

Keeping it for students and keeping it cheap

by Josh O'Kane

The minds behind the Social Club and The Cellar would like you to know that every time you take advantage of a campus bar's services, the money goes right back to you.

Lyle Skinner, President of SUBS Inc., which presides over The Cellar, says The Cellar's services are set up with students as maximum priority. This year, several changes have been implemented to guarantee that savings go back to students, both with pricing and with the sales profits.

"We've hired a new manager, Pat Hansen," says Skinner. "One of the conditions of his employment was to cut prices across the board... We liked Pat's business strategy, where, as opposed to paying a premium price – for the student, paying a higher price to increase revenue – we're increasing [profit] by

volume. That means for anyone who goes to The Cellar, you may end up paying less per time you go there."

"Also, more importantly, the price you see on the food and beverage products, the tax is included on that. Although it may not seem like substantial savings, there's also even more because you factor in the tax difference."

Skinner says this year, the pool and foosball tables have been reopened for use, and take-out service is being expanded. Services like take-out, he says, allow even underage students to take advantage of The Cellar, as well as to provide an alternative to Sodexo when dining.

As well, each night from Monday to Thursday are dedicated as 'faculty nights' for students from each faculty to come and enjoy The Cellar's services. The faculty whose night brings in the biggest profit will have a party dedicated to them at the end of the semester.

The SUBS Inc. President emphasizes the profits from The Cellar ultimately go back to the students.

"That the money that you pay there helps students, in the sense that our staff

are students, but also it helps anyone that is an undergraduate student at UNB, because the more money that goes into the bar, the more money they get back on the output end, in terms of services with the Students Union."

Skinner says based on sales, The Cellar has performed better or on par with last year for the months of September and October.

The Social Club provides a similar situation for its members. The Club, memberships for which cost \$25, sees all its profits go back to its members. Manager Matt Harris says that membership sales have been positive – but thanks to the warm fall, attendance is not as high as it has been in the past.

"Some days are just massively busy," says Harris, "but the warm weather is taking a bit more out of us than normal. It's been a very warm fall and the warmer the fall, the harder it is to pull people off the patios."

Charity wet/dry events, traditionally held by residences, have been occurring frequently on Wednesdays, and may be pulling business away from Thursday nights at the Social Club, when it tra-

ditionally holds 'Ladies' Night'. Harris says the reasoning for the trend may be due to student budgets.

"Most students are on a fairly fixed budget on what they're going to spend, so if they go out on a Wednesday and spend 'x' amount of money, they're that much less likely to go out on a Thursday. We don't know that for sure, it's a really hard thing to track, but we've noticed that it can have an effect on it."

Harris has been managing the Social Club for nearly 20 years, and says what matters is that students can continually receive the benefits of the student-run bar, which has been run for nearly 40 years without funding from any outside organization.

"Whether I've been here 10, 15, or 20 years is irrelevant," says Harris. "What's relevant is the Club has been here, serving students and the university community since 1970. It's going on 38 years of serving students."

The top priority of the Social Club, says Harris, is to serve the members and offer them a high-quality facility that will be there for years to come.

"When kids spend their money with

us, with The Cellar, with the Grad House, they're spending money on themselves and they're spending it on the legacy of students to come down the road. The things you do today can benefit your little brother, your little sister, your son or daughter some year."

The Social Club is currently in the midst of negotiating a new lease with the university that could see upwards of \$50,000 of renovations to benefit students in years to come.

Harris totes the benefits of on-campus bars by going through the costs of going out to a bar on campus versus off, and the importance of support from peers.

"It's like with the price of drinks on a Saturday night," he explains. "If you actually take the time to calculate what you spend on a cab, cover charge, with the cost of drinks downtown, and compare it with the cost of the drinks on any of the campus bars, you will find that you have significant savings. There is no question."

"The other benefit is, when you come to this bar, you're dealing with your peers. It's a safer environment for you to party in."

NBSA still unhappy with premier

by Jordan Gill

On October 24, representatives from the New Brunswick Student Alliance along with representatives of student unions and community colleges from around the province met with New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham and several other key officials but they are still "disappointed."

In a press release on October 24, NBSA recognized there has been progress made but not nearly enough.

"The NBSA is pleased that the Premier recognized that students' concerns are valid and need to be heard. While the meeting provided a good opportunity for discussion about concerns specific to each institution and to students in general, the NBSA is disappointed with the decision for a complete lack of direct student input in the decision-making process," said the press release.

Student leaders were informed by Premier Graham that the working group formed entirely of university presidents and community college principals will be making the decisions on all of the recommendations, including student financial aid. If students want to be informed and have a voice they should "keep open communication with their university administration."

