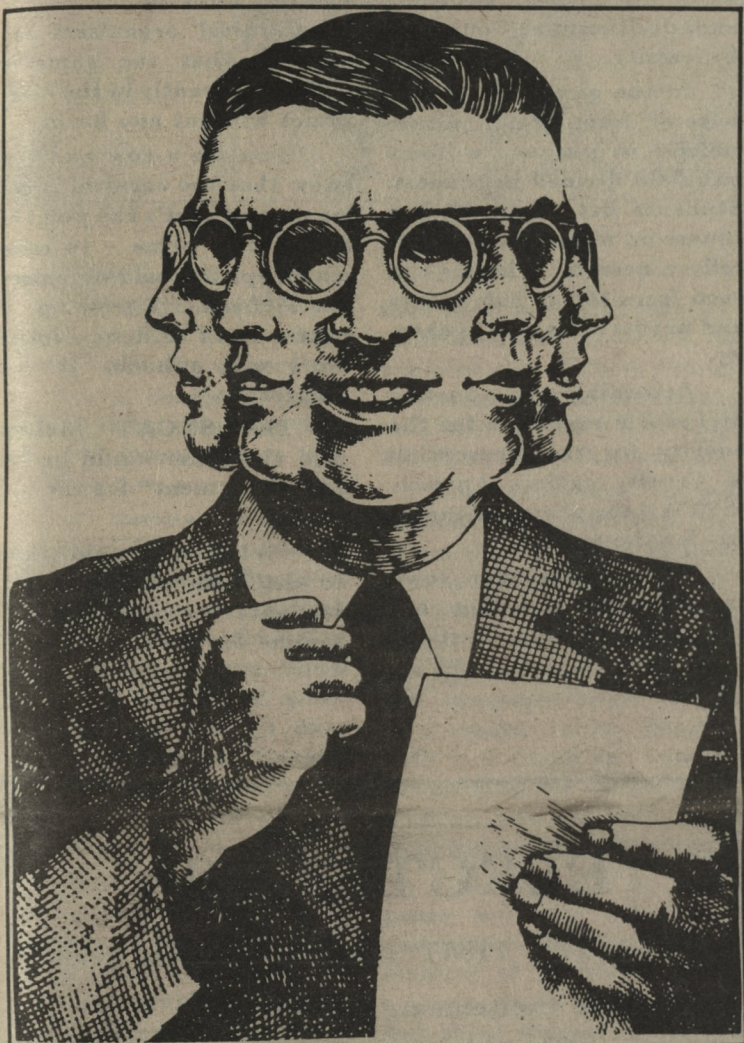


## COMMUNICATIONS POSITION GETS GO AHEAD



A NEW EXECUTIVE position in the Student Union was given approval by students at Monday's referendum. Students voted 220 in favour and 6 against creating the new Vice-President Communications position. This elected position will not be filled this year, but will be voted on next October at the earliest.

In addition to the VPC position, students permitted several amendments to the UPEI Student Union Constitution. These 'housekeeping' amendments were the final step needed in deleting the position of Entertainment Director, which was eliminated last year due to lack of need. The amendments spread the duties formerly assigned the Director among the four Student Union executive members.

Ron Cameron, Student Union Chief Returning Officer said he was pleased with

the voter turnout for the referendum.

"It was surprising for a referendum," he said. "We got 226 voters which is roughly 11% of the students." This compares with a 15-18% turnout usually seen for full Student Union elections.

The turnout was especially high considering the referendum was held the day after mid-semester break.

However, a general information session was to be held Feb. 17th in The Pit to allow students to ask questions about the new position and amendments before the referendum. Due to what was described by Student Union President Steven Wynne as "crossed wires", the session was never held. This had led some to believe that perhaps the unusually low number of no votes indicates many didn't understand what they were vot-

ing for and simply voted yes when asked.

President Wynne disagrees. He says he sat at the polling station most of the afternoon on Monday and did a little spiel for each voter.

"Most did know (about the referendum)", he said. "There were questions asked by the voters and I did my best to explain it."

Returning Officer Cameron said that he too did his best at the polling station to inform students.

"When they were given the ballot they were asked if they knew what they were voting for. If they didn't they were given a pamphlet and asked to read it before voting," he said. "Since the general information session didn't go off we wanted to make sure people understood what they were voting on."

President Wynne said that a leaflet published by The Gem was also very effective in informing students. The leaflet contained the information required by the SU constitution to be published before a referendum and Wynne said that students noticed it more than if it were simply printed in the paper itself.

"We also plastered copies of it up everywhere", he said.

However, one first year

student said that he saw the voting table set up Monday but he thought it was an information desk.

"It could have been anything," the student said. "I knew nothing about it. I had seen it in The Gem in passing. I don't know what a VP communication does."

### What you voted for

The Vice-President Communication position, according to the Student Union VPC Committee, was created to "establish a much greater knowledge on and off campus regarding all aspects of the Student Union."

This means that the VPC will be responsible for all communications from the Student Union, both on and off campus.

On campus, for example, the VPC will be responsible for publicizing upcoming events such as pubs or Student Union general meetings. At present, publicizing Student Union general meetings held in The Pit is the joint responsibility of the four existing Student Union executives. The VPC will take on that responsibility entirely to ensure posters are up in time.

The person will also be required to write summaries of Student Council meetings so what happens at them can

be understood by ordinary people. The VPC will also run the Student Mini Centre, a desk which has been set up in The Pit to act as a sort of second Student Union office providing information services, yearbooks, and ticket sales for pubs.

Off campus, the VPC will be the person responsible for writing press releases and drafting letters to federal or provincial government officials. The VPC will also be required to participate in High School career days by presenting those students with information about the Student Union.

In general, the Vice-President Communications is responsible for the flow of information from the Student Union to the students, faculty, staff, and off campus bodies such as government.

According to President Wynne, a VPC will not be elected in the upcoming general Student Union elections. This is due to restrictions in the UPEISU Constitution regarding voting procedures. Students will have to wait until October elections at the very earliest before the position can be filled.

## Phone-in system easy as pizza pie

ST. CATHERINES (CUP)— Registering for a course at Brock University in April will become as easy as ordering a pizza, once a new computerized system is installed.

The \$175,000 system will allow students to phone in their course numbers using a touchtone phone instead of spending long hours waiting in line.

It will operate 12 to 15 hours a day and handle up to 14 calls at a time.

Student services dean Ron McGraw said the growing number of students at Brock has made registration in person "a luxury."

But some faculty members say the system will cause problems. Students without the proper prerequisites may find themselves "deregistered" when they come to class, a marketing and management professor said.

Although some students may find talking to a computer dehumanizing, McGraw said, the time saved is more important.

"What is dehumanizing is these line-ups," he said.

The University of Alberta was the first Canadian city to install the system two years ago, and the idea has been considered by Concordia University in Montreal and Memorial University of Newfoundland.