

## SAA executive also concerned over athletics

Dear Sir:

I was pleased to see that the Brunswickan was sufficiently concerned with student athletics to write an editorial on the subject in the Feb. 1 edition.

Athletics are an important facet of university experience, and as such, they should be an important concern of the students themselves. It is for this reason that I, like you, would prefer to see at least an equal number of voting students on the Athletics Board as the number of voting faculty-staff-administration.

However, both the Students Athletic Assoc. and the Athletics Board felt that the current membership (10 administration v. 7 students) sufficiently protects the students' interests. It is a known fact that administration people are not always able to attend Board meetings, and quite often the students find themselves with the majority. I have been in attendance at two Board meetings, and during the most recent, the students did hold the majority. As well, we should not necessarily take the attitude that the administration members themselves are against student interests.

With regards to the voting privileges of the Athletics Director and the Intramurals Director, the SAA agreed with the opinion that since these men have their jobs at stake if Athletics Policy turns sour, then they should have some say in the formulation of that Policy. Mr. Kelly himself expressed that he would not mind becoming a non-voting member of the Board, but he was over-ruled.

As far as the position of the Intramural Director goes, it is far closer to student interests than even the position of the Dean of Students. Varsity athletics, though they receive the lion's share of the Athletics Budget, reach only the talented few on campus. Intramurals, on the other hand, are participated in by literally thousands of students, faculty, and staff. As a whole, the Intramurals program serves the student interests far more than does the varsity program. Everybody and his dog seems to play intramural hockey or basketball, or what have you. But there is the constant fight for the buck in the Athletics program, and if the Intramurals Director were not a full voting member of the Board, students might soon find themselves cut back in their recreational athletic activities. Tape had been cut out of the hockey intramural program last year. How would the students feel if sticks and other equipment had to be cut out as well?

Once again I find myself in complete agreement with one of the recommendations in your editorial. The SAA must be given control of some kind of a budget in order to increase both its importance, and its self-respect. Right now, the SAA exists mainly as an advisory body to the Athletics Board. As Chairman of the Recreational Sports Clubs, I would welcome allocating to the SAA the responsibility to distribute monies to the Clubs. With such responsibility, the SAA would become a more dynamic body.

I do not agree that Ian Anderson seems to have too much faith in the "administration's double shuffle... of athletic policy." Have you ever tried knocking down a brick wall with your fist? Mr. Kelly's "floating budget" did cause

concern to the SAA, but there actually was little we could do about it. We just do not have that kind of power. We merely give advice, trying to keep the administration informed of student views and desires.

In regards to the new arena, it seems to be the general consensus of the SAA that the arena be multi-purpose in the strict sense of the word. There are certain highly-placed people who wish to see the arena as little more than an ice rink. To satisfy the multi-purpose requirement, they would schedule hockey, free skating, and perhaps curling in the rink during the winter months. After the end of the hockey season, they would allow other groups to use the arena, for such activities as convocation and encaenia. Personally, I would like to see some kind of portable flooring used in the arena, like that which is used in several American university rinks. One reason why we seldom get big name bands in Fredericton is because there is no facility large enough to hold an audience sufficient in size to pay for the band, without charging exorbitant ticket prices. Track and field want indoor facilities, and perhaps this would be the best opportunity we will ever get to create them.

The Students Athletic Assoc. is suffering from many things, and indeed, we often have to cancel meetings because we cannot raise a quorum. But we do have a few highly motivated members, and as long as we continue to have such members, the students can be assured that the Athletics Department will not be able to shaft students without running into vehement criticism from us.

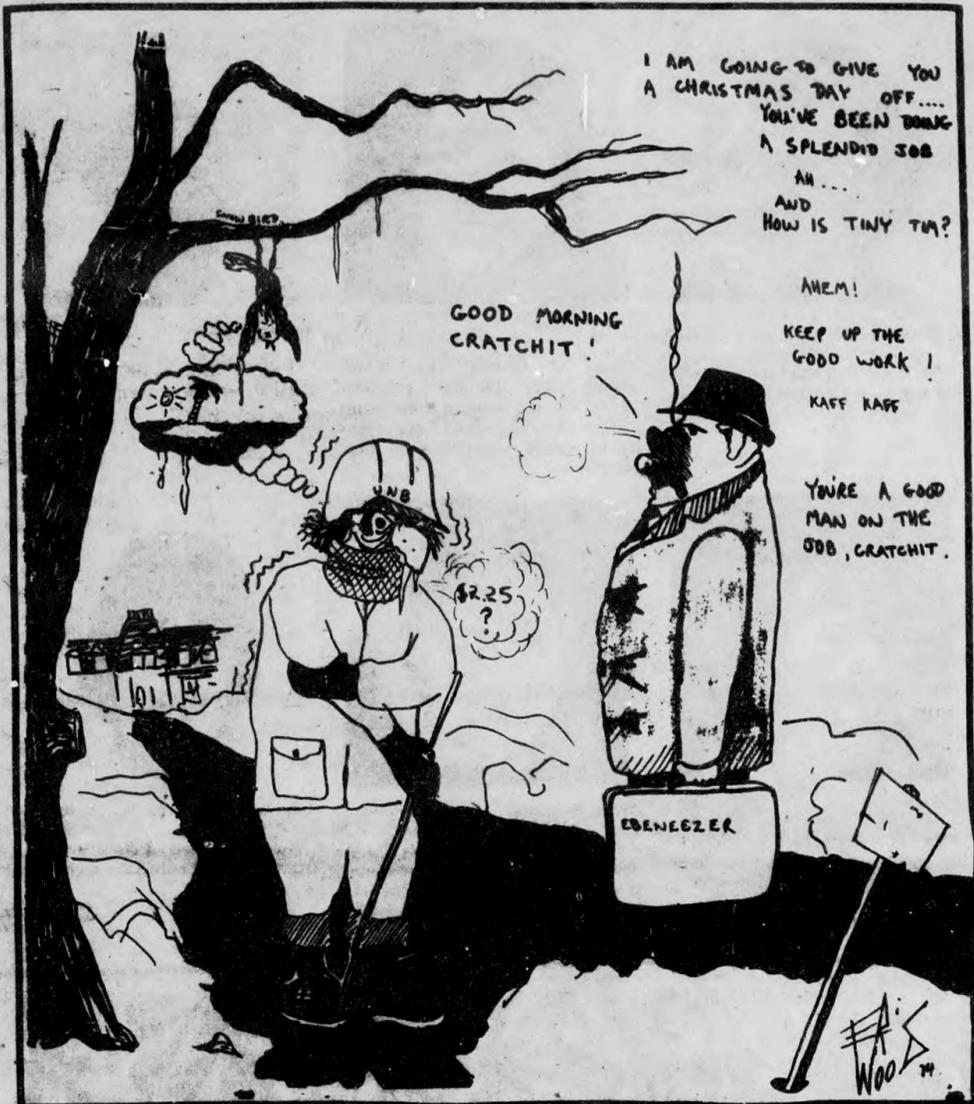
Ronald Morrison  
2nd Vice-President, SAA  
Chairman, Rec. Sports Clubs.

Dear Sir:

I feel I must respond to your editorial of Feb. 1 since it has presented some material that expresses concern over the seriousness of the Student Athletic Association's interests in student affairs.

The matter of student representation on the Athletic's Board has been twice discussed and twice voted on by the SAA. The first time the SAA approved in principle an outline suggesting a possible reorganization of the Athletics Board. Since it was later learned that this outline misrepresented both SAA and SRC representation on the Board, the motion approving the reorganization was rescinded. Since then, another outline extending representation to the coaching and teaching staff of the Department of Athletics has been approved. The SAA has taken the position that the Athletics Board must regulate and control all aspects of athletics and athletic policy and must possess the technical expertise to do so. Since decisions made by the Athletics Board will eventually affect the coaching and teaching staff, it was felt that it was only fair to extend representation to them, particularly since instances have arisen in policy and finances where their interests have differed from that of the Athletic Director.

The SAA is also concerned about equitable representation from the various fields of athletics: administrative, intercollegiate, and in-



tramural-recreational. Intramurals and recreation has often been adversely affected by under-representation and an attempt to drop intramural representation from the Board was opposed by the SAA as for student representation. The student to faculty ratio has been altered from 6 to 7 to the proposed reorganization of 7 to 9. When considering the many other areas of the university the Athletics Board must draw representation from (including Administrative and Budgeting, Physical Education, Intercollegiate Athletics, the Alumni, Recreation, and the faculty) it was felt by the SAA that six (or seven) students represented a very significant source of influence and that a further increase in the size of the board would result in an awkward if not unwieldy organization.

Finances have long been a source of complaint from both the Athletics Department and the SAA because of a restricted budget keyed to the number of undergraduates attending university. This fall, the method of budgeting for the Department of Athletics was changed to that of any other department on campus. This will not only provide for more money, but will, if the procedures set down by the Athletics Board are followed, provide for more student control and supervision of the budget.

With regards to student interest and leadership in the Student Athletic Association, I can only say that the SAA, like all such organizations (including the SRC), derives its power from the student

body in general. You mentioned that I became President by acclamation. That is correct and has been unfortunately true more than one year. What is worse, most other positions are filled by acclamation. I hope it is not a measure of general student interest in athletics that to date, only the law students have come forward to run candidates for their

Law representative in the election of Feb. 13. Thus it looks like next year's representation and executive will be filled by acclamation - unfortunate perhaps, but until students stop complaining and start participating in this student organization, quite necessary.

Ian Anerson  
President, SAA

### Concern for handicapped needed

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is a letter I have written to J. Anderson about wheelchair accessibility to the new buildings that are to be built on the campus. I'd appreciate it if you could publish the letter. I'd like to make it a bit easier on the next person that needs these special conveniences. Thank you.

Dear Sir:

As a former student and interested person, I feel I must make a few comments on the new arena and new science complex that will be built on the Fredericton campus of the University of New Brunswick. I spent four and a half years pushing a wheelchair in and out of doors, up and down steps and hills on that campus to know what I am talking about. I would sincerely hope that these new constructions will be wheelchair accessible along with corresponding facilities inside

these buildings for the patrons that may require them. It would be foolish to think that a growing campus will not attract handicapped students and if provisions are not made now, modifications at a later date will be more costly. Campuses such as UBC and U of Alberta have incorporated ramps etc., into the building design and contrary to popular belief, this not detract from the architectural beauty of the building, in fact it enhances it.

So I do hope that you shall take all this into account with the erection of new structures on the campus. Assistance can always be obtained from persons such as the fine people at Bio-Engineering, the Canadian Paraplegic Association or even myself for that matter.

Thank you for your attention.

Stephen Little

Continued to page 9...