The Daily Collegian
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Hookah hopes go up in smoke

Noho Board of Health votes against changing city smoking regulations

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"The Board of Health is required to regulate public health," the owners continued. "They have done so by making sure that no one no willing to smoke will be subject to a health hazard. It should not be their place to regulate the personal decisions of adults regarding something that is legal everywhere else."

According to The Springfield Republican, chairman Jay Fleitman said the board has received over 200 letters and e-mails on the subject since the public hearing.

The board said they had warned the owners not to install the ventilation system until their approval was finalized.

"The Den chose to move forward against our recommendations," said Scrimgeour, according to The Republican.

The owners could not be reached for comment prior to publication.

Northampton resident Brian McCullough had been following some of the controversy swirling around The Den and was disappointed to hear the proposed hookah lounge is now out of luck.

"They would have had good business," he said. "To me it seems pretty obvious that the place put in a ventilation system so it's not affecting anyone around them. And, anyone that goes in there knows what it is."

"As long as you know what you're getting yourself into, then I don't see a problem," agreed University of Massachusetts freshman and biology major Brittani Barrett.

Freshmen Emily Morin, a Spanish major, agreed.

"It's a travesty," Morin said, who felt the state's recent decriminalization of marijuana and the Northampton Board of Health's recent decision posed a double-standard.

A hookah is a single or multi-stemmed, often glass-based, water pipe for smoking tobacco. Originally from India, the hookah has gained immense popularity, especially in the Middle East, and locally among teens and college students.

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POLL

How will you cope with finals?

- Finals!? But it's only...oh holy crap finals are next week!
- Binge drinking
- Denial
- Positive thinking, lots of sleep and healthy studying
- Caffeine, caffeine and more caffeine
- Finals are a piece of cake for me

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