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New 'cyber cafe' can sell beer, wine

Central Sq. spot would also offer live entertainment

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By Thor Jourgensen
THE DAILY ITEM

A plan to bring an evening gathering and entertainment spot to Central Square for the first time in 10 years is one step closer to becoming a reality.

Gulu-Gulu Café manager Steven M. Feldmann won Licensing Board approval Tuesday for his wine and malt

beverages license request. The board also approved a common victualler license and entertainment for the establishment Feldman wants to open in the Keith Building.

The approval comes a month after the City Council set aside longtime opposition to granting liquor licenses downtown and approved Feldman's plan to open a local spot where residents and musicians, artists, filmmakers and Internet users

can congregate.

Council and city officials' opposition to downtown bars predated a more recent push by the city to convert downtown buildings into residences.

City planners and downtown advocates like Council President James Cowdell suggested that efforts to spur condominium conversions in Central Square and on its fringes would attract businesses to downtown.

That forecast has proven correct: Three restaurants have opened in the last two years on Market and Munroe streets.

In other business this week, the board accepted a license transfer request by Full Moon Restaurant manager Ponn Pheng to Sophat Seng. The transfer was requested in conjunction with the sale of the Bennett Street restaurant to Seng.

The board also approved a license change from wine and

malt on premises to all alcohol as a common victualler for Sports Center, 497 Lynnway.

It also accepted a change in manager for the Four Winds on Broadway from Thomas Diamond to Marilyn Parker Flynn. It approved a one-day wine and malt license for Sacred Heart Church to be used on March 13 and accepted Vasilio Ioannides as new owner of People's Choice, 17 Market St.

The board is continuing until Feb. 22 a hearing to suspend the all-alcoholic beverage license for Cesar's Palace or roll back

hours for the Buffum Street establishment.

The disciplinary action is being considered in the wake of an Oct. 10, 2004 hit and run accident that resulted in injury. The board also accepted for review Tuesday Cesar's request for a review on March 9 by the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission.

The state agency confirms license transfers and other actions by local licensing boards or hears appeals of disciplinary action taken by local boards.