With over 26,000 students in the post-secondary education system (according to the Commission's report) it appears unexpected that students would not have a form of direct input on decisions that will affect them and future students for years to come. The current setup is one whereby students would tell their administration and the Minister what they wanted and hope the message is correctly shared and properly lobbied in the meetings.

However, not everyone sees the need to have students on the Board. The University of New Brunswick Student Union VP External Jordan Graham said that not only would having students on the board be unnecessary but would be a burden to the government.

"UNBSU is not necessarily disappointed. Many of the items that will be discussed on the

action committee are administrative resolutions that need to occur. It would be a waste

of time in a situation where there is not enough time as is to have someone bog down a

committee," he said. "Also, if the government were to add students to this group, every single interest group would need to be added and that makes for a bureaucratic monster. We want results for students and we are confident that John McLaughlin will deliver that for us."

Students seem to hold the view that students should be directly involved. One UNB student that finds the situation disconcerting did not share this view.

She mentioned there needs to be accurate representation by everyone; it might be bias because there is speculation the report of which the committee is basing decisions was composed of people who supported the idea of a polytechnic. So as long as the students are accurately represented, it might be a good idea to review it. The worry is that students will not be accurately represented if they are not included.

The Graham government has urged students to keep in contact with their university presidents so they will know what viewpoints to bring to the meetings of this new group.

Leases could breathe new life



The Cellar, pictured above, is one of the two campus bars in the SUB which are coming toward the end of their lease.

from Lease page 1

restaurant was not open for business, so some stipulations of the existing contract may not adequately reflect the environment of the restaurant and pub.

"It was signed at a time when The Cellar restaurant was not operational. The new lease will reflect the character that it's not a pub, but it's also a restaurant as well. Essentially, it's going to create a situation where The Cellar can be more profitable but also more enjoyable for students, with more things like concerts in the ballroom and concerts in the cafeteria."

The Cellar was under fire last year due to several infractions with underage patrons consuming alcohol. Since the start of this year, Skinner says that infractions have gone down and that

the management is working to ensure the trend stays that way. The new lease, despite incorporating the restaurant, will reflect this.

"I've had a meeting with the administration," he says, "where we acknowledged that the status quo, or how things occurred in the past, whether in reality or perception, can no longer occur. Going forward, one of the things that you see more prominently when you go down to the cellar is a sign that says you must be 19 years of age and also have a university ID."

"For strict purposes of our liquor license, we can have underage people there; however, it is an internal policy that we do not allow underage people to be in there because it makes it easier to run into problems. We're taking a proactive approach so that we do not have underage people period, and that way we will not run into any problems."

Skinner says the intent of SUBS Inc. is to sign the new lease as soon as possible – he hopes by the end of November.

"The new lease will be subject to a one-year test run," he says. "Based on if both parties are happy on that, it could be subject to a longer-term leasing arrangement, which could be up to five years. However, the specific terms of this lease are one year."

Skinner believes the adjusted lease and the enhanced measures of security and safety are the right step forward so that The Cellar will be a UNB staple for years to come.

"Those issues of safety and security were the university's main concerns about The Cellar. Certainly they don't have a problem with us doing our thing, but we have to do it in a responsible environment because we are part of a larger university community."

"I am very confident that the new lease will be signed."

Problems with SU election

from Election page 1

disregard their vote this year. When polls closed last Friday night, only 85 students voted; voter turnout was a dismal 1.03%.

Though surrounded by continuing controversy and the apparent lack of confidence students have placed in the Student Union electoral process, some members of the SU are not taking

the low voter turnout very seriously. As Mullins explained the situation to Council last Thursday, it was met with laughter from councillors.

The CRO was not at Thursday's meeting, and the Chair refused to take questions on the issue.

"I shouldn't have been allowed to vote, but I did. I can understand a simple oversight on the part of the Student Union, these things happen. Mistakes happen, but this shouldn't make them any less accountable," added Murphy.

Gotz to speak at UNB

SHOUT UNB hosts a guest lecture next Wednesday night

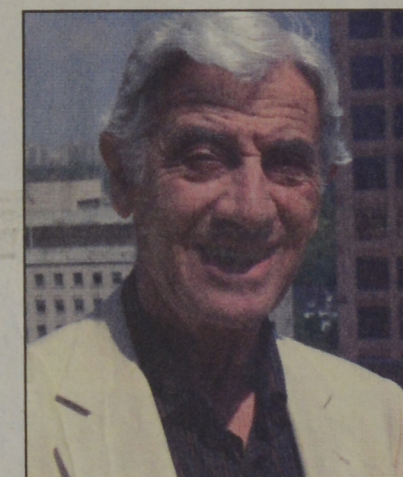
by Bruns News Department

Next Wednesday, November 14, SHOUT UNB is hosting 'Remembering Dachau to Defend Darfur' with guest speaker Elly Gotz.

