

Six-member faction emerges in recent Co-op Board election

As a result of the recent Co-op board elections a new six member faction will make its presence known on the ten member board in the near future.

Mike Doran, a third year graduate student in geography serving for a second year on the board, sees the group not so much as a faction but rather as a "group of people possessing a similar set of ideas" concerning the Co-op.

Other members of the group include Pieter Diekman and Marie Hartman, graduate students in geography. Brian Mahoney, Jamie Harris, and Peter Hall round out the faction: all are under graduates.

Included in that similar set of ideas is a desire to increase the number of students hired on a part-time basis by the Co-op.

Doran said that firing present employees would not be acceptable. Rather, a gradual replacement of many full-time non-student employees by part-time student employees, or student wives on a part-time basis as a second choice, would be acceptable, he said.

Gerald Henson, manager of the Co-op argues that as many students are hired as is feasible. He explained that "in the school year 1970-71 92 students worked for the Co-op on a part-time basis. They drew a payroll of \$44,000. In addition, 11 student wives worked part-time." Doran questions the amount of money paid to full time employees in comparison to that of part-time students.

"In the last year a resolution was passed by the board in which students first, student wives second and all others last would be hired. The resolution was not obeyed by Henson," Doran said.

"At a later meeting the board repudiated the resolution and in essence told Henson that he could do as he damned well pleased," said Doran.

The liberal group also sees a need for increased communication between the Co-op and the University community.

As an example of the lack of communication Doran cites the last meeting of the general membership at which a total of five members, aside from board members, were present. The co-op has a membership of 4,000.

To improve communications Doran suggests that all board members establish office hours during which they would hear problems and suggestions

brought forth by any member of the University community.

He mentioned that a suggestion box already exists but that "in the past months it has been used very little." Doran leveled criticism at the Co-op management saying, "the manager is the reason for the store being what it is: good for being in the black, bad for communications."

Another area of concern for the group is that of prices. Doran charges that prices are too high, adding that in the near future a survey to compare prices of the Co-op with other retail outlets in the area will be conducted to find where the "rip-offs" occur.

According to Doran, John Wish, associate professor of marketing and also a co-op board member, will lead the study which will concentrate in areas such as art supplies and electronic equipment, including records.

Co-op management on the other hand argues that most prices, other than those of text books, must remain relatively high if the store is to remain profitable.

The Co-op does not determine text book prices, according to Henson. Prices are rather dictated by the many publishers. And, he said, even at those prices money is lost, the result being the relatively high prices of other items.

Doran said "the actual price may be suggested but it is set at what the manager wishes."

Also on the agenda for change, says Doran, is the procedure followed for determining the amount of rebate which is due Co-op members at the end of each year. According to Doran, at least half of all receipts, from which rebates are determined, are lost or misplaced through carelessness. He had no plan to remedy the situation, but said that something must be done soon.

To Doran's accusation Henson replied, "He's out of his head," and went on to say that only one such incident had occurred in fifty years, and will not happen again in 100 years.

Henson added, "We have not deprived anybody of anything."

Also under consideration by the group is the allotment of \$50,000 which would determine the feasibility of a computerized pre-registration system. Pre-registration would, according to

Doran, allow the Co-op to order the exact number of text books needed and thus save money.

Diekman, another member of the group, expressed concern over the fact that the Co-op has gone the way of all businesses, that is, it has become self-generating and self-perpetuating. Diekman feels that "a Co-op is established for a group, in this case the students of the University, to serve the purposes and needs of that group.

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