

Photo Club Controversy

Comments from Mark Rock

