

# SU Execs explain themselves: Promises, promises

by **Bill Doskoch**

Well, it may have been a care-free, happy-go-lucky summer for you, but for your trusty SU executive it's been a time of . . . well, trying to take care of the students' business, actually.

Here are some of their comments on their activities to date:

**Mike Nickel, President:**

"Well, I've been trying to meet all my campaign promises and you don't see too many politicians trying to do that," Nickel quipped.

Some of the successes he has claimed include removing the 10 per cent liquor surcharge levied against clubs, reducing SU fees to \$46, and establishing a task force to investigate sexual harassment on campus.

Other objectives being actively pursued include a campus health and dental insurance plan, the establishment of a fast food franchise in SUB and the creation of a new national student organization (story on pg. 3).

Nickel originally wanted an A & W franchise but "difficulties" were forcing him to expand his options, he said.

When asked why he was so determined to see a new fast-food franchise established, he said, "because it's a campaign promise and I'm fully committed to meeting my campaign promises."

When later asked if it was prudent for politicians to push through campaign promises that were impractical, Nickel said no.

Some of the Nickel's other major concerns were student apathy, the inertia of the university administration and the "distance" from the provincial government.

"Students get involved when they get concerned about issues," said Nickel. He hoped to raise involvement through awareness by using available media sources.

"[The students] elected me to be responsive. I'm going to be responsive and they're going to respond — even if I have to drag it out of them," Nickel promised.

**Rob Splane, VP Finance and Administration:**

The fee cut and the establishment of a student discount system which will give discounts of up to 10 per cent to students in 100 stores

in the city were some of the Splane's accomplishments.

He felt most services were being responsible this year but said the continuing high deficits of CJSR were one of his "very few concerns."

"Their expenses are as minimal as you can get but the revenues just aren't there," he said.

"There is an administration board sub-committee studying the problem," he said. "It may be time to re-evaluate student support and see how they feel about spending \$50,000 (to cover the station's deficit)."

When asked if having all SU service areas run on a break-even basis was a desirable goal, Splane said, "It's certainly an ideal but not a goal."

He used SORSE and Student Help as examples of services that would be difficult to run on a break-even basis but added that retail outlets should be making money. "They do in the real world so they should here too."

His main frustration? "There are so many different opinions, it's tough to decide what's best financially and to say on top of what students want."

**Gayle Morris, VP External:**

Achieving a flat loan remission rate of 35 per cent, bridging the communications gap between universities, colleges and technical institutes in the province were some of Morris's summer tasks.

She wants to drastically re-structure events such as University Night and hold events outside of SUB to where student traffic is heavier.

She also wants to hold more events during the day when students are here, "Not just at night when only the little hacks are running around."

The biggest frustration she foresees is students not taking advantage of events and services. "We're trying to get away from the ivory tower/inaccessibility thing but it doesn't mean anything unless we get support and feedback from students."

**Caroline Nevin, VP Academic:**

Increasing student input into academic issues through mechanisms such as getting them involved in the selection of department cha-

irpersons and getting incidental fees published in course syllabi were some of Nevin's concerns this summer.

"Students have input into selection of the university president, the vice-presidents and the deans," said Nevin, "but for some reason there seems to be opposition to student involvement at the department level."

She is also opposed to the starting of new programs until the current ones are properly funded.

"We get money to start these programs but then the cost of keeping them going must be absorbed by the university," she said.

To get any meaningful change to these problems as well as chronic ones, such as classroom overcrowding, would be difficult, she admitted.

We have a lot of input at the GFC (General Faculties Council) level but very little at the Board of Governors (where only two out of 19 members are students) and it's the B of G that decides where the money goes on a campus-wide basis."

**Scott Richardson, VP Internal:**

Organizing clubs, arranging cabarets and movies and planning the main-floor expansion of SUB has been keeping Richardson busy.

"We want to put student services and SU offices down on the main floor rather than tucked away in the back corner."

He expected it to be a expensive but said it would be covered by the Building Reserve Expansion Fund.

As far as the essentials of university life goes, "All bars have a freeze on liquor prices and they'll still have daily specials and happy hour," he said.

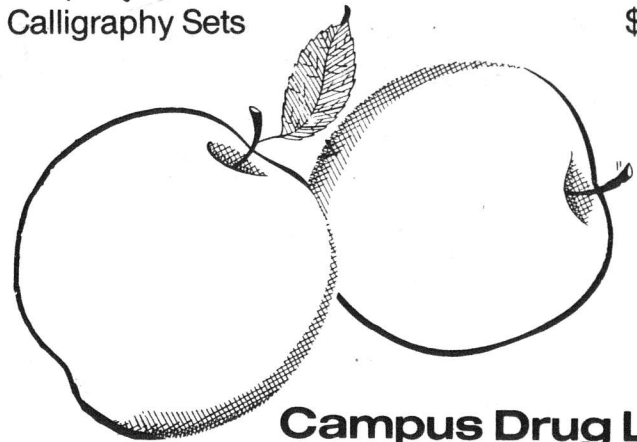
Richardson also wanted to assure people that he "had all the beer lined up" — plus the entertainment — for Freshman Introduction Week.

His biggest challenge was "getting all the work done," due to the demands put on his time through routine duties, classes and evening meetings.

"It's going to be a good year," he said and encouraged students to bring their concerns and ideas to him.



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