

The Philadelphia Inquirer

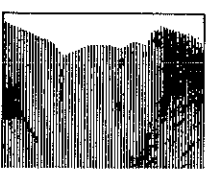
For the Troc, riffs to now, er, riffs

L.A.-based House of Blues, which operates concert venues and promotes concerts all over North America, was hot to buy the Trocadero in Chinatown for much of last year.

HOB had been booking acts into the Troc since June 2004 under a deal that elevated the former burlesque house's stature among musical cognoscenti.

But when Troc owner **Joanne Pang** decided not to sell in September, things got ugly, according to a lawsuit the Troc filed in U.S. District Court.

The suit says HOB simply stopped paying fees and now owes the Troc more than \$102,000. Troc lawyer **David T. Shulick** says that HOB was sore about being rebuffed, and adds: "We wouldn't accede to their strong-arm tactics."



Michael Klein
INQ/lings

The Troc in December found HOB in default of the agreement — which split things 50-50 — and

kicked 'em out. A new talent booker is expected to be named soon.

HOB, meanwhile, says plans are very much a go for a club of its own inside the Grande, formerly the Packard Building at 15th and Chestnut Streets. The opening is planned for September. A HOB opened last summer in Atlantic City.

The Troc, oddly, still appeared on HOB's Web site as of Friday. An HOB spokeswoman declined to comment on the suit.

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