

Ratcliff sees trouble ahead

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE
Brunswickan Staff

Kevin Ratcliff finished his term as SRC president with predictions that this term will be the "all-time low point for the Student Union."

Ratcliff criticized the length of SRC meetings last term. He said during the previous term, meetings were rarely over one hour and nevertheless all business had been done. Motions all came from the executive, he said, while regular business was kept on track by office staff and committees. This was good for business, he claimed, because office staff would not let things go by.

It was a nice thing that others were involved in making motions, he said, but then added, "Whether or not more is getting done, I don't know." "More is being talked about, and more issues are in the open; some are probably being created," he said.

He predicted that due to personality conflicts and poor press relations, this term would be a very bad one for the student council.

Ratcliff said problems are caused by the volunteer nature of the organization. SRC members are not paid, and the executive honoraria is very small compared to the hours

spent. This means, said Ratcliff, that if problems come up one can not get rid of people or change opinions. He said the system leads to personality conflicts that can not be controlled.

Ratcliff said that student apathy is being reduced. He pointed to the good turnouts at the elections. Turnout was 1500, while 500 is good, he said. He said though that apathy is not a good word to use to describe the situation preferring, "distance". He stated various reasons why students tended to be distant from student politics; studies were a major factor, and another was the fact that many students do not come to the SUB, where most of the action takes place. A further reason was that most students do not know the student politicians and so do not vote.

Ratcliff has participated in student organizations for several years. He was active in residence committees as treasurer and president of Jones House. He was also station manager of CHSR and was on the French department liaison committee.

Ratcliff was kicked out of Jones House for alleged illegalities during orientation week. He said he was in a

parking lot when someone pointed out the "sad situation" and suggested he run for the presidency. "Well why not?" he thought.

Ratcliff said there was not much competition, and his adversary was not really very serious. Ratcliff won even though he had never been on the SRC before.

Among his accomplishments, Ratcliff said he had achieved good press relations. He said these were, "Certainly bad the year before," and he envisions they will be bad this term. He said the good press-relations certainly helped with his image.

He thought the job would have been more difficult than it actually turned out to be, he said.

Ratcliff pointed out that he had not, "taken an extremely strong stand," on any issue. He felt students should make up their own minds with the president giving direction.

He said not everybody can be pleased with a plan for the SUB. With more input from a wider array of sources, a plan to satisfy enough people could be agreed upon, said Ratcliff.

He said the Thorbourne issue was basically a personality conflict. "People claimed to be after the money,

but they were really after the individual," he alleged. He said some people had mixed motives.

Ratcliff said that being president was a, "Just great experience," and also that it looked good on his record. He

is in the Faculty of Administration, but he said the experience was more valuable than any of his courses. He is not however interested so much in administration as in entrepreneurship. He wants to be able to take initiatives.

Owuor leaves

By TIMOTHY LETHBRIDGE
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Akumu Owuor ended his term as SRC comptroller in December and is now in Kenya, teaching electrical engineering at a high school.

He was in Canada for three and a half years of which he spent all but one at UNB. Previously, he had received diplomas in mechanical and electrical engineering, and teacher education from Kenya Polytechnic where he was heavily involved in student activities.

He held positions as editor, secretary, and president of various organizations, including president of the Kenya Polytechnic SRC, and a member of the executive of the National Union of Kenya Students. He was also involved in debating and the trade union movement.

He came to UNB in 1979 after a year's work for Manitoba Hydro. Several months later he saw that an SRC election was going on and decided to run for comptroller. He was defeated. The following year, encouraged by several students, he ran again and was acclaimed to the seat. He said he ran because he felt his wealth of experience in student government would benefit the SRC.

His experience as UNB SRC comptroller was rather different from previous positions. He was used to being secretary or president; he said this time he, "had to deal with money, quite a different responsibility." He said the UNB SRC had a very internal perspective, while in Kenya he has often had to deal with government. In fact, he said, some people in positions today were only there because of him.

Canada lends itself to the structure of SRC we have, said Owuor, when business at UNB



Akumu Owuor

is exhausted, "we can then go out and get involved in external politics," he added.

He said President Ratcliff had done an excellent job. He said Ratcliff was a gentleman, but would not have been aggressive enough for Kenya.

Owuor said the SRC, especially the executive, should be able to reach the students. He said they should not just go to meetings, but should establish contacts with the students.

He offered the following suggestions to the incoming SRC: It should serve the best interests of the students. Even though many of the problems are due to differences in personality, the SRC must not hide anything and be as open as possible.

He praised the student clubs and organizations. He said when they were asked to come for a meeting with him, the attendance was, "so much beyond what I expected."

He said he liked Canada. "Most people in Canada don't like to step on people's toes, and that is not a bad thing," said Owuor. He also enjoyed being at UNB, it is an, "old, reputed university," he said.

He wants to settle down in Kenya and teach; whether he will ever come back or not depends on the government. Owuor started his new job on January 4.

Tozer saw extremes

After leaving office, Lloyd Tozer, former vice-president, summed up his feelings with the following words:

"I have met some of the nicest people and also some of the most cunning and ruthless people in my whole

life." He said that it had been a great experience, and had been challenging working with, "such extremities." He nevertheless appeared relieved to relinquish his duties promising never to return to the student union offices again.

It's everybody's Business

By SHARON LOUGHERY

Business Week 1982 will be bigger and better than ever. This year, all events will be directed toward the whole university community. The week kicks off on January 16 with a road hockey Tournament and an arm wrestling contest. To end off the day in

style, two bands Spice and The Blushing Brides who do an incredible take-off of the Rollin Stones, will be appearing at the SUB. For all of you movie buffs who come alive at night, The Rocky Horror picture show will be playing in Tilley Hall at 1:00 a.m. Don't forget to bring your popcorn!

Senate readmits Cockburn

The UNB Senate met Friday December 11; the most contentious issue was the appeal by G.W.A. Cockburn for readmission to university. In a report presented by Professor Constantine Passaris, it was recommended that, given special circumstances of this case, he should be allowed to return to first-year law next September. This particular section of the meeting was held in camera due to personal details which had to be kept confidential. A motion for reinstatement was carried 23-14-7.

Another major issue was the report of the library committee. A thirty per cent decrease in real purchasing power for the library was pointed out; although it was also mentioned that computerization turned

out to be good for the library. The library is, however, consuming 48 per cent which is more than was foreseen of computer time. In total, the report said, the library is suffering no worse a fate than those at other Canadian universities.

Among various other issues dealt with were scholarships and associate department member appointments.

The meeting reached its 150 minute end deadline without completing business. A motion by student senator David Kay to extend the meeting was narrowly defeated. The only major item left open was the appointment of a university secretary, Dr. Brian Taylor, to replace Dr. Woodfield who is on sabbatical.

On Sunday evening, sleigh rides will be run out on the Hanwell Road. Hot chocolate will be provided but you'll have to bring your own wine skins.

Wednesday at noon hour, in the SUB cafeteria an eating contest will be held. For all you freaks who like to eat cream pies without using your hands, contact the Business Society office.

Wednesday afternoon a bowling tournament will be held at the Nashwaaksis Bowl-A-Drome. AND... if you can keep up the pace, "Private Benjamin" will be playing in Tilley Hall at 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Thursday is ski day at Crabbe. A bus will be leaving the SUB at noon hour for an afternoon on the mountain with a special package deal on transportation and lift tickets available.

To close Business Week 1982, something new will be seen at UNB. What may appear to be an average pub with the well known "Molly Oliver" will turn into a hilarious Bill Robson roast. So if you want to see Bill at his best and hear about Bill at his funniest, come to the pub in the SUB, Friday, January 22.