

Don't Just Stand There-Find Out What's Going On

Reflecting on the recent Student Union Meeting that took place last Monday night, I could not help but voice an opinion implying that candidates running for particular offices, tackled important but secondary problems; such as the improvement of social life on campus, a new student union building, a new athletic complex, a radio station that needs more watts, the fixing up of Memorial Hall and other trivia concerning the betterment of our social atmosphere here on campus. At the time, I voiced my opinion that the candidates should have been more concerned with the academic aspects of university in terms of how it related to the development of personal creativity as well as its relation & relevance to the local and global community because after all this is supposed to be the main reason why we are here in university in the first place.

My reason though, for writing this article is to try to explain that the reason why students have devoted so much attention to "secondary problems" is primarily because we as students have failed to recognize the "root problem" here on campus, or to put it another way we try to solve secondary problems without ever asking why the problem is there in the first place. I am merely suggesting that if we got to the root of the problem here on campus, a lot of these secondary problems can be alleviated.

As far as I am concerned the root problem that we as students have virtually ignored and now are beginning to recognize, is the importance of the major decision making committees on campus and the role they play in determining university policy. Committees such as Senate, Tenure, Academic Planning, Course Evaluation and Board of Governors, must be recognized and understood by students, if one is to really find out why things are the way they are in this university (in an academic financial and hence in an athletic and social sense). Once we find out how important these decision-making committees are in terms of dictating university policy, we must then look at the student representation on each of these committees. Roughly, there are around

41 people who sit on the influential decision making committees that dictate university policy, 8 of which are students. If we are to carefully look at why there is very little change on this campus benefiting students, I suggest it is due to the students failure to recognize the importance of these decision making committees; as well as the fantastic misrepresentation of the students, who are the university, in terms of how these committees relate to their academic financial, athletic and social reality, here in this university.

The students are the university. Without the students there is no university. It is imperative that we as students, have an awareness as to how the internal structure of the university works, and then once we have this awareness we can make the university service students. Hence, it is vital that students begin to attend as many student council and Senate meetings as possible, as well as read both the university and student constitutions. The better we understand how the University operates, the easier it



is to enact change. Student council and Senate meetings are announced regularly so it is up to the students to have the initiative and responsibility to find out what is happening.

This university can be a dynamic, stimulating, active and exciting university if people really think about why they are here and what they really want out of university. Thinking critically as to whether

or not the potential of talents and resources are being effectively developed in university will determine how we as students, when we graduate, will contribute to a society that is already tragically characterized by passiveness, alienation, dehumanization, oppression, and one dimensional men.

Yours for the cause of awareness and active participation, Art Laffin

Viewpoint-

Opinions Of The Senate Meeting

We had been planning to touch on a lighter topic this week, but decided instead to get some opinions on the events at the Senate meeting Wednesday night.

Some of the people we asked had been present at the meeting and we talked to the rest to see how fast the news would travel.

Orville Lewis was not there, but he was aware of the incident. He was not overly pleased with Pres. Baker's actions and said that the seat should be occupied by Doug Smith. He also thought that the students should have been better prepared to face controversy before going to the meeting.

President Elect "Woozy" MacDonald was at the meeting. He felt that Baker's stand was ridiculous, constitutionally unfounded and a waste of time for the Senate members who showed up planning to conduct business; there is no question in his mind that Doug Smith should have the seat.

Gorden Campbell S.U. President, had quite a bit to say and we had some trouble condensing it down to fit. The main gist of it is: Baker acted irresponsibly and abused his chairmanship by acting stubbornly against a majority. Pres. Baker has gone way out on a limb and can't get off without backing down, but no matter what he does, his integrity is in question.

Charlie MacKenzie heard about the meeting and was pissed off at Baker walking out. He said that if Marilyn was impeached by the students, then she had no right to the seat, and it should go to Doug. He also said that a quorum of 14 Senate members could appoint a new chairman and continue without Baker. Kip Puia was not present but thought that it was about time Senate stood up to Baker. It shows Baker's incompetence. Changes are coming and this is only the beginning.

Austin MacDonald hadn't

heard of the Senate fiasco but told us about 3 football players who stripped a basketball player (M.C.) & tying him to a chair in Bernadine. There he stayed at the mercy of cameras until Security rescued him with a blanket. (all male participants are residents of Memorial)

Wade MacLaughlin "The essence of what took place at Senate is that President Baker 'got up on his high horse' over a personal principle. He did not have a legal leg to stand on and this was quite apparent to both students and faculty as evidenced by the defeat of the adjournment motion. This defeat can be interpreted only as a vote of non-confidence in his handling of the matter.

On the basis of the people we interviewed and the general buzz around campus, we have decided to declare this "Stand up to Baker Week".

Ray MacDonald & John Underhay