

# SPORTS

## Something rotten in Athletic Services?

by Brent Jang

Last year, the UAB (University Athletics Board) tried to obtain yearly discretionary power to increase fees up to 15 per cent.

There was pressure on the UAB at that time to hold a general referendum. But no referendum was held.

Since then an alternate plan, thought up by U of A President Myer Horowitz, has been adopted. Horowitz's "solution" sees UAB fee increases tied to tuition fee increases.

As a result, UAB fees have gone up from \$27.00 to \$32.50, a 20.37% increase. (Tuition fees went from \$606 a year to \$726 a year, a 19.8% increase.)

"The university now recognizes athletics as part of the total educational experience. It's of benefit to everybody," says Dr. Garry Smith, director of Athletic Services.

**"We're not asking for a Cadillac. We're making do with what we have," says Smith.**

However, Liz Lunney, the main figure behind the referendum push, says students shouldn't have to pay for intercollegiate sports.

"Sure athletics are part of the (educational) process. So is going to the opera," says Lunney, last year's SU vp academic.

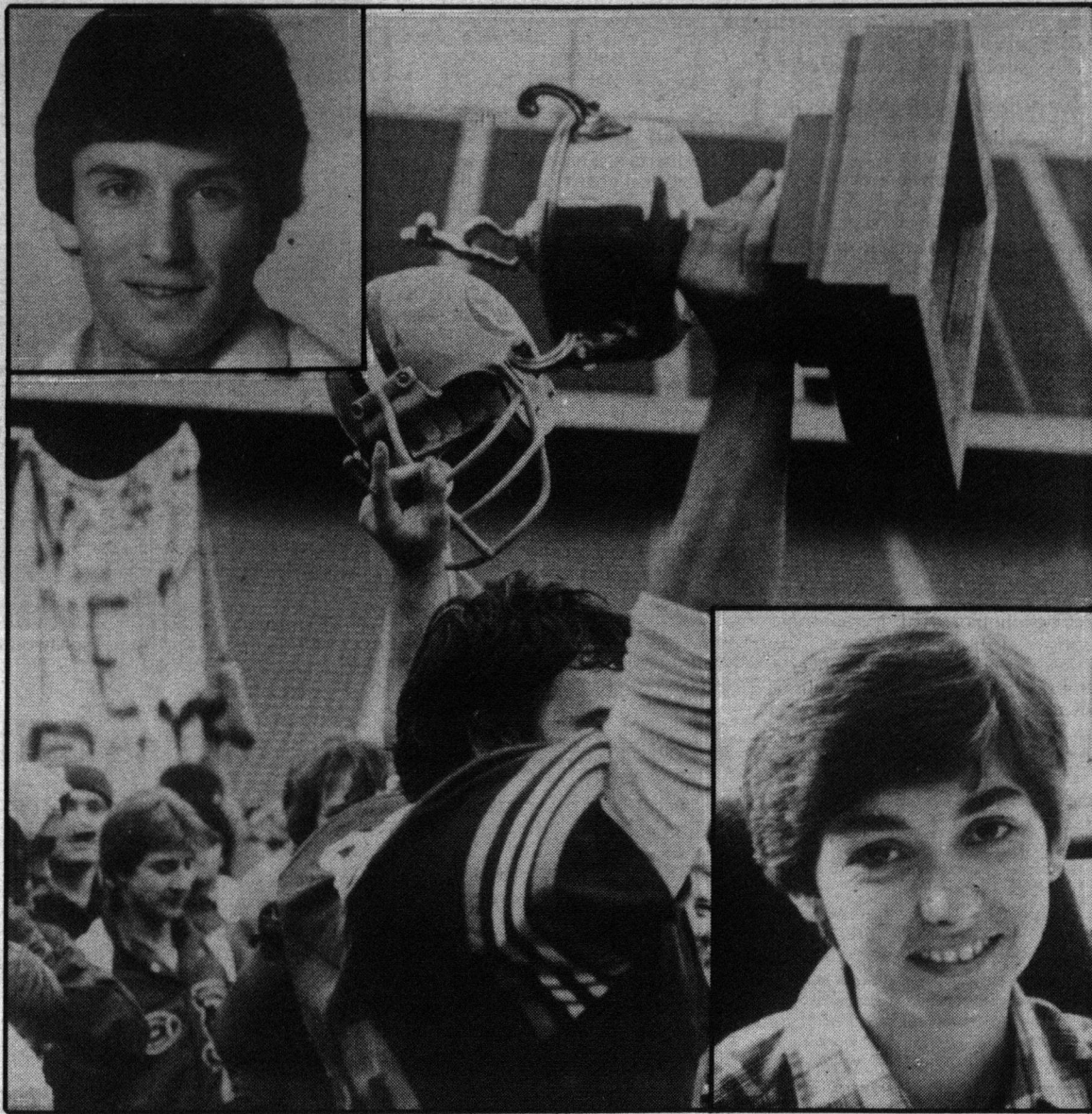
Dr. Smith doesn't see athletics as a luxury: "We're not asking for a Cadillac. We're making do with what we have."

And what the UAB has is money. The 1982-83 Operating Budget is projecting revenues of over one million dollars.

"The main problem is that there's no control over the main UAB budget," says Lunney.

There is three times more money allocated to men's intercollegiate teams than to women's intercollegiate teams.

"I don't think it's sexist. There's no female equivalent for hockey or for football at present. And those two sports are very expensive to maintain," says Dr. Smith.



Top inset: Board of Governors rep. Brian Bechtel. Bottom inset: Former SU vp academic Liz Lunney. Picture: Will the UAB be able to hold onto its trophy?

photo by Martin Beales

Dr. Smith says the UAB contribution represents 70% of the total Athletic Services budget: "We don't want to tax the students too heavily."

Board of Governors (BoG) representative Brian Bechtel says Horowitz's plan to tie UAB increases to tuition fee increases is a new concept.

"The UAB couldn't go on as before. Horowitz's plan was an adequate compromise," says Bechtel.

Says Lunney: "Obviously, there's a gamble when you link it (UAB fees) to tuition fees."

Says Bechtel: "Liz said she didn't

like it, but she didn't come up with any alternative."

At a BoG meeting in May, Bechtel voted in favour of Horowitz's plan: "No student that I could ever contact had any problems with the proposal at all. It was such a better step than before, of having 15% increases per year."

SU President Robert Greenhill says last year's SU executive's perspective was unclear.

Says Greenhill: "(Last year's) executive had a major split. Liz and Phil Soper (then SU president) found Horowitz's proposal to be an accep-

table compromise. But I'm not sure whether the executive ever came up with a formal policy."

Says Bechtel: "There may well be other alternatives, but we didn't come up with any."

Greenhill abstained from the May vote and Bob Ascah, Graduate Student's BoG representative, voted against the Horowitz plan.

"I thought we should have referred the matter to COSS (Council of Student Services). It would have been the last chance for student input," says Greenhill, of the May meeting.

Actually, in an April meeting, Bechtel seconded Greenhill's motion to defer the tuition fee decision, pending BoG's request for a grant.

Says Bechtel: "It wasn't until after we did all we could do, that I decided to vote for the (Horowitz) plan. I couldn't see us stalling any longer. There wasn't any point."

Bechtel agrees with Lunney that the issue of *how* the UAB spends its money is an important one.

Says Lunney: "There's a lot of students who are frustrated. Just talk to anyone who's tried to book a racquetball court."

**"I couldn't see us stalling any longer," says Bechtel.**

Dr. Smith says it's up to students to "prove there's a demonstrated interest."

"A lot of programs are brought up through the impetus of students," says Dr. Smith.

Dr. Smith denies that the UAB was trying to find an easy way out of the referendum started by Lunney.

"I thought the process was legitimate. Students were involved all the way through," he said. "I'm opposed to the idea of a referendum because it puts our program in jeopardy all the time."

**"The UAB should be scrutinized..." says Lunney.**

Says Lunney: "The UAB should be scrutinized like any other departmental budget."

This year's SU vp academic, Wes Sawatsky, says he'll be looking at the UAB carefully. Sawatsky has been in office for only a month.

"There are other academic concerns to be dealt with first, but once I get the chance, I'll be going over the UAB constitution carefully."

A constitutional change sees the UAB acting more in an "advisory capacity" than having any decision-making powers.

The voting members of the UAB currently consist of 12 students and 9 faculty members. That will soon be changed, with six of the faculty members changing to non-voting status.

### 1982-83 Operating Budget

### Where has all the money gone?

by Brent Jang

The 1982-83 Athletic Services budget has \$501,559 (47.5%) of its total of \$1,054,610 devoted to "general administration."

This includes salaries, athletic injuries, publicity, meetings and travel, color night, championship hosting, and office management.

Campus recreation has been allocated \$131,582 (12.5%). Campus Rec is headed by Hugh Hoyles and the bulk of its money goes into "health and fitness" and "intramurals."

Four sports make up co-ed intercollegiate teams: Cross-country, diving, swimming, and track and field. Together, they make up \$60,142 or 5.7% of the total operating budget.

Men's intercollegiate teams take up most of the money allocated to sports. What makes up the \$203,529 (19.3% of the total)? They are: Basketball, football, gymnastics, hockey, soccer, volleyball, and wrestling.

Women's intercollegiate teams have half the number of teams as the men, but have been allotted one-third as much. The four sports, basketball, field hockey, gymnastics, and volleyball, account for 6.4% of the

budget, or \$67,238.

The last heading under the "summary" budget is "special services," which accounts for 8.6% or \$90,560.

The general nature of the

Athletic Services budget is such that it's impossible to tell exactly what is being spent on what.

"It could be anything from socks to jock straps," says an SU member, who asked not be named.

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