Gotz is a Holocaust survivor. He was born in 1928, in Luthania and spent his teenage years in German concentration camps and was liberated from Dachau in 1945 by the American Army.

Gotz came to Canada in 1964 with his wife and children, after living in Germany, Norway, Rhodesia and South Africa. He now lives in Toronto.

A graduate electronics engineer and a businessman, Gotz is an educator at



Submitted

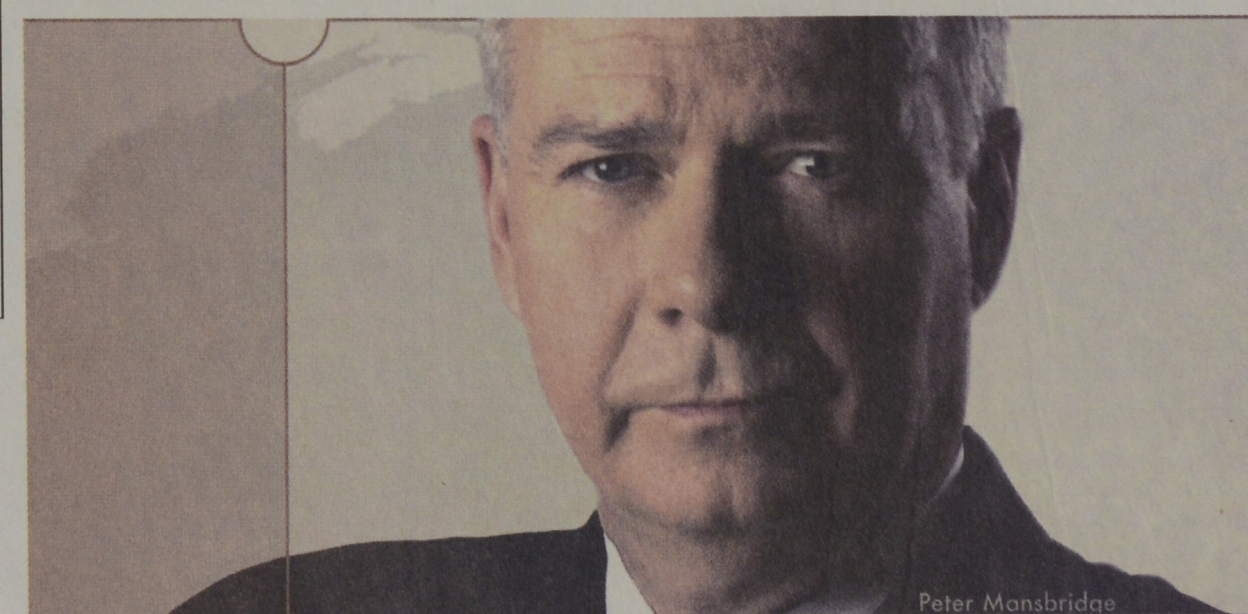
Guest lecturer Elly Gotz

the Holocaust Centre of Toronto. He is a human rights activist, and volunteers as a speaker and educator.

Following Gotz' lecture will be a brief but comprehensive presentation on the genocide in Darfur.

The event takes place in MacLaggan Hall, room 105, starting at 7:00pm.

SHOUT UNB is a student group working to promote tolerance and understanding. For further information contact SHOUT at shoutunb@gmail.com or 471-1982



Peter Mansbridge



UNB's CIBC Business Plan Competition



Are you an undergraduate or graduate student who has a comprehensive business plan?

If so, we have the opportunity for you!

Test your entrepreneurial skills before a jury of experts at UNB's CIBC Business Plan Competition, November 29th & 30th at the Wu Conference Center, UNB Fredericton Campus.

Over \$25,000 in prize money is currently available for:

- Best Business Plan
- Best Elevator Pitch
- Best Financials
- Best Vodcast
- Runners-Up

Plus you'll get great competition freebies! The competition will close with an awards ceremony and public address by Peter Mansbridge, anchor of The CBC's "The National".

Important Dates:

November 16th - Deadline to register teams.

November 23rd - Deadline to submit a business plan

November 29th - Registration, elevator pitch competition, Undergrad Practice rounds

November 30th - Continuation of Undergrad Practice Rounds, Competition, Awards Ceremony, Keynote Public Address, Reception (Cash Bar).

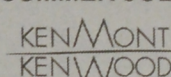
To attend Peter Mansbridge's Address, award ceremony & reception, you must reserve your seat by contacting cibc@unb.ca. Seats are free of charge but space is extremely limited, so book as early as possible.

For competition guidelines and registration forms, contact cibc@unb.ca or visit our website: www.unb.ca/business/business_plan_competition.php

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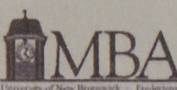
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