

SU Pres. discusses

On Thursday, March 31, at an annual change-over meeting Students' Council, the reigns of control of the Students' Union will be transferred.

SU president Len Zoeteman, the four other executive members, finance vp Eileen Reese, academic vp Ken McMane, executive vp Howard Higgins and services vp Jan Wade, will pass authority over to student-elect Jay Spark and his executive. And councillors who were elected to their positions earlier this year will take over the 24 reps who, with the Executive members, made up last year's Council, the governing body of the Students' Union.

Working in a students' organization is difficult; the one-tenure positions often cause a short-sighted policy of the lack of communication in the student body sometimes results in disagreeable decisions. The five executive members, to serve 12-month terms at a monthly salary of \$350, with work often exceeding 60 hours, a term can be both rewarding and painful.

Looking back over the past year's work, of the Executive and Students' Council, Gateway outgoing president Len Zoeteman to recall some of the work of his Executive this past year, and discuss the services the provides individual students \$34 in annual fees.

ZOETEMAN: I think the Students' Union is valuable, or otherwise I wouldn't have spent a year working for it. But I think sometimes students just don't realize all the things the SU does for them. For instance, in this year's budget, published last Tuesday in the Gateway, we showed the students just what prices we provide. Besides the only-visible ones — Gateway, SR, FOS, FIW, Housing, Recreation, Socials and so on — we were trying to show students how high costs can run when you have a building our size (the best SU Bldg. in Canada) and the businesses we do.

We speak with students, to student associations, to other university groups. But there's still need for closer communication with students. They sometimes seem like they just don't give a damn about the Students' Union and that's frustrating. We, the executive, have put in a hard year. There's been a lot of personal reward for me, but sometimes it's frustrating when real issues surface, or when we're interested in political issues start hounding you to make themselves look good. But generally, there's been a positive attitude this year.

GATEWAY: Were there highlights of the year for you?

ZOETEMAN: I can think of lots of things: our work to provide an equitable formula for Faculty Association grants, something that took lots of work and finally we have a lasting formula to work on; coverage from outside media during the year which

increased a great deal over the previous year; concessions made by the university for the students; including a fair number of financial ones. I saw a swing towards increased student representation on committees and that's particularly significant when you see what's happening on other campuses across Canada — where student involvement is dropping.

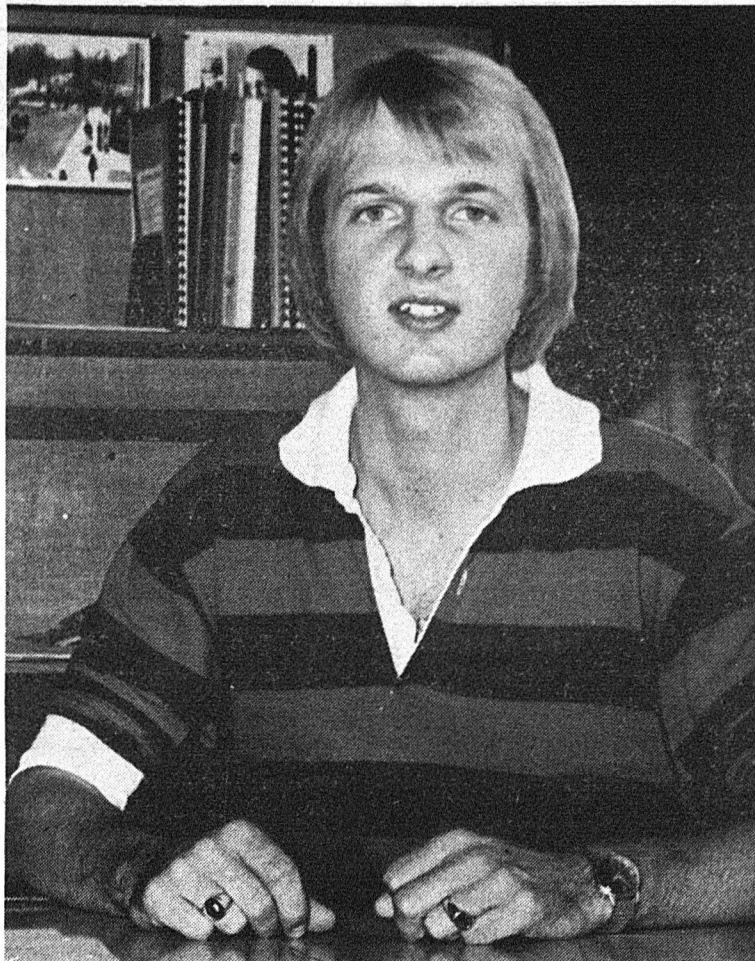
On the other hand, one of the low points for me is seeing the active students becoming more active in university affairs, and the low-level participant making his or her contribution even smaller — I'm afraid some of the real workers might burn themselves out.

GATEWAY: I have a list of some election and Council promises you people made. Can we run through them and see what you've done in the course of the year?

ZOETEMAN: Sure. The Executive were involved in such administrative work as preparing job descriptions, personnel requirements within the SU, organizing a new office filing system for the incoming executive, revamping the SUB policy manual, changing special events to remove responsibility for socials from the director, completing the HUB agreement with the university, setting up a new system to receive accounts payable, bringing in a new liquor licensing policy and a new SU records pricing policy, etc.

