

Athletics Board should be more student oriented

The Athletics Board is the committee responsible for shaping, promoting and controlling athletics at the University of New Brunswick.

Several recommendations have come forward in the athletic area that we would like to give full support to and would like to see discussed by the Athletics Board.

The foremost of these is the administration's decision that the membership made-up of the Athletics Board needs a little revamping. In direct contravention of the principle that students should have parity on this Board, the Board has added three administration members to the student's one.

Surely the administration knows that the whole range of athletic activities, that are non-academic, are primarily a student concern and we should have an equal if not a majority say in their planning.

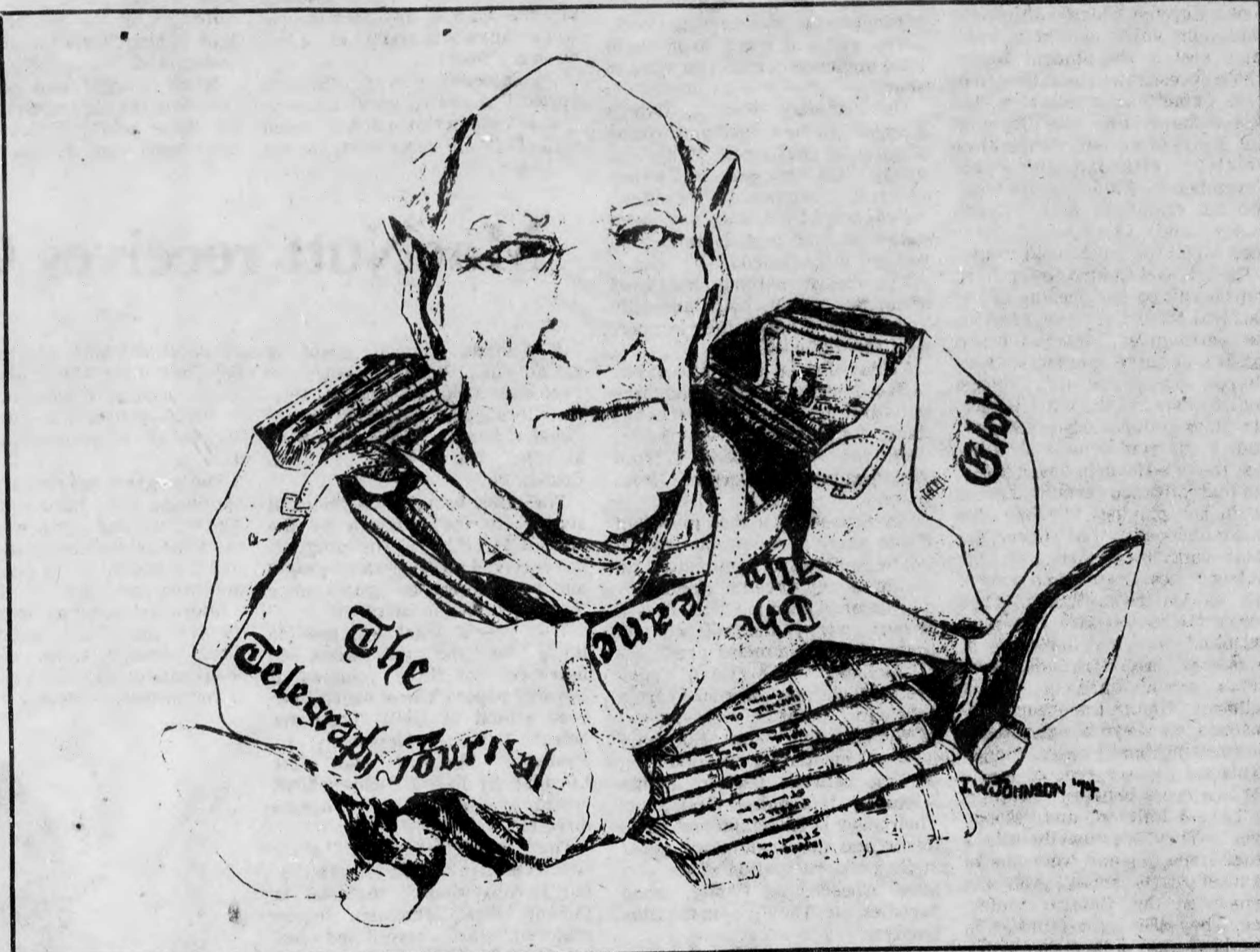
The SRC has recommended that we maintain parity and the best way to achieve this, given the present set up, would be to add the Dean of Students as a voting member and make the Athletics and Intramural Directors non voting members of the Board.

It must be remembered that these two Directors are only employees of the Board, concerned with recommending and implementing policy that the Board decides. If the present Directors brought forward a policy they had formulated how could they be expected to vote against it. If they voted against policy that had passed they would have to reluctantly implement it.

The Athletics Board is vastly overburdened with advisors to this, that, and the next thing and has less of the vital interests of the body it needs to hear from - the students.

In trying to give everybody concerned a voice on the Board the administration seems to have forgotten that athletics are for students - just like Trax is for kids.

Another area of concern is the



Student Athletic Association. It seems that this body has suffered under lack-luster leadership over the past few years and that could just be systemic of that body. The SAA has little defined responsibility or authority that can give a student much experience in student affairs. At present it seems to be an anglofied committee, although in fact it should be much more than that.

One way to resolve this is to look at the present monies allocated towards student recreational use and then next year give that money to the SAA to budget for and allocate. Obviously financial safeguards would have to be developed if the money is to be allocated that way.

Recreational clubs are student concerns and like the SRC, the SAA should budget and allocate the monies to these clubs. It would give students valuable

experience taking care of other student's needs.

The present SAA President, Ian Anderson, seems to have too much faith in the administration's double shuffle in regards to all areas of athletic policy. Part of the problem was that he was acclaimed and not elected. He should have long ago stopped crying apathy and done something about Peter Kelly's "floating budget" and student representation.

Another recommendation we would like to see acted on is the keeping open of the Gym on Sunday nights. With the use that the gym is getting there is more than adequate reason to keep the facilities open on Sunday evening. A whole chorus of excuses, ranging from lack of money to Sunday evening being student study time, hold little or no water with the extensive use

the facilities are getting at present. There is no doubt that it will cost a little extra money but the incremental return on this expenditure would be invaluable to our health.

Turning to the new arena it seems that the users committee for the new arena is not satisfying all that it should. The distinct possibility exists that the committee might not, by its very nature, be able to satisfy all the demands placed on it. If present conditions exist, two or three member of the administration will be the only members of the committee who will be satisfied with it.

It is our suggestion that some type of consultants be brought in to make recommendations. This should be done so that our rink does not satisfy some of the user some of the time and none of the users all of the time.

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