

President Cragg Reports . . .

Students' Council Faced Many Difficult Problems

The past year has been busy and productive. The rapidly expanding campus has brought Student Government face to face with a number of difficult problems. Much of this year's efforts has been directed towards meeting the problem of an ever-increasing student enrolment, as well as creating a strong but flexible Student Government which is capable of adjusting to new situations in the years ahead.

Experience on other campuses indicates that as a university grows, the authority of student council is decreased by the creation of autonomous committees and boards. Your Executive Committee this year has acted to ensure that this does not occur on our campus. Final authority for the spending of student funds must remain with the Students' Council. To this end, a number of changes have occurred. The Varsity Guest Weekend Committee and the Jubilaires organization are now directly responsible to Students' Council. Changes in the operation of the University Athletic Board will ensure that student control of that important body remain strong. The Students' Union Office has been reorganized to ensure efficiency and ready accessibility to student demands. Finally, a Program Board has been put into operation. This Board is directly responsible to Students' Council through the Co-ordinator. In turn, it is responsible for organizing new Students' Union Program as well as over-seeing and assisting the many Students' Union organizations which fall under its jurisdiction. It is to be hoped that this new Board will establish and maintain the lines of communication between Students' Council and Students' Union organizations which have been so sadly lacking in the past.

As the financial operation of the Students' Union increases in size and complexity, flexibility becomes essential in Students' Union finances. The rules and regulations of ten years ago are no longer satisfactory to meet present day demands. Two steps have been taken to ensure flexibility in our financial operations. The fee structure which was so long in existence has been abolished. In the future, Students' Council will be able to allocate funds on the basis of need. Thus, Students' Council will be able to adjust to ever-changing demands on Students' Union financial resources. In addition, the Honorarian system of the Students' Union has been revamped. No longer will Students' Union officers receive a pre-determined sum for their services. Future Councils will be able to access the contribution of each individual and reward them accordingly.

Student Government in Canada generally, and on this campus particularly, can no longer be concerned with only extra-curricular activities. Students, through their representatives, must take an interest in University, Municipal, Provincial, and Federal affairs. As a result, a number of issues were introduced by the Executive Committee to Council for their consideration: R.C.M.P. Security Investigations on university campuses was one such issue. Council took a strong stand and reported their views to the University Administration, the Provincial Government, and the Federal Government.

In addition, this problem was placed on the agenda of the Congress of the Canadian Union of Students. Action has resulted at the Federal level, which is most gratifying and which indicates the influences of students and Student Government in this country.

University Government is another concern of students. We are directly concerned and affected by University administration and policy. Consequently, Students' Council has prepared and adopted a report on University Government. It will be the duty of the new Council to ensure that students' views as expressed in this report, are heard and hopefully acted upon.

Another and very important action taken by Council resulted from an interpretation of the law by the mayor and the Chief of Police last fall which restricted the rights of individuals "peaceably to assemble." Council objected strongly to any such restriction and notified the municipal authorities of their views.

Also in this area of interest Students' Council took exception to a statement of Mr. Hinman which suggested a possible restriction on academic freedom. Actions of this nature are an important part of Council's responsibilities and should be continued in the future.

Academic affairs are another area of concern to students generally. A committee has been established to examine academic standards on this campus. In addition, this committee will ensure that any legitimate grievance on the part of student is heard by the Administration and the various faculties. This committee will also study Freshman Introduction Week and many of the problems facing first-year students with a view of making recommendations to Students' Council and to the University Administration next year.

Finally, the Canadian Union of Students has been active both nationally, regionally, and locally. At the national level, your executive has played an influential role in the reorganization of the Canadian Union of Students. The Western region of CUS has been represented by a student of this university, Dan Thachuk. On the local level, study is continuing on the problems of Biculturalism and Confederation. It is important that this campus make constructive recommendations both to the National office of CUS as well as the Royal Commission of Biculturalism set up by the Federal Government. Only through like action can students play an influential role in Canadian affairs.

As indicated earlier, a rapidly increasing student enrolment has created the need for the many changes listed above. It has also led to an expansion of Students' Union facilities and program. The most obvious concrete example is embodied in the Students' Union Building proposal. We have attempted to provide a building which will attract all students on this campus. We have attempted to plan a striking and attractive building which students will be able to identify as their own. We have attempted to provide a building with a stimulating, intellectual and social atmosphere. Here students will be encouraged to carry on activities which will balance and intensify their university experience. By providing a building which offers a stimulating program and exciting atmosphere, and which acts as a student gathering place, we hope to create at least part of the missing link between Student Government and the student body at large. The new building will also provide the facilities which will allow students to have a full and varied life during their university career.

The facilities in themselves are not enough. In order to cope with in-

creasing demands, it has been necessary to create a new position on the Students' Union staff. Next year we hope to have a man to fill the position of General Manager and Adviser to the Students' Union. He will be able to assist in the planning of the new Students' Union Building. He will also help to meet the ever-increasing demands on Students' Union personnel.

An expanded program has also become imperative. To this end, Students' Council has brought in a number of entertainment groups. The Travellers, Philip Hanson, the Grey-stone Singers, the Treble Clef Society, the Golden Bowl, exchange visits with UBC and Calgary, the hosting of the National Congress, provision for allocating \$300.00 annually for the purpose of establishing an art collection on this campus, and many other activities are but a few evidences of a greatly expanded Students' Union program. Thus, the Students' Council, the Executive Committee and the many other organizations and committees of the Students' Union have attempted to provide a leadership which has and will be required to meet the increasing demand on Student Government.

This year has seen the need for a major overhaul on Students' Union Policy. A growing student enrolment has insisted that Student Government either adjust or cease to play an effective role on this campus. The many adjustments made this year have in many cases been painful and difficult. Their success will be determined by the effectiveness of the new administra-

tion as they put this year's policy into effect.

Over the years, Student Government on this campus has gained an element of respect on the part of University and Governmental authorities unrivaled by student organizations across the country. Perhaps the most concrete evidence of the increasing influence of Student Government on this campus has been the negotiation carried out with the Board of Governors and the Provincial Cabinet. With reference to the new Students' Union Building and Residence fees, the views of students have been presented both effectively and responsibly. A two and a half hour presentation to the Cabinet brought the attitudes and wishes of students clearly to light. The results although not dramatic, will I hope, influence the government's attitude toward University problems. Also for the first time in the history of the Union and as a precedent across the country, the Executive Committee was allowed to present their views on University facilities and particularly on the new SUB directly to the Board. The Executive was invited to present their views on two separate occasions and at some length. The results will be felt for some time to come.

Only if we continue to forge ahead to meet the increasing duties and responsibilities, will our position be maintained. With this in mind, your Students' Union has attempted to meet the problems of this year. The future will determine our success, and I hope, correct our mistakes.

A. W. Cragg,
President



CAMPUS DUET—Wesley "Rocky" Cragg and Branny "The Bullet" Schepanovich are shown seconds before they paced off for their final duel, dedicated to the support of that finest campus shindig, Bar None. "Rocky" has been trying to give "The Bullet" both barrels for some time, but who has ever hit a bullet?

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