Service area work included obtaining new signs for SUB (with a \$2,500 contribution towards the \$4,500 cost coming from the university), creating Student Housing Week (Aug. 23 to 27) to publicize the need for student housing, posting grievance sheets to get feedback from students, getting additional tickets for the Box Office, keeping 5 cent photocopying on campus (the SUB IBM), expanding CKSR to five campus outlets and cable, setting a new socials policy, hosting a western services conference on campus for all western Canadian universities, developing of a new Clubs Policy, analysing a student housing study, and implementing a second semester book exchange co-ordinated by Varsity Christian Fellowship.

In academic matters, the executive worked to change the office of student affairs and as result hired a Student Advocate, Don Spandier (office 432-4236), whose job is to help students work through academic grievance procedures when they feel they've been mistreated. A course guide was also developed, but viewing is restricted only to administration and academic staff this year. However, the groundwork has been laid for a course guide next year and there will be one. Short courses in writing skills and reading were continued and well attended. A first term study week for next year we lobbied for was passed, as was consideration for extensive revision of the university calendar to make course descriptions more lucid. Library



Outgoing Students' Union pres. Len Zoeteman.

hours were extended after extensive SU lobbying; registration dates for spring and summer session were set back a month to leave students a bit more leeway in deciding upon attending those sessions; co-operative study programs (which might see, for example, an engineering student working for an eng. firm receiving

academic credit for such work) is still being investigated; and a gold medal award was struck for a student judged most outstanding in academic qualifications and extra-curricular involvement.

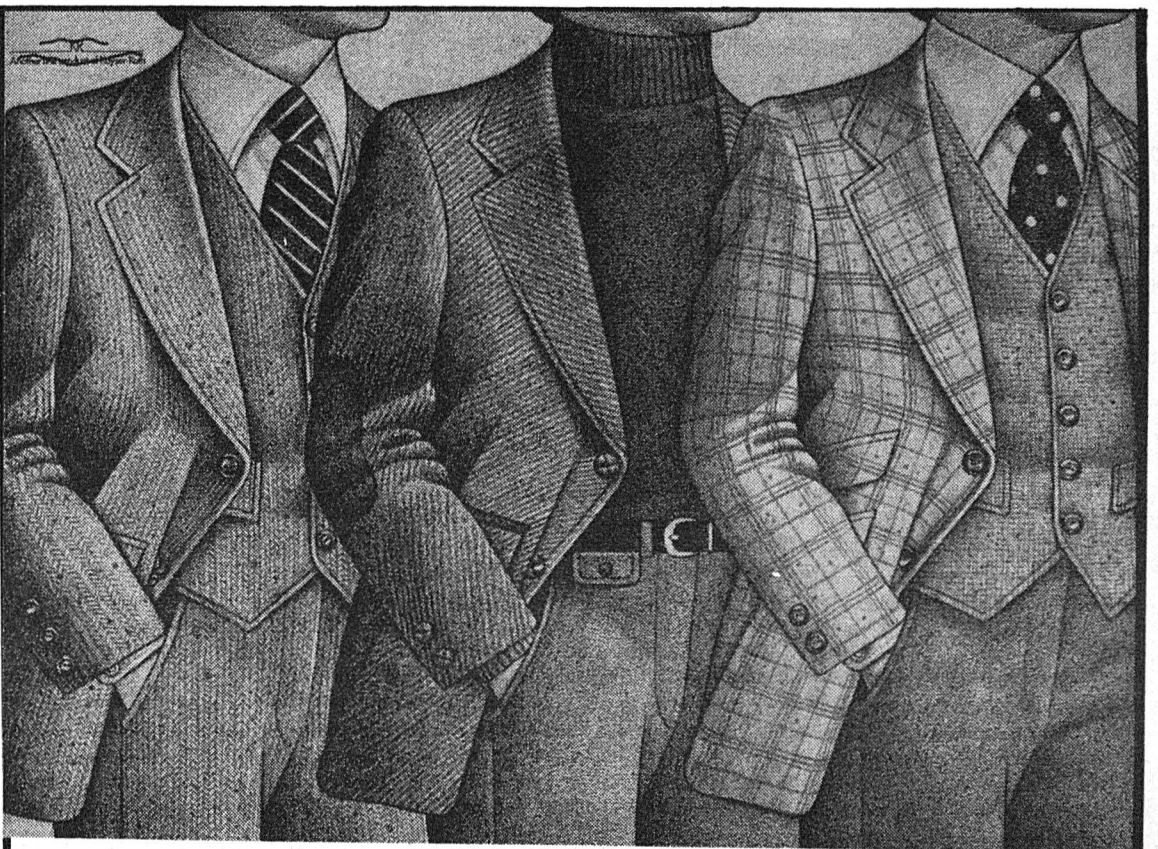
In trying to get out to the community, we concerned ourselves with speaking

engagements off campus; set up a community involvement week (which was not a great success, because faculty associations didn't go for the idea), spoke out on a few political issues (including sometimes vigorous support for a campaign against differential fees), and co-ordinated last Thursday's appreciation banquet for political, university and student leaders.

In general work, the executive pressured for improvements in housing and food services going to the students, and won such subtle victories as an increase for Lister Hall residents which is two per cent less than the university had planned. As well, we got a non-smoking area in SUB cafeteria, and tried to improve food in SU outlets like RATT and Friday's. We set guidelines for SUB expansion, which this year took the form of renovations and allocation of club offices to the sixth floor and next year may mean taking back our third floor from the university.

GATEWAY: What about political activity, though, since you've been widely criticized for lacking it?

ZOETEMAN: Actually, when you note that we held a FAS referendum in the fall, supported National Student Day with money, worked hard to fight differential fees, and so on, it wasn't really that bad. But one of the reasons perhaps why we de-emphasized political manoeuvres is because we were so busy with things like revising our Constitution, which needed to be totally over-hauled after two years of neglect.



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