

.....the year in review

Russell takes the SUB to the students

by Bob Morrison

"We've created a climate which encourages risk taking - cultural, moral and economic," said John Russell in reference to this year's Student Union Building (SUB) operations.

Russell was this year's Student Union Vice-President internal, and his duties included the allocation of space within the SUB along with the handling of SUB reservations.

The SUB Operations Committee under Russell clearly established SUB programming priorities. First priority was given to Student Union-, or student organization sponsored activities over any other event of a like nature. Russell added, however, that other such events, if they appealed to a different market, were allowed to take place on the same evening as student sponsored activities.

Russell was involved with many new service implementations in the SUB this year. The first problem he faced was devising a policy for "the rational use of the McInnes Room between service groups and outside revenue groups."

"We wanted to 'reasonably' tax outside community groups to subsidize student functions," he said. A and B societies were given one free use of the McInnes Room through the year.

A new policy has also been introduced for the Garden in the SUB. Free use of it will be given three nights out of every year for any B society.

A patron service report prepared by Russell defined what he saw as potential areas of difficulty in SUB services. This in turn was submitted to SUB manager John Graham so that SUB services could operate more efficiently.

"We've made it easy for Dalhousie societies to use the SUB, but the societies are not allowing for their own vitality," said Russell. He explained he made every attempt to make SUB facilities available to societies but it is up to them to take the opportunity given to them and use their own policies in staging events and subsequently raising money.

"When I started I had a limited scope of my role but got a broad view from June on. I became particularly interested in attrition among first year students. It became my pet project and I



John Russell, VP Internal, worked some innovations into SUB-Ops this year.

enjoyed investigating it as it brought a lot of issues to the floor-like teacher quality," said Russell.

Russell also made strides in dealing with the controversial topic of corporate sponsorship of student activities and events. He presently sits on the Corporate Advertising

and Promotion Committee with John Graham and student union treasurer Shawn Houlihan.

"We recognize the mutual benefits in dealing with corporations but we want to strike a balance with our needs and their needs and still maintain good taste," he said. This

policy was effectively enforced during the Winter Carnival as opposed to the Moosehead fiasco during Orientation Week.

During his term in office Russell made a determined effort to promote alcohol awareness of campus. This was reflected in a report he did on bar operations in the SUB which suggests an evaluation in SUB services the incoming council could consider implementing.

"We're moving away from having the SuperSubs as the backbone of the program," he said. To break the chain of liquor-dominated programs Russell suggests "appointing two student interns next year - one to concentrate on the event program and another to concentrate on the development of an alternate entertainment program."

Russell said he is certain if people last year could see the building today, they would definitely see all the work that has been done.

Hill on Dal's external student affairs

by Bob Morrison

Tim Hill was appointed Dalhousie's Vice President (External) last December following the resignation of Dave Rideout. As VP (External) he was responsible for political issues affecting students and maintaining links with other student political bodies.

When he began work in December, Hill set two goals for himself; to establish a campus committee on university external

affairs, and also to determine from an economic standpoint the type of people who go to Dalhousie.

Being "overtaken with CFS (Canadian Federation of Students)," Hill was unable to follow through with these, but he added the incoming vice-president Atul Sharma will be working to achieve them.

Coming to the Student Council, Hill said he "found the average councillor didn't know too much

about CFS." He took it upon himself to educate them, preparing a report which was a comprehensive review of CFS. In particular it stressed the conflicting relationship that exists between SUNS (Student Unions of Nova Scotia) and the Central Committee of CFS. He presented the report to a meeting of the Central Committee held in Dartmouth in January.

Following this Hill prepared a report on student aid in Nova Scotia with the help of Peter Kavanagh, Executive Officer of SUNS. "It was appalling that no one knew about changes in student aid or what to expect in '82-'83; government was very closed-mouth about it," he said.

Hill attended a SUNS meeting in January and suggested changes take place in the proposed reorganization of SUNS. At the meeting he took part in the proposal to incorporate the organization. He also distributed his Student Aid Report to other Student Councils in the province there.

Upon returning from the national-provincial meeting of CFS, Hill advised council to withhold their proposed pull-out referendum until the fall. He said representatives of council should first go to the national conference in Saskatchewan to see if the changes in CFS suggested by SUNS are being implemented. "CFS has deteriorated morally and physically - but we'll see if we can stop the rotting," he said.

Hill also took part in the symposium on post-secondary education, held March 23.

For the last six weeks, Hill has sat on the Health Planning Committee doing a thorough review of the health plan situation for Nova Scotia university students.

Hill feels the Council Executive worked well this year with no personal conflicts, but he feels there could have been better communication and organization. "It's essential to meet once a week just to talk about the state of things and to bounce ideas off each other." He also stressed the need for the Treasurer to be brought in on any project at the earliest possible stage when financing is involved.

Over all, Hill said it was a successful year for those who served without resigning or being impeached. "The impeachments tend to overshadow the good committee work done by many councillors," he said.

Hill feels Rans "held up his end" as president, saying he is a good debator and logical thinker. In taking over from Rans, Hill said he is "looking forward to next year and if any student has a problem, I'll always make time to see them because I can make a difference."

Erskine thinks committees are academic

by Bob Morrison

As this year's Student Union Vice-President Academic, it was Neil Erskine's duty to act as a liaison between the Student Union and the Faculty and Administration to see that student interests were represented in academic-related decisions.

Most of this was accomplished through committee work. Erskine sat on various committees; the Senate Academic Planning Committee, the Teaching and Learning Committee, the Audio-Visual Committee, the Honours Awards Committee, the Student Union Constitution Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee.

A major project Erskine took on was trying to establish a system of course evaluations

According to Erskine the present improved relation between students and faculty may affiliate the faculty allowing course evaluations to take place. "Attitudes of faculties are much more disposed," said Erskine, and he feels that if a good proposal could be presented it would be accepted.

Erskine said if any course evaluation comes about it will most likely have to come within each faculty itself as opposed to a single, far-reaching evaluation.

When asked to comment on how the Executive functioned this year,



Neil Erskine, VP Academic, has decided to find out what academics are really like, trading committee meetings for classes.

Erskine said, "We did a lot of work and what we did went in the right direction." Although he felt all issues were given proper attention by the Executive, he said, "We could have met more often."

Erskine made major progress in the upgrading of Computer Services at Dalhousie. Due to his efforts the Computer Centre's capacity was greatly increased, a new terminal room was added and the Graduate Students' concern over the cost of text processing was resolved.

Through the Academic Planning committee Erskine represented the students' interests during the University's continuous actions on financial restraint.

Erskine also worked towards improving the quality of classrooms and has encouraged indicating the number of students who can take

each class when classes are posted.

Aside from direct action taken by Erskine himself, he spent much of his time doing research to assist other Council members in projects they were working on. Student president Peter Rans said Erskine was invaluable in assisting him in writing his report on restraint and renewal.

He suggested a more exact role of the VP Academic should be defined in the future, so the position would have "more time to devote to both the small and large concerns" of students over academic matters.

As for the creation of the new positions of Vice-Presidents Academic and External last year, Erskine said it was a very positive step. "With the title you carry a lot more weight," he said, in dealing with the Faculty and the Administration.



Tim Hill, outgoing VP External and incoming Pres. For a small guy he's got some pretty big ideas.