

# Spandier named Advocate

Last fall, the various power groups on campus - Students' Council, General Faculties Council, Board of Governors - approved a reorganization of the office of Dean of Students. Although the position of Student Advocate was dropped from the reorganized structure, a new position - student advocate - was created.

The student advocate - intended to be an advocate, one who sides with a particular party in a dispute - was to be paid for by the Students' Union, maintain contact both with the Dean of Students and with the Students' Council, and be a liaison for students with grievances to come to and talk

Monday, Students' Council elected 21-year old Don Spandier to be Student Advocate for the 1976-77 academic year and for the academic year 1978. Spandier, a first year student in political science, has had little involvement in student politics beside committee work within the Department of political science, work with the Zoeteman campaign last year.

"I don't believe my work with last year's election influenced Students' Council's decision to elect me to the position," Spandier said Tuesday. "I think the position of Student Advocate is important enough one that someone who is qualified to handle people's grievances could do the job. I know it sounds corny but I told the people selecting me, if I'm not qualified to do the job, don't elect me."

The position of student ad-



Don Spandier, Student Advocate photo Kevin Gillese

ocate carries with it an honorarium of \$500 per year - and at 5-10 hours weekly, that works out to less than \$1 an hour.

But Spandier says he feels the position can attract interested individuals and provide a legitimate service to the students on campus. Spandier gave the *Gateway* an interview to explain how he views his new position and how he will try to

work for the students this year and next.

GATEWAY: What will the Student Advocate have to do in his position?

SPANDIER: Each year, the advocate will submit an annual report to Students' Council, around the end of the term. The report will list common grievances the advocate will be responding to each year. The

advocate will recommend to Students' Council changes which might alleviate these common problems.

The advocate will basically be responsible only for student grievances, both academic and non-academic in nature. But, as well, he'll be ready to educate students where there is a need. I guess theoretically there could be a situation where all the students would know all about avenues open to them when they feel they have been wronged.

But I think the advocate would have to be prepared to pick out some common problems and tell students possible avenues of redress open to them. One way of doing this might be a regular column in the *Gateway* - probably not a weekly column, but something written whenever the advocate saw regular grievances and thought people should be advised about them.

GATEWAY: Why did you take the position?

SPANDIER: I guess I took it to help students. It sounds phoney, but I felt that after four years on campus with no involvement in student politics, I should get involved. Although my own academic life has been largely untroubled, I've had lots of friends who have gone through a lot of hassles totally unrelated to their performance in courses, totally unrelated to what they were learning and how well they were learning it. Often this kind of bullshit can get in a student's

way. I think now, after four years on campus, I'm qualified to help those people solve their problems.

GATEWAY: Will yours be an unbiased position?

SPANDIER: No, it can't be. I'm a student, so I will naturally tend towards taking a "student stand." I hope I can take more of an objective viewpoint that the particular student with a grievance will, but I don't think I can hope to take an unbiased view. If I think someone comes in with a real grievance, not just an imaginary wrong doing, then I'll fight for that case. I'll try my best to be objective in viewing the merits of their particular grievance but after that I don't think I'll be unbiased.

GATEWAY: How are students going to be able to contact you when they have a grievance they want help with?

SPANDIER: The Students' Council workroom (Room 256F, SUB) is currently being renovated and will be the Student Advocate office. I will have regular office hours posted there, and people will be able to contact me there in person or by phoning 432-4236 beginning next week. I'll also be available at home to students (phone 469-0613) or people can send me mail, c/o the SU general office, Room 256, SUB. I welcome suggestions from anyone about the position, by the way, so I invite people to phone me up even if they don't want to use me to help a grievance.

## U defends Student Health

by Kent Blinston

Students' Council reaffirmed opposition to the removal of present University Health Services Building at a Monday meeting. SU president Len Zoeteman presented a report detailing present university building plans would leave Health Services homeless when extension of the Health Sciences building proceeds.

The provincial government promised a new home for Health Services when expansion of Health Sciences begins. The original intention was to house Health Services in the proposed Home Economics building is third in priority and may not be completed in time. If approval for construction is withheld, it may be built at all.

Zoeteman said if Health Services facilities are unavailable, the consequences will not be evident until a few years later, when it would be difficult to reorganize.

Zoeteman said a new location must be found before construction begins. Zoeteman's

report expressed the importance of the Health Services, used by over 17,000 students last year. It also indicated that Health Services is well run.

Council approved in principle the internal expansion of the Students' Union Building. This would mean buying back office space presently owned by the university. The offices are needed for Students' Council, clubs and other student groups.

The SU presently owns 66 per cent of the building. Council first wants to regain alumni and counselling offices on the fifth and sixth floor, which make up 3.3 per cent of the building. Council hopes to include the purchase on the present debt retirement on the building.

Also on the list of priorities are the Manpower offices on the fourth floor and the U of A bookstore.

## PCs balk from p. 1

fees for foreign students at Alberta universities by \$300.

McGhie said information presented to the PCYF, including a submission by Students' Union executive vp Howard Hoggins, convinced the junior PC organization that the senior party's move was "not necessary or justifiable."

The University of Calgary PCyf has passed a motion favor-

ing Hohol's two-tier tuition proposal.

"I think it's fair to say most U of C students are in favor of the proposed increase," McGhie said. "It (the U of C) is a fairly small 'c' conservative place."

The provincial PC party meeting accepts and debates resolutions from constituency party organizations and affiliated groups such as the PCYF.

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For more information contact Eileen Gillese, Vice-President, Finance and Administration, Room 259 SUB. Phone 432-4236.

Applications available from Receptionist, General Office, Room 256, Students' Union Building.