

Ratcliff appeal denied

By SUSAN REED
Brunswickan Staff

Former Jones House President Kevin Ratcliff's appeal to the board of deans has been denied. Ratcliff was appealing his September 9 eviction from Jones House. Ratcliff spoke for an hour at the Tuesday afternoon hearing. The board told Ratcliff of their decision following a 45-minute deliberation. He was informed at that time that a letter containing the details of the board's decision would be sent to him.

University Secretary James Woodfield said Ratcliff received a "full and fair hearing." He said it was his understanding the Jones House affair was resolved, with the residence "more or less getting back to normal."

As a result of the board's decision, Ratcliff has written a letter to Dr. Woodfield requesting a hearing from the board of governors. Ratcliff said he believes this hearing would take place at the October 15 meeting.

Should this next appeal be denied, Ratcliff said he intends to seek legal action. He said he would sue for defamation of character and the costs incurred because of his eviction. These include accommodation, transportation, the waste of his time and emotional stress.

"Needless to say, this will affect my academics," Ratcliff said, "I haven't had as much time."

Ratcliff said while he believes the university has given proper consideration to his case, the "university is backing their own, supporting the previous decision of the administration."

Ratcliff said the decision taken by the university is unfair. He has to press the issue, he said, "largely because of the black mark put on my record."

Ratcliff is presently living in an apartment in Lincoln Heights, which he said is much more expensive than residence.



ANNE KILFOIL Photo

A dejected Kevin Ratcliff

Aitken Centre report not rosy

By PETER F. KUITENBROUWER
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Since opening the Aitken Centre in 1976, with a deficit of a half-million dollars because of construction cost over-runs, the 5000-seat capacity stadium has been consistently losing money.

The total deficit to this fall is \$225,000 and a conservative estimate for the 1980-81 year is that the center will lose another \$54,000. However, the realities of the Aitken Centre problems show this to be a very optimistic figure.

An Aitken University Centre task force reveals in a confidential report recently obtained by *The Brunswickan* that the center will lose \$40,000 less than last year. They say the center can do this by reducing operating costs while increasing revenue. How they plan to reduce costs in a year with at least as steep inflation as the last is a question that the task force director would or could not answer.

"That's what you try to do," said James O'Sullivan, UNB Vice-President for finance and administration, and author of the task force report. "Whether it will work or not I don't know. We'll have to wait until the end of the year to find out."

Although the centre continues to try selling itself as an active, attractive facility for Fredericton and New Brunswick entertainment, the school itself is increasingly its main occupant. This year, the report reveals, the school will hold Christmas exams in the facility to keep it in use while concert and other major promo-

ters are losing interest in renting there. This has led to speculation that the school is transferring events to the center and channeling money into it merely to create the illusion that the center is being used and is earning money.

O'Sullivan says, "A lot of people believe we're doing this to hide the deficit. That's crap! It was a decision that we made, by an examinations task force, after two or three years of deliberations."

"A large room makes it easy to control the environment in which people write exams," he said. "Then you also have a lot of flexibility for scheduling problems. Also, the phys ed faculty asked that the gyms be available for student use during exams."

Asked whether students really want to play in the gym while they're worrying about examinations, O'Sullivan said "The faculty of phys ed thinks so."

What the centre needs is occupants. "These are rough times for anybody in the entertainment business," O'Sullivan said. "The rock shows have been drawing less lately. There was a question of whether the Quebec Nordiques farm team would use the centre. That would have meant money for the university. But that didn't work out."

The report suggests various ways of increasing the centre's revenue. One is to raise one-day rental from \$500-\$750, another to reduce the morning ice rental price from \$60 to \$35, to make it more attractive. "We're very conscious of two things; drawing in money, while keeping the rates competitive enough to draw in people."

Still the report shows that the school has had to pump three quarters of a million dollars into a facility, which, a source points out, "is a luxury, not an academic necessity."

This treads on many toes, including those of student and faculty. Students, because this money inevitably comes from tuition, and also indirectly because the money might be used more practically.

Faculty is affected because their senate initially approved construc-

tion of the Aitken Centre only reluctantly, with assurances by the school that it would not lose money.

"This puts the administration in an embarrassing position, since they're now negotiating a raise with the faculty," said a knowledgeable source. "The money spent on the Aitken Centre, may not be there for a faculty raise."

The school remains hopeful for the centre, most recently buying a

\$38,000 portable hardwood basketball floor. "That way we can attract big basketball teams to play here, like the Harlem Globetrotters," said O'Sullivan. "If the idea works, great. If not, we'll sell the floor."

"It's an asset," O'Sullivan says of the centre. "It's a great facility/Events are held in Fredericton which would not otherwise be held here. We (the University) got use of a fine facility for maybe 10 per cent of the capital cost."

Orientation deemed a success

This year's Orientation Week was different from the past two years said comptroller Steve Howes because the past two years had been profit making operations and this year the Orientation Committee "tried to swing the whole thing around."

Events were centered around the frosh, he said, with the initial \$10 for the frosh pack offsetting costs for the remainder of the week.

Howes said because of this new policy, the committee had made all the money they planned to. Most events attracted capacity crowds, he said.

The two showings of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" were an exception. These were held at no cost to frosh. Upperclassmen were charged \$2. Howes said the movie was run at a loss, as expected.

Attendance was low, he said, but triple last year's.

Extravaganza made a profit of approximately \$1000, said Howes. This event was sold out, he said. Howes said there were no major problems with the event. Liquor

was not permitted from floor to floor according to Liquor Board regulations, he said, and this policy will continue.

Shinerama made about \$4,400, said Howes. This will be contributed to the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

2/21/80

SOMEHOW I FAILED
IN THE
EDUCATION OF
MY PARENTS,
BUT
I DON'T KNOW
WHERE
I WENT WRONG.

J. J. Sullivan

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