

# Burt Krull is passing the buck

...a quiet keeper of the books leaves the Students' Union



"The basic accomplishment: we're still here."

Beginning next month Burt Krull, the Students' Union's quiet keeper of the books will quit his post to be replaced by the more outspoken and open Harry Goldberg.

Generally sedate and reserved with his opinions regarding the Students' Union's operations, Krull has been a contrast to others who have held his job, being immediately juxtaposed between Goldberg and his predecessor, the energetic Darrel Ness.

Mr. Krull, age 30, has been working with the Students' Union since October 1972, when he was appointed as Manager of Finance. In June 1974 he went on to become the General Manager.

In retrospect Krull feels that both jobs were similar in duties and roles.

"I suppose," says Krull, "that my duties have involved the determination of our financial problem, and then going about solving it, and at the same time maintaining some degree of credibility for the Students' Union. That's the basic accomplishment: that we're still here."

Burt Krull has a science degree from the University of Alberta. After graduating in 1966, he worked as a system's analyst with the Aluminum Company of Canada, Ltd. for three years, and then articulated for three years with chartered accountancy firms.

He heard of the opening in the manager of finance position from a friend and applied for it. "Half an hour later I had a job, and that was it. No premeditation at all."

"It always struck me as funny that some of my fees went to build this building, and by the time I left it wasn't built yet, and then I ended up working in the thing."

Over the past three years Mr. Krull has had to deal with several different members of the Students' Union executive. On the whole he says personal relationships have been open enough so that the personal respect needed has been maintained. Business relationships on the other hand could often be frustrating on several occasions, when the general manager and the executive each had their own ideas on how the Students' Union should be run.

During his time here Krull found that McGhie's executive was very administratively-minded, while Leadbeater's current government is more politically-minded.

"I like it that way. I have my feelings on how a Students' Union should be representing the students, and obviously it should be in a political sense. I would say that for three years they have had in a political sense not very good representation. This year has been good for the Students' Union."

He points out, however, that McGhie's group had to be administratively-oriented because of the financial restraints that they were under.

During Krull's period as manager, the Students' Union has become more and more run like a business. An increase in the number of paid jobs is evident, for example in *The Gateway*.

Krull justifies this new approach by explaining that it puts more responsibility on the people working for the Students' Union and the affiliated organizations. He feels that as a result you can demand more of them, bringing greater efficiency.

Of the time when he was manager of finance, Krull says that he has never enjoyed his work more. After he became general manager things became tougher.

"We had an executive which were very aware, a very

demanding group to work with and so I just found it personally very hard and frustrating."

Things have been better the past month he claims, but he would in no way reconsider his decision to leave. Krull feels that three years is long enough to be away from accountancy, without running the risk of having his training outdated. Therefore, he will be returning to his former accountancy firm, Willets-MacMahon and Co.

Mr. Krull feels that his successor, Mr. Goldberg, is exactly the sort of person that the Students' Union needs in the years ahead. According to Krull's judgment, Mr. Goldberg is more mature, less financially and administratively oriented, and above all, willing to make a long term commitment, something he was not prepared to do. Amongst the many problems that the leaving manager foresees is a decision on how to manage HUB.

Mr. Krull that the student body will not return to the state of awareness evident in the 1960's. Students will tend to isolate themselves and continue the trend to be less and less involved in student and public affairs. The Students' Union will therefore have to look at where it is going, and decide many things. Does it need to be as large as it is? Should the Students' Union take on a primarily political or administrative role?

To represent the students better, Mr. Krull feels that the Students' Union should adopt a political role. He even foresees the day when the union's facilities will be run by the university, leaving S.U. to represent the students. Because of this, Burt Krull is optimistic about the political-mindedness of Mr. Goldberg and Graeme Leadbeater's executive.

by Brian Taylor

## Co-ops - a housing alternative?

Construction of matchbox, highrise dwellings by land developers is no answer to Canada's housing crisis according to Elaine David, a first year University of Alberta law student. Rather, co-operative housing, and the advantages found in it, is cited as a very real consideration.

Co-op housing is a system set up the tenants, and is designed to consider both the economic limitations and the domestic needs of the individual families. The determining factor, with respect to rent payed, is not the size of the unit but the family's income.

A housing co-op is a legal form of organization with its members being shareholders in the total development. As a shareholder in the total development the member, in a sense, rents his unit from himself.

A mortgage for the undertaking is obtained by the co-op as a whole. In doing this, individual members do not have to qualify for a mortgage. This is of particular advantage to low income families, for whom mortgages are next to impossible to obtain.

Elaine David is an active member in a newly formed group that is trying to form a co-op under the name of Synergen. Their project is merely in its infant stages but

many problems already face them. Obtaining good serviced land is possibly one of the most important, yet, one of the most difficult things to secure.

There are groups in Edmonton who have the plans, the money, and the members to build but are without land says Mrs. David.

Single family dwellings, and the resulting massive urban sprawl, is going out, says Mrs. David. As an alternative, Mrs. David suggests that both the city and individuals would be well advised to look at possibilities of co-operative housing in the City of Edmonton.

People interested in co-operative housing are invited to form a group and/or contact groups that are presently being organized. Communitas Incorporated is an Edmonton based group organized to work in conjunction with parties interested in developing co-operatives. Communitas has the resources to assist these parties from initial organizational stages through to project realization. For more information call Communitas Inc. at 488-7255, or drop by the office at 11328-100 Ave., Edmonton.

by Bill Weir