

Borys seeks riddance of HUB ...at any price

"HUB is probably the greatest detriment the Students' Union has. It has prevented this organization from becoming more service-oriented, more politically-oriented. It has, in essence, crippled the viability of the Students' Union."

This is the opinion of Gene Borys, the Students' Union's V.P. finance over the last six months, who has shared a large part of the burden of solving the financial problems arising out of HUB. If the view of the 20-year old Commerce student prevails, the Students' Union will get rid of the White Elephant in the near future, probably even giving it away for free.

"As to whether we give HUB away or sell HUB, this question doesn't mean much considering the potential benefit of no longer having the building to look after."

Borys declined any comment on the actual state of negotiations between the S.U. executive and the University administration concerning the transfer of HUB.

The V.P. finance does not believe that a referendum will be held on the fate of HUB.

"The idea of a referendum is to determine specifically what students want. I believe from talking to students and from my four years experience on campus that students would like to see HUB turned over to the University. Only if I feel that students do not wish that, will I be in favour of a referendum."

Gene indicates that no pressure to hold a referendum has been brought forward so far.

The V.P.-finance maintains that the Students' Union should not have built HUB because it is not the students' responsibility to provide student housing. Nevertheless he feels that HUB served its purpose by providing housing for 1000 students during this year's housing crisis.

Gene Borys has little consolation for all those students who paid for HUB but never really benefitted from the building. Asked whether one might say that one generation of students had paid for the misjudgement of a former S.U. executive, he replies:

"You could say that. The fact that we've lost three quarters of a million dollars is a moot point because the money has already been lost. One has to realize that this was a business venture that didn't succeed. That's the risk of business. Circumstances and conditions always change. The original planners of HUB believed that it was viable on the basis of their existing conditions. Unfortunately conditions changed."

Gene believes that the Students' Union has a potential for generating more than enough revenue if the financial responsibility of HUB is

removed and if greater use of the Union's assets is made (i.e. better use of Dinwoodie and other facilities in SUB).

If the Students' Union got rid of the financial drain caused by HUB, some 200,000 dollars a year would be available for other purposes, or alternatively, a \$10 reduction in S.U. fees might become possible. Borys opposes a fee reduction and is not willing to allow a referendum on this issue.

"I would not be in favour of a fee reduction for three reasons. First, we have no reserves right now and if something critical happens, we would be helpless. The second reason is that with rising inflation and cost, to give a fee referendum would just mean that three years from now they would have to increase them anyway.

The most important reason is the potential of services which could be offered by the Students' Union. Things, like setting up grievance procedures and academic review boards. We have just reached the period now where we finally have the resources to do it. To cut the fees would almost eliminate the possibility to finally achieve the proper goals of the Students' Union."

Borys feels that a fee reduction might be appropriate if a slate ran saying "we'll reduce the fees by 10 dollars" and then got elected.

"When we got elected we promised two things: (1) more services, and (2) more student representation. And because we were elected I feel that's what students want.

"I think that the primary purpose of the Students' Union is to provide services. That's where the money should be channelled."

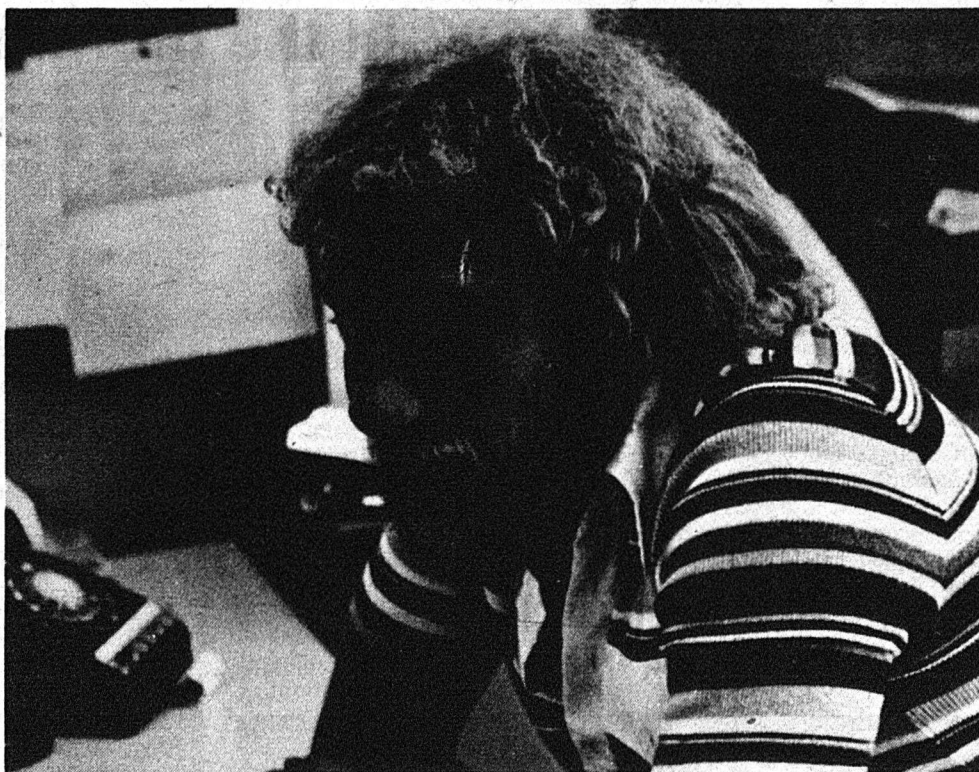
In the near future services such as CKSR and a year-round Housing Registry will be expanded or initiated. Gene feels that CKSR might close the communication gap between the student community and its Union.

"But I think it has to be integrated into a total plan. There's got to be a philosophy behind it. I think CKSR will become just one part in a total communication plan."

Borys indicates that the Gateway would be another major factor in such a communication scheme.

One major concern of the executive is to avoid that one "clique" will take over the radio station once it has been reopened. The executive is still looking at some research on CKSR and will make a formal presentation to Students' Council in the near future.

Gene's job as V.P.-finance is to prepare the S.U. budgets and to plan and organize various new programs initiated by the executive. In preparing budgets he believes that certain areas should break even because



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they are used by a limited number of students.

"Other areas which are used by a majority of students should not be run on a break-even philosophy, for example the Gateway, Special Events or forums.

"For every area you subsidize there is less money available for other programs. It's a matter for Council to set priorities where the money should be spent.

"Where you're gonna put your money is where you're putting your emphasis for the year."

Gene admits that he likes the challenge of juggling around financial priorities. Moreover, he thinks that his job as V.P.-finance has been very beneficial to him in an educational sense:

"I learned more through this office this year than I have learned through Commerce in three years."

by Harald Kuckertz

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