

The Yellin' Rebel

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MSU expansion benefits from Bookstore fund increase

by gary mantz

staff writer

Anticipated expansion of the Moyer Student Union building will benefit from an amended contract negotiated between UNLV and Barnes and Noble, the management corporation that operates the campus bookstore.

Barnes and Noble has agreed to increase its financial commitment to the project by an additional \$125,000, making its contribution ultimately \$325,000 for the improvement of the facility. Dean Robert Ackerman calls

"the living room of the campus."

The Dean of Student Services characterized the forthcoming remodeling job as primarily a first-floor project.

"It's going to increase the size of the bookstore substantially," he said. "The most exciting part, from my perspective, aside from the bookstore, is that we are going to more than double the seating in front of the food courts." This will result from enclosing the adjacent courtyard, he said.

The student center was initially designed to accommodate 3,000 students.

As Ackerman put it, "That was ten or eleven thousand students ago."

Barnes and Noble was

persuaded to increase its



commitment in return for a contract extension, thus making the corporation an

integral partner in the future growth of the university, Ackerman said.

The necessity of the company's cooperation is



underscored by Burt Teh, Director of Campus Union/Activities. Without the boost from Barnes and

Noble, he said, "there is no way we can implement the project."

There are other key players in the undertaking, including the university itself, which will make available \$200,000. The Moyer reserve fund will be drained by approximately \$520,000 making it the largest single source of support for the \$1.1 million development.

In addition to the critical shot in the arm for MSU expansion, Barnes and Noble is prepared to spend \$75,000 minimum to enhance the already profitable bookstore,

Ackerman said. The chain expects to turn the facility into what Ackerman deems "a showplace," with computers a part of an expanded sales line. The store will also be better equipped to handle the coming crunch of buyers, occasioned by the dramatic increase of students, already underway.

The amended contract also calls for the establishment by B&N of a \$1,000 scholarship, the precise terms of which are still to be determined, the dean said.

Boxes allow fans to watch games, events in comfort

by rudi waltz

staff writer

Best seats in the house-guaranteed! Luxury galore, caterers at your service, and no people standing in the way of your view of the best play in basketball history, or your favorite performer, or whatever the subject may be.

Does that sound like an ideal way to attend a game or concert?

You may think that these luxuries could be obtained only in the privacy of your home, but there is a way to enjoy these things while attending the event live.

How? This would be in one of the 30 VIP boxes in the Thomas and Mack Center.

The boxes were included in the original plans of the T&M, according to Dennis Finfrock, Executive Director.

They are located vertically in the center of the stadium for perfect

viewing.

The boxes are many different sizes; they hold from six to 16 seats each. Most have microwaves, refrigerators, hi-tech stereo systems, closed-circuit T.V.'s — and those are just the basics.

All of the boxes have windows that slide open so that the viewers can be part of, yet still remain separate from the crowd.

Prices range from \$12,500 to \$30,000 a year depending on the size and location of the boxes in the stadium.

There is a five year lease after which owners have the option to lease for five more years.

Each individual owner must decorate their own box.

For smaller boxes, it would cost approximately \$15-25,000 to decorate, and \$50-70 for the larger ones. The owner spent \$35,000 to decorate a small box; another spent \$100,000 to decorate a large box, Finfrock said.

viewing.

Surprisingly, owners of the VIP boxes must buy tickets for any events they attend, and they are responsible for clean-up.

No outside catering is allowed; the T&M has a contract with a local catering company to cater all events.

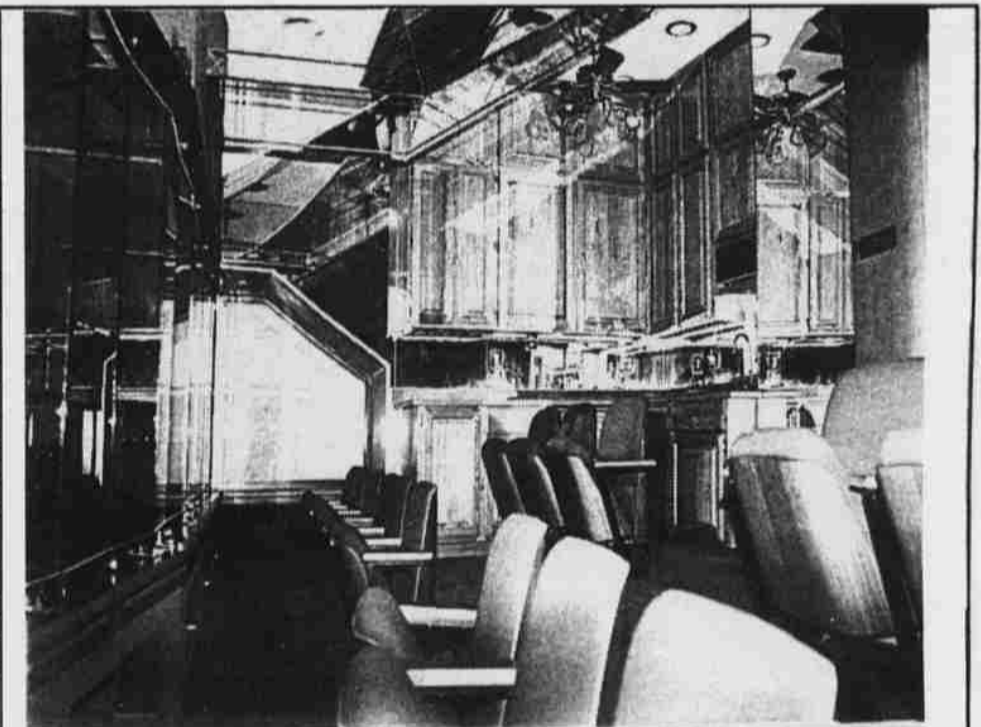
Only owners in the restaurant business are allowed to bring their own food.

The T&M was originally designed for sporting events — specifically Rebel basketball home games.

This constitutes only 16 nights out of the year, and not many would spend that amount of money for only 16 nights, so only five of the thirty boxes were sold when the T&M was first opened.

In time, the stadium was expanded so that all types of events could be held, then sales rose to 100 percent has been very successful since then.

Most who buy V.I.P. boxes are affluent in-



LAP OF LUXURY — The inside of T&M boxes offer all the comforts of home.

photo by jon ansok/Rebel photo editor

dividuals and large companies. A few who own boxes are: Citibank, Caesar's Palace, Review Journal, Valley Bank, Landmark, Mortgages Inc., and Sam's Town.

Several individuals have bought V.I.P. boxes together; such as a few executives from a construction company who all pitched in and bought

one. One person purchased two boxes-one he rents out, and one is for personal use.

Since the boxes are privately owned, they have the option of sub-leasing to others. This really is an investment for some buyers.

For example, the National Finals Rodeo lasted for nine days and one

owner rented his box for those nine days for \$12,500—practically the cost of the box. Nightly rentals, for games, concerts, etc., range in cost from \$500 to \$850 per night.

It can be testified that they are the ultimate in spectator viewing of any event.