

ALL THE PRESIDENT'S MEN

by Bob Morrison

If this year's Student Council could be described in 80 words or less it would be as follows:

Peter Rans was a good President. The Executive was excellent with Tim Hill, John Russell, Neil Erskine and Shawn Houlihan doing a fine job in their respective fields, although communications between executive members was lacking.

And with the exception of people like Community Affairs Secretary Susan McIntyre and Board of Governors Rep Atul Sharma and other councillors listed below by Peter Rans, the Student Council was largely apathetic with poor attendance at meetings and little involvement on committees.

Rans on leaving the Square Office

by Bob Morrison

Peter Rans was this year's "radical" Student Union President. With his administration's term in office drawing to a close Rans reflects on what he has accomplished and how both his Student Council Executive and members of the Student Council itself have performed their duty.

A major theme that Rans and his running mate John Russell were elected on was the promise of having a more visible Council for students.

Rans felt this had been done. "On two separate occasions I've gone door to door in Howe Hall and Shirreff Hall," he said. There he met with Dons and House Presidents. Rans also made similar excursions to lower campus. "But

you never see as many people as you'd like," he added, saying even without such activities he is already working a 60-70 hour week as president.

Throughout the summer Rans did extensive work with SUNS (Student Unions of Nova Scotia), presiding as chair. He said one of SUNS' greatest accomplishments to date is Peter Kavanagh's appointment as Executive Officer of the organization. Rans also said SUNS was able "to embarrass" the provincial government into making changes in the student aid package public.

With the increased role SUNS is playing in most Maritime universities Rans said it brings up the question of the need for CFS (Canadian Federation of Students) in its present form. He said there is a need for a national body and Dalhousie's position on a pull-out referendum will be determined at the next conference. "CFS will be tested in Saskatchewan - if they are committed to making changes as it appears they are then we will still have a national organization," he said.

During his campaign Rans promised to establish a system of co-operative housing for students. He said he was making progress in doing this when the funds for housing were frozen by the CMHC (Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation).

A volunteer escort service for women walking on campus at night was another campaign promise. Rans said it was done in some places but most people don't generally trust volunteers, so women have instead been encouraged to "use the buddy system" in walking across campus at night. He said John Russell is working at establishing a shuttle route from Dalhousie to Fenwick Place and St. Mary's. Rans added he is looking into the possibility of establishing a paid escort service for the campus.

When asked about the numerous resignations and impeachments on this year's council, Rans said he was not bothered as much by people resigning, as people being impeached or those who should have been impeached, for poor

attendance on council. He said those who resigned admitted they didn't have the time to devote to their position, but he expressed disgust for those who kept their position and then did nothing.

More people could have been impeached but Rans feels some onus must be placed on the societies, which they represent, to do something about the situation.

Rans named some council members who had particularly bad attendance: Shirreff Hall rep Susie Cizek, Engineering rep Ed Arab,

Member-at-Large George Fraser. "If I was an engineering student I certainly would be upset that my interests were not being represented," he said.

However, Rans recognized the substantial amount of work done by many council members by working on Student Union Committees. He particularly gave credit to people such as Science rep Reza Rizvi, Arts reps Heather Roseveare and Phil Dunn, Senate rep Chris Hartt, Member-at-Large Erin Steuter and Howe Hall rep Britt Dvsart.

In evaluating the work done by Senate reps, Rans said, "Colin Hames, Phil Fraser and Martin Tomlinson provided good representation and Chris Hartt did early on when he had good attendance; Beth MacConnell stopped going after Christmas."

He said the policy in the Senate had generally been to let him speak to represent their collective position as most reps would be intimidated in having to speak against their professors. Rans added, "I am not intimidated."

Rans said he hopes the efforts of himself and council throughout the year have made "the senior administration realize how, particularly in a time of restraint, student opinion is very important; students are consumers of education and experience the consequences in their decisions and have more than a perfect right to take part in the decision making process."

"I wish I had five years and I could see me doing everything that has to be done - but I'm mortal and I've given it my best for four years," concluded Rans.

Houlihan, Student Union banker

by Bob Morrison

Shawn Houlihan was this year's Student Union Treasurer.

After his appointment to the position, he spent most of the last summer analyzing the over-all accounting role of treasurer in terms of the reporting of financial expenses, security, investment and also management. "After this it was easier for me to find information - it took away some of the paper work from management," he said.

And yes, Houlihan did put in 1000 hours in studying the feasibility of computerizing the Treasury Department. He said it was a full time job in itself for him throughout the whole summer.

"A report on computer feasibility was done by a consulting firm," said Houlihan. He spent much of his time providing much of the information required for the study. He was unable to carry through with it in September when his classes began as he no longer had the extra time to devote to it. He does however see the possibility of computerization taking place over the next year, as he has been appointed by Council for another term.

As far as his spending policy as Treasurer goes, Houlihan said, "John and I were looking to tighten up the Student Union's belt; we wanted no waste at all but to still do all that was necessary." He introduced a new budgeting process to make certain that all spending was justified.

Houlihan said the accounts receivable department was very important to him as Treasurer. He expressed approval that Domus Legis was able to so quickly pay off its debt.

Working with John Russell and John Graham (SUB Manager), Houlihan said much money was saved by making SUB management more efficient. As an example, Houlihan said the SUB staff was able to be reduced by one person when SUB Operation Director Murdoch Ryan resigned. This was

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Treasurer Shawn Houlihan, another one of those in-and-out types. Remember, short men can be very dangerous.

done by expanding the duties of various other staff members. Wayne Cross took on both Office Services and the running of the Games Room, and Denise Ingram took over both the Reservation and Inquiry Desks.

"The Grants Committee did a good job - as money was just being thrown out the window," said Houlihan. He explained "Grants had just become a watering hole" for societies and they should instead be forced to come directly to Council for their money and thereby justify their proposals.

Houlihan said the prices in bar services will have to increase because as it stands now "people who drink in the Grawood are being subsidized by those who do not."

"Peter was ten times the president John Logan was"

He feels it is good the SUB is "getting away from having all alcohol-related events" by sponsoring things like musicals. He is pleased with the success of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* which only lost 1,600 dollars and *Jesus Christ Superstar*, which should break even.

A policy of having honoraria jus-

tified for duties performed, before they are granted, was also prompted by Houlihan.

When asked how Council members performed this year Houlihan said, "Half of the Council did nothing, or next to nothing."

He suggested attendance rules for council should be more strictly enforced - "If you can't make Council meetings you should resign," he said.

Houlihan mentioned Grad-Rep. Glenn Walton, Member-at-Large George Fraser and Engineering rep Ed Arab had poor attendance. He also expressed concern that Council members did not take the initiative in taking on committee work. "They wanted you to call them up to come to Council meetings, to serve on Committees and even to go to the bathroom," he said.

Houlihan feels the Executive functioned well with each member fitting into their role quite effectively - but he stressed the need for communications between the Executive members themselves and also in relating their decisions to the Council.

When asked how Rans performed as President, Houlihan said "Peter was ten times the President John Logan ever was - Logan exploited and enjoyed the job with his marches." He added that Rans is often wrongly looked upon as not being as good a president "just because he didn't crack as many jokes in Council."



Peter "Radical" Rans, head honcho of DSU this year. The Empire reign is over, and he heads to greener pastures.

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