents are always in attendance and really do help.

To sum up what I am trying to say, Aitken House was truly misrepresented by the article written by J. Stone. It worries me that members of the residence community, who have no prior experience with Aitken House, will come to the wrong conclusion about the residents of Aitken and Aitken House as a whole.

As a female resident, I would like to say that there is no reason to fear Aitken House. I have never stepped foot into a more respectable place and have never felt so safe, respected, and considered such an equal. The brotherly spirit not only extends to the resident of Aitken House, but to all those who enter. I consider those men my brothers and part of my family. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope your opinions will be more informed in the future.

A concerned member of the residence community,
Christy-Lynn Jenkins

The men of Aitken show their heartfelt support



Jonathan Hudon / The Brunswickian

Why is everyone leaving residence?

To ALL UNB students, faculty, staff, and members of our community.

Inspired by the events that took place almost a month ago, when hundreds of students rallied against Res Life, protesting for their right to keep Aitken house, I write this letter in search of awareness. My name is Diego Hidalgo. I am an international student here at UNB and I'm currently in my third year. As student, active member of this community and Aitken alumni, I express my concern as to how our university is being managed. My

objective is to inspire everyone who is somehow bonded to this university, because it is sad to admit a significant decrease in enrollment. The world is growing, my friends, but we are not growing with it. The case is so severe that Res Life has intended to close down the most popular residence on campus. This desperate measure to obtain funds has proven that our precious institution is slowly vanishing, and it's in our hands, my fellow students, to save it.

I was outraged when I first heard that Aitken House was going to be sold. My impression of the decision to sell Aitken is that whoever made

it had neither a sense of progress nor enough ambition to see this university grow. It is true that Res Life is facing a huge deficit in their budget, but this is mostly a result of poor decisions that were made in the past, such as the one made last summer when Res Life decided to close down Jones House.

The argument is quite simple really: if a product is not attractive, it will not sell. This is the case of on-campus housing; it is no longer attractive to students to come back to residence. It is our job as students to demand that our money is invested with a sense of development and improvement.

"In the shadow of a great man." This phrase is originally encrypted in Latin on top of the front entrance of Aitken house; when I read it, I analyzed its importance. Winston Churchill came to UNB inspired by the words of Sir Maxwell Aitken, who had fallen in love with this institution and wanted to see it grow. Is it going to be our legacy to shatter the hope that this great man once had? We should ask ourselves, what have we done with his dreams?

I realize that many of you are hesitant to believe any of my words. However, I base my arguments on the irrefutable fact that this university

is shrinking. We have been told that the decrease in enrollment is a result of people migrating to the western provinces. However, I plead to you my friends not to be blinded by those vague arguments. Take a look around! We are slowly losing every attribute that once made this university a top choice.

In the face of crisis, we need inspiration to gather masses and march for a greater future, vision to understand the importance of development in a competitive world, leadership to guide us all towards a common objective, and, most importantly, faith to ensure consistency in achieving our goals.

We to need act upon this matter to ensure that future generation have the privilege of attending an outstanding institution. Let's work together to guarantee that UNB never loses its prestige in the international academic community. Let's start by showing some support to our fellow students who form part of Aitken House. Make no mistake: if we fail to respond against this attempt to close down this splendid house, which carries the heart and soul of UNB, we will be the ones responsible for the shameful consequences that this will bring.

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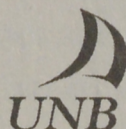
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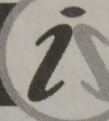
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