

Services vp solicits

If you see some guy standing in the HUB-Rutherford walkway accosting students, it's probably not Billy Graham handing out the word of God. It's more likely to be Jan Grude, vp services of the SU executive, asking students what they think about the foreign students' fee increase issue.

That's one of the more obvious ways he finds out what students think and what they want. What most students don't seem to realize is that most 'reasonable' demands or requests can be granted through the simple process of walking into a SU exec. member's office and asking.

But since students don't often do that, Jan Grude goes out and asks them. For instance, recently he stood beside the five cent photocopier on first floor SUB and asked 30 students whether or not they thought another one was needed. Of the 28 answered in the affirmative. A second photocopier will be installed sometime this week.

As vp services, Grude's job is mainly to supervise the operation of student clubs, services and businesses on campus.

"If one person had to run all the businesses and services we look after, they'd go crazy," said Grude. Therefore, he is available to these groups if they need any kind of operational assistance. If they need financial assistance, they are generally directed to the vp finance and administration.

In his own words: Grude ensures a situation in which student interests are represented in the businesses on campus. For example, in the pricing policy of SU records and in the quality of the liquor and food service in RATT and Friday's.

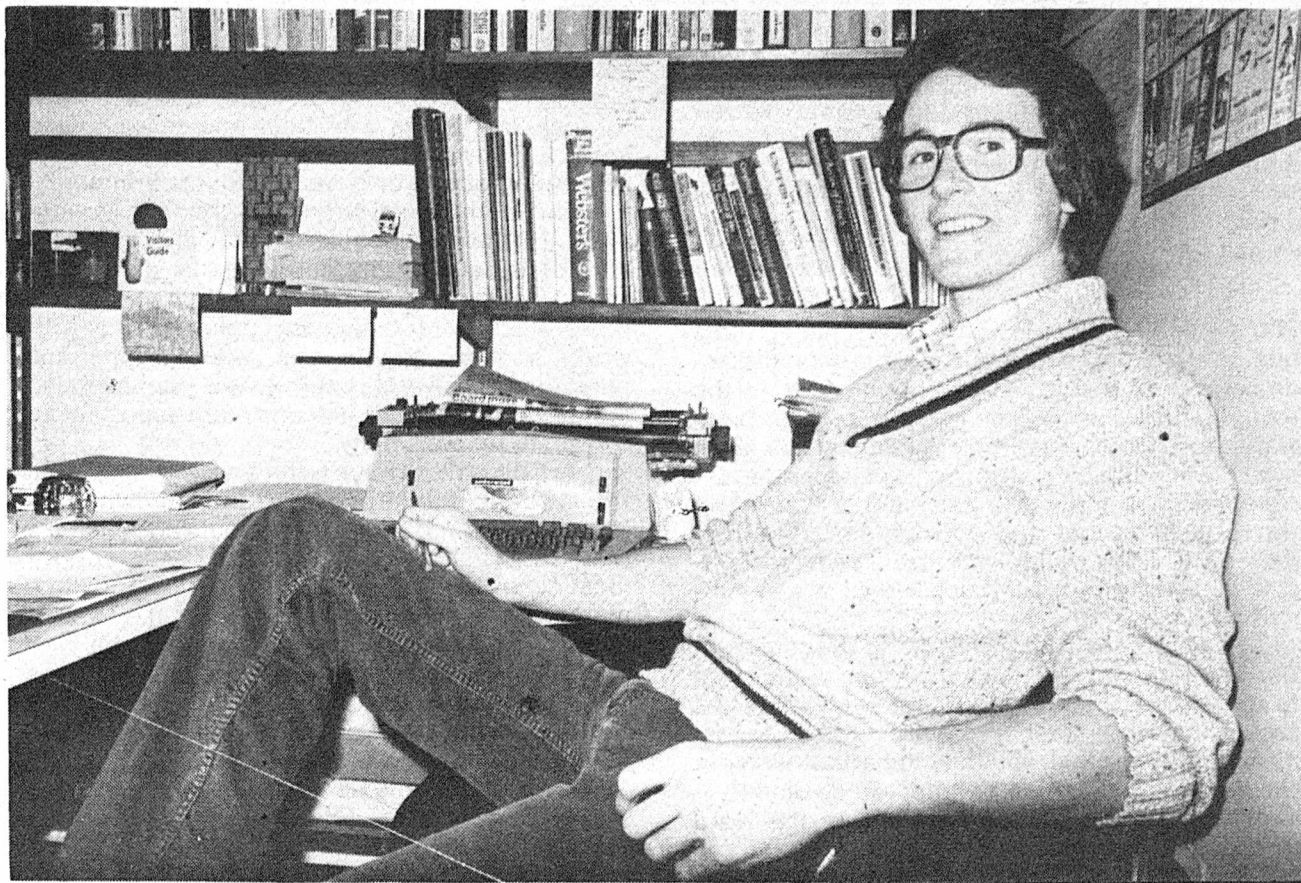
"I'm mainly interested in the quality of these services and others like them," he said.

According to the vp, he is following the Coeteman slate's original campaign platform of 'consolidation rather than expansion,' and that he is more interested in tightening up and improving existing businesses and services as opposed to creating more of them.

"Eleven out of the the fourteen SU businesses lost money last year," he stated. "But judging from the balance sheets I've been getting this year, things are going to be much better."

Grude sits on numerous committees that determine the quality and composition of student services. Some of these committees are bookstore, health services and food services.

The 22-year-old vp said that he considered money lost as lost directly from students and that he'd like to see student money making more money so as to provide better and continuing service.



SU vice-president services Jan Grude in office.

Some direct suggestions from students that he's gotten from standing in the walkway and asking: 1) that there be a message board on main floor SUB on which students can post messages personal or otherwise 2) that all students contact their MLA's on National Student Day 3) that there be bands in RATT 4) that CKSR broadcast hockey games 5) that he find out whether or not the Bookstore is gouging students with prices. And so on.

The Canadian Studies graduate said he would like to see the SU exec acting less in administrative roles and more in an "advocacy" role.

"I think the executive has become so caught up in administration on this campus that they've become immune to students needs," he said.

Expanding on this statement, Grude added that the SU exec should act as an intermediary between students and "those who run things" rather than as part of those who run things.

"Students have come to think that the executive doesn't care about day-to-day needs," he added.

"My job has changed from an administration-oriented one to one of dealing with the day-to-day needs of students. I find it satisfying to deal directly with students needs and suggestions and to improve services to them."

Grude was born in Norway and emigrated to Canada with his family when he was three years old. He explained that partly because of his background, he has become interested in the foreign student fee increase dispute, and has taken an individual stand against it. "There certainly is racial discrimination on this campus," he said, citing the example of a Chinese student with a three-year 8.9 average who was refused admission to medical school because of the Dean's interpretation of the quota system.

Describing personal benefits from his job as vp services, Grude said: "I tend to be unemotional and I have learned to empathize with people. I've also learned to deal with people in more effective ways and to organize my time more efficiently."

"And I've learned how to survive on lousy food and little sleep," he added.

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