

# This year's Students' Union exec thus far...

commentary by Ken Lenz

This year's SU executive headed by Robert Greenhill have now held office for almost 8 months.

With only 4 months left before their term of office expires, what has the SU accomplished, and have they done what they promised they would.

In a recent interview Greenhill stated, "Many of the things we have done are not visible to the students. These include the restructuring of the SU executive responsibilities, restructuring the Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) policy as well as many financial changes that will not be immediately visible because of redundancy payments."

From recent investigation it appears that most of what Robert Greenhill has done is either invisible, in committee or in the process of being implemented.

Greenhill's campaign last March strongly emphasized the need to prevent the SU from becoming the laughing-stock of the student population. This issue arose because of the recent election that was recalled because of unfair campaign practices by one of the parties. The policy of co-operation as opposed to confrontation in dealing with both the provincial government and the administration was presented. Making the SU more accessible to students was another key issue. Greenhill proposed the improvement of SU services in a couple of areas. The idea of merging the exam and housing registries was presented. Also there was a proposal to convert the curling rink into much needed club space. Finally the issue of getting the SU's 1.26 million dollar debt under control was emphasized by all of the candidates.

Admittedly this year's executive have done a good job of managing the financial side of the Students' Union. The debt will be considerably reduced this year and projected estimates indicate the debt will be entirely eliminated by 1985.

But there are other issues that have not been handled quite as well.

This Fall there was conflict between former VP academic Mark Hoyer. Hoyer cited philosophical differences with the other members of the executive as his reason for resigning. In particular Hoyer disagreed strongly of Greenhill's policy of "non-confrontational action" when dealing with the University administration or the Provincial government.

Asked to clarify his position Greenhill said, "Our approach is to use every legitimate channel, making viewpoints, making presentations and lobbying in a constructive manner. Confrontation is a last resort alternative."

Mark Hoyer said, "Greenhill really means not giving the government and the administration a hard time."

Hoyer later resigned citing his his 'having to compromise his personal

philosophy too often' as the reason.

After Hoyer's resignation Greenhill said Hoyer's problems stemmed mostly from reservations over "our entire system of liberal democracy."

It seems obvious that Hoyer had personality conflicts with the SU executive. The feeling among many Students' Council members is that Greenhill has still not grasped the real problem in this regard.

When questioned about why the exam registry did not open until three days before midterms, Greenhill replied, "The exam registry director resigned in September and the SU could not find another director in time. The service is now going on stream. We are hopefully going to be able to offer even better service later this year. There is the possibility of a staff sharing agreement being worked out between the exam and housing registries. This would offer the students even better service in the form of longer hours."

When asked about club space Greenhill replied, "First of all, we found the SU was in a far worse (financial) position than we had originally anticipated. Cash on hand was \$2-300,000 less than expected."

Greenhill added, "I hope to have 20 more club spaces built before the end of this term."

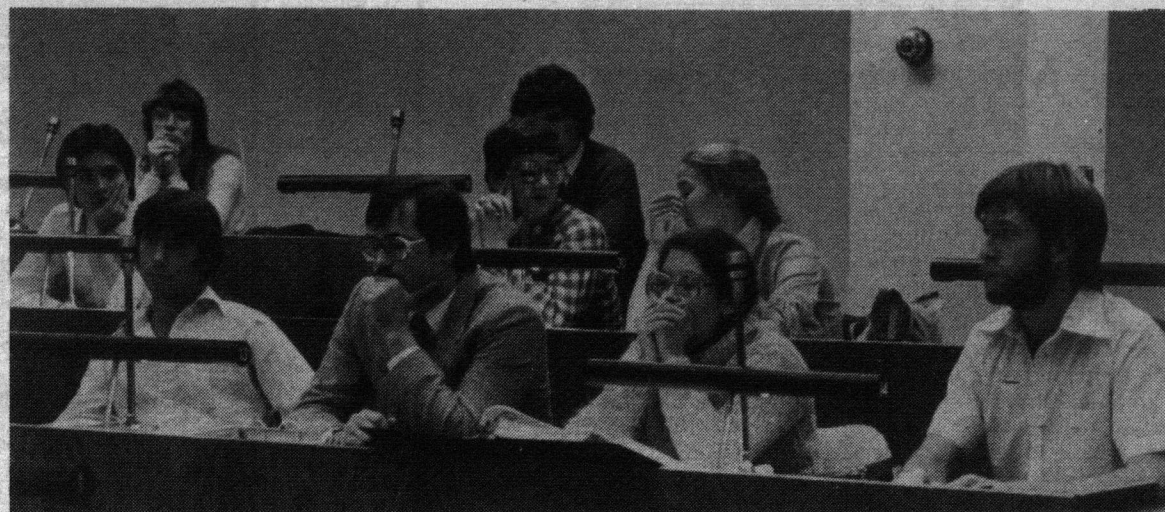
Dwayne Chomyn, Students' Council Arts representative, says about that last statement, "I think it is fairly safe to say that this will not be done before the end of this year. I don't know why Robert made that statement."

When asked what he has done to raise the profile of the SU Greenhill replied, "I, and some of the other executives are going to be doing classroom speaking this year. I will personally be speaking to all 1983 first-year students during University Orientation Days. We (the SU) have made pamphlets outlining the services offered by the SU as well as the personnel involved in the administration of the SU. These will be distributed throughout the campus, hopefully this week."

A controversial issue earlier this year was the SU policy, or lack of policy on private sector funding. The main question behind the issue is whether private sector funding will affect the University's academic autonomy.

When questioned on private sector funding Greenhill stated, "Council is in the process of developing a policy on private sector funding. Again this type of policy takes time but it is worthwhile because a well-thought-out policy will be used for years to come."

When asked how the Anti-Cutbacks Team is doing this year Greenhill replied, "Again, this is another late starter. The Anti-Cutbacks club was supposed to have been organized under the VP academic last summer. It wasn't but



This year's executive from left to right: Roger Merkosky, Ray Conway, Teresa Gonzales, Robert Greenhill; Losing the confidence of Council?

now it is going smoothly."

There is also discontent among some of the Students' Council members.

Oscar Ammar, Students' Council Arts representative, said about Greenhill, "Greenhill runs the SU too much like a business. We must act on all issues that concern students."

Dwayne Chomyn says, "Students didn't necessarily vote us in to educate them but on the other extreme, they didn't vote us in to manage a business. We clearly have a political dimension

After all, we are in essence a union, but Robert still is not sure of the extent of this quality."

Although Greenhill seems to have lost the confidence of many of his peers the fact cannot be overlooked that he has done some good. The financial position of the SU is looking much better, RATT has recently been renovated and is now getting more student use than ever before.

Greenhill has had many more problems this year than most previous presidents. The financial

headache combined with the early resignation of the VP-academic Mark Hoyer have made the functioning of the SU difficult.

Nevertheless questions have arisen over the primary function of the entire Students' Union. Is it a business? A political forum? A service organization? A lobby group? Has this year's executive fulfilled your ideas of what the Students' Union is for? Finally what do you want to see next year's candidates campaigning for?

## Pentagon funds research at UBC

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Pentagon-funded military research at the University of B.C. may increase after a defense industry seminar in Vancouver Nov. 22 and 23.

UBC representatives are meeting with officials from the U.S. defense department, and the U.S. Navy, Army and Air Force to discuss research and development contracts.

The conference is being sponsored by the B.C. ministry of industry and small business development.

"There could be direct benefit to areas of research they (the universities) are working on," said conference co-ordinator Michael Clark, of the ministry.

Research opportunities have dwindled because B.C.'s resource industries are holding back research funds during the recession, said Clark.

"The response (to the conference) has been terrific. The U.S. military is one sector of the economy that is not going through the recession," said Clark.

Ronald Burling, an oceanography professor, who was formerly in charge of a contract from the Pentagon for his department, said the conference may help UBC receive additional funding.

"It is quite possible. We are prepared to get support from that direction," said Burling.

In a letter to at least one UBC department head, the small business and industry ministry justified the conference by stating that Canada has agreed to share the financial burdens and economic benefits of NATO and that relationships between the U.S. and Canada "...has evolved into a North American defense concept where Canada is recognized as part of the U.S. mobilization base."

Chemistry professor Elmer Ogryzlo said he is doing research sponsored by the U.S. Air Force.

Ogryzlo is investigating the

night air glow present in the stratosphere.

"It's an area that satellites traverse. It could affect communications among satellites," he said.

"I've no idea why the Air Force is

interested in it," he added. "It is doubtful whether it would have anything to do with warfare."

A demonstration is planned for Nov. 22 at Robson Square, a provincial government display and office building in downtown Vancouver.

## Horsman reflects back

The biggest problem for any Minister of Advanced Education is an often poor line of communication with those affected by his decisions.

This sentiment was expressed by outgoing Minister James Horsman in an interview with *The Gateway* last week.

Horsman said that "the new Minister, (Dick Johnston) should attempt to keep in touch with post-secondary students, faculty, and administration by making frequent public appearances and hearing their concerns."

Horsman also hopes that Johnston will continue his policy of encouraging private sector funding for post-secondary education.

"I believe the safeguards I have

set up will protect University autonomy," said the Minister in reference to concerns recently expressed about the direction of funds donated.

Says Horsman, "Donations can also be encouraged from almost anyone," not just interested corporations, as is feared by some. Student associations, private citizens, alumni and many other groups are also encouraged to make contributions, he said.

Horsman believes his biggest accomplishment in the Advanced Education portfolio has been the creation of the Alberta Heritage Scholarship Fund. Something that will be "of lasting benefit after I'm gone."

## Boredom a hazard

(RNR/CUP)—If your job is deady boring, it may be deady... period.

A new study by American and Swedish researchers has uncovered a strong link between heart disease and people working at dull, non-decision-making jobs. According to preliminary findings, too few decisions are more dangerous than too many, and mail sorters may run a higher risk of heart attack than corporate executives.

Other dangerous jobs include those where machines dictate the pace, and jobs where workers spend

most of their time in contact with the general public.

Researcher Robert Karasek of Columbia University says these jobs are as risky as smoking or high cholesterol. Workers with the least chance of being bored to death: those in outdoor jobs like forestry and conservation, skilled professionals, and craft workers like blacksmiths.

Researchers say one way to eliminate the health hazards of tedious work would be to give workers more control over what they do.

## Attempted Sumor

### A Really Really Hard Quiz

by Abner Malle

Alright you budding Einsteins, here is perhaps the hardest test you'll ever encounter. For those with keen wit, sparkling intelligence and absolutely nothing worthwhile to do, here is a quiz you can take (or leave for that matter). Allow yourself exactly 23 1/4 minutes to complete the quiz (undergrads are allowed an equal amount of time to read the quiz). For the answers, simply prop the *Gateway* up against a wall and stand on your head.

- 1) If all the university staff, faculty and students got together for a meeting, where would it have to be held?
- 2) What is the longest perfectly straight line that a person can walk on campus?
- 3) What would be the best place to grow pot on campus?

- 4) What would a person have to wear to really look out-of-place in HUB Mall?
- 5) What the hell is it with all these legwarmers, anyway???

### Answers

- 1) Hell, you got me there!
- 2) Hmmm. Haven't really thought about it.
- 3) You know, that's a hard one. Give me a couple days.
- 4) Boy, these sure are tough questions. Is there a prize involved here?
- 5) Christ...you expect me to know everything? Look, I have a paper to work on. Get out of here.

BAZ

by SKEET and Nielsen

