Bryan Clark

the students' union personified



BUSINESS MANAGER BRYAN CLARK ... a failure as a plumber

a day off."

said.

times.

-Neil Driscoll photo

said Clark, "when I think I took

He started working full-time as

assistant business manager around May 1. "My duties at that time

were everything but finances," he

subject to failing health and was in and out of the hospital several

"We felt we couldn't let the bookkeeping fall behind," said Clark. "We (Dinwoodie and my-

self) decided, during a brief dis-cussion in his hospital room, we would appoint one of the secre-taries as bookkeeper.

"We decided this one afternoon

and she had to start the next day

which meant I had that one night to figure out—from scratch—the

entire bookkeeping system of the students' union. "Luckily she was quite a good student," he added.

Dinwoodie was still handling all of the finances himself when he died Dec. 20. Following his death, council appointed Clark acting

"There was nobody else who could have taken the position," said Clark. "I, with the few short months I'd been here, was the most

"The two girls in the office were excellent," he said. "The fact they

had been here longer than I was a

following Dinwoodie's death, the assistance offered by people in

other departments was really out-

"They were more than just empty words," he said. "The people really meant it and there

were many times I needed their help." While he was at a conference in

West Virginia in March, 1963 coun-

cil appointed Clark permanent business manager and "gave me a

Clark has been business manager

since and has proved invaluable

rather nice raise to go with it.'

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immediatel

business manager.

knowledgeable.

great help to me.

"In the fall of '62 Dinwoodie fell

By BERNIE GOEDHART

Bryan Clark has become a permanent fixture of the students' union bldg.

And, like most permanent fix-tures, people tend to take him for granted.

As students' union business manager, Clark has been doing the same hum-drum things for the past five years. These hum-drum things, however boring they may seem, are the backbone of the students' union operation.

Although Clark is primarily in charge of students' union finances, his duties range far beyond this. His position involves acting as advisor to student council, acting as a member of the students' union building committee, hiring and firing staff and generally acting as students' union handyman.

He first appeared on the U of A campus in 1956 when he enrolled in the faculty of engineering. This was a total disaster.

"I took one year of engineering," said Clark, "following which the faculty expressed the opinion that the academic year of 1957-58 could probably proceed without my attendance

"I took their suggestion to heart and stayed out two years. During the second year out I began to feel although I had a pretty good job working in construction (super-visory clerical work), I wasn't getting ar where so I came back to university."

Clark chose commerce by a process of elimination.

While in engineering, he managed to fail math, physics, chem and mechanics.

"On that basis I decided I should look for fields other than those which were basically science," he said. This was where the process of elimination came in.

Clark began part-time duties Jan. 1, 1962 as assistant to the business manager who, at that time, was W. A. Dinwoodie.

"I worked part-time 'til May,"

to the smooth operation of the stu-dents' union. Of his job, Clark said, "I don't think as a result of the four or five years here I could find a position that would give me as much job satisfaction as the one here.

"It's a fine kind of situation in which to work," he said. "It gives you some purpose in what you are doing that I don't think I could find elsewhere."

Clark has seen the U of A through ten years of growth. He has outlived ten students' union presidents. He has known count-less students, faculty and staff. He is therefore well qualified to speak on the changes the U of A has undergone during the past few years

Of students, Clark said, "I think they are in a peculiar position in the

members of the faculty. I'm not sure they have the background and experience to try and place themselves on the same level as faculty.

"For example, take this question of Vietnam. I would feel more confidence and sympathy for a statement made by a graduate student or faculty member than for a statement made by an arts 2 student

students shouldn't be concerned with these things. Thank God they

"I feel more confident of the things I say today even though they may be identical to the things I said five years ago.

this way, they gain experience and it's part of the way they develop as members of the intellectual community, if you wish. "But it's easy for young people to cast off too quickly the experi-ence of others."

ence of others. Were students concerned ten

they felt as strongly about making their influence felt in the com-munity."

"There's no question that the pressure of numbers has made this a much different kind of institu-tion," he continued. "I think the larger institution unfortunately

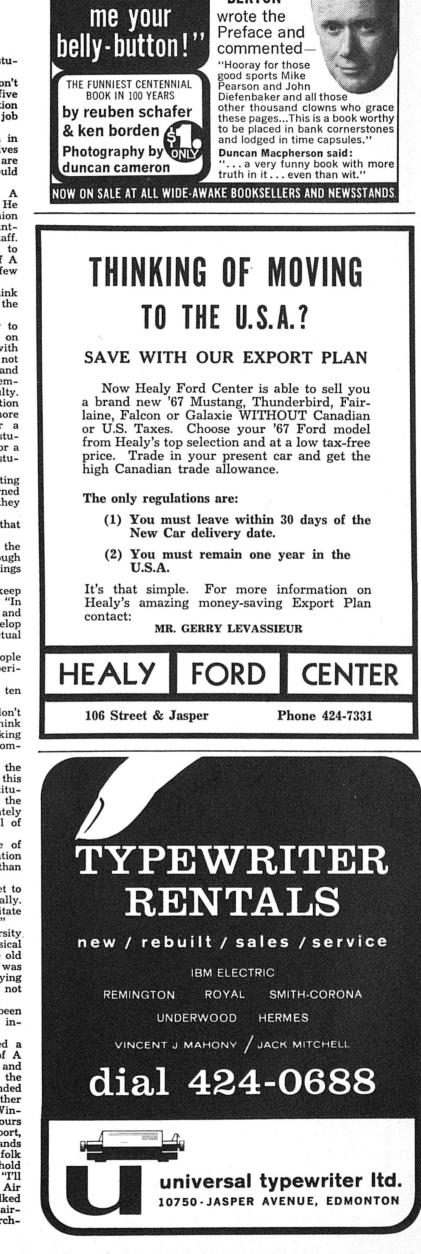
causes the loss of a good deal of the individuality of students. "Also, I suspect the degree of interdisciplinary communication interdisciplinary communication between students is less now than

it was ten years ago. "There is no way you can get to know 10,500 students, really. People tend therefore to gravitate

towards more specific groups." Clark has watched the university undergo a great number of physical changes. "I can remember the old covered rink," he said. " It was something of a central rallying point. Unfortunately this is not the case with the new rink."

During the ten years, he has been involved in several amusing incidents.

One of these incidents involved a marching band, cheerleaders and several football players. On the way home, the group was stranded in Winnipeg due to bad weather conditions in Edmonton and Win-nipeg. During the several hours spent in the lobby of the airport, "after many cups of coffee, hands of bridge and about 4,000 folk songs," the band decided to hold a rehearsal—in the lobby. "I'll never forget the faces of the Air Canada crew when they walked into the supposedly deserted airport and found a 40-piece marching band," laughed Clark.



THE GATEWAY, Thursday, March 16, 1967

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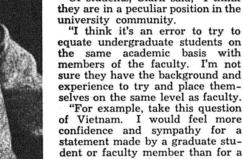
PIERRE

BERTON

wrote the

Preface and

13



'Mind you, I'm not suggesting

are. "They should just remember that

"I hope like hell students keep being concerned," said Clark. "In this way, they gain experience and

year ago? "Not very damn much, I don't thing," said Clark. "I don't think