

Sparks looks to politics

by Allen Young

Better relations with the provincial and municipal governments, and more responsibility for individual council members are seen as two important goals for the Students' Union next year.

Newly elected Students' Union president Jay Spark said in a Gateway interview Monday he felt the Students' Union should

be more politically oriented on issues ranging from the upcoming Commonwealth games, which could result in far-reaching changes for the University, to things like city transit.

"It's all very well to have longer library hours," said Spark, "but they are not completely effective if the buses stop running before the libraries close."

Spark said the entire new executive has been working very closely with the outgoing

Zoeteman administration since the election, and has only a few criticisms of it. "Being on Council," he said, "I found that many criticisms of the executive's work this year must be directed to the council as well. Some issues could certainly have been more clearly dealt with."

"There was a lot of waffling back and forth on issues that could have been better presented. For example, the way council dealt with the recent question of violations of human rights, where the debate deteriorated into a procedural battle, could have been better handled."

When asked if he would like to see the Students' Union adopt a more vocal political stance on international issues such as violations of human rights, Spark said "if we go too international, we will tend to become too bogged down with time. Our executive should do more political work with provincial organizations like the Federation of Alberta Students."



SU president Jay Spark

Speaking on his plans to improve the U of A's interaction with FAS, Spark said if FAS is given strong support, it can make headway in solving important university problems such as students' finance, university day care services, and immediate

issues of differential fees, changing quota requirements.

"In the past," said Spark, "students' unions have thrown the work load onto FAS. The executive and the Student Council, have a responsibility we are to see FAS improve its working body, to do more research for the organization and take on more of the workload."

Even though the Spark executive officially took office only Thursday, at the Students' Union change-over meeting, some work has been done to implement campaign promises made in February.

"We are looking at a number of proposals for improving services of the bookstore. Some things as running the books in the ice arena next fall, getting more cash registers, operation are being considered."

"The executive may also be under pressure on professors to get books ordered well in advance and to give second choices of texts. There could also be a list made up of all books which are certainly be required for some courses."

Responding to a question about the role of a SU executive chosen by only 30 per cent of the electorate, Spark said he is concerned with the problem of student apathy. He added that the Students' Union executive has a responsibility to take control of the SU services, and use his time and position to present student input into such broad issues as tuition increases, as well as tie in the work done by various faculty associations.

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Forensic
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patient from Oliver. In October 1974, Edward Kuchciak was charged with the murder of three year old Calgary girl. He had been previously committed to the Hamilton Psychiatric Institution.

"In all of these cases, the individuals had been released by psychiatrists only to commit murders after their release."

In their report, the commission refers to a research study done by the American Psychiatric Association's Task Force on Clinical Aspects of the Violent Individual. They concluded that "Neither psychiatrists nor anyone else have reliably demonstrated an ability to predict future violence or dangerousness. Neither has a special psychiatric expertise in this area been established."

"Yet we still find psychiatrists giving opinions as to an individual's sanity in court, and we find convicted murderers and rapists being referred to psychiatric institutions when the psychiatrists have not demonstrated an ability to handle this kind of behavior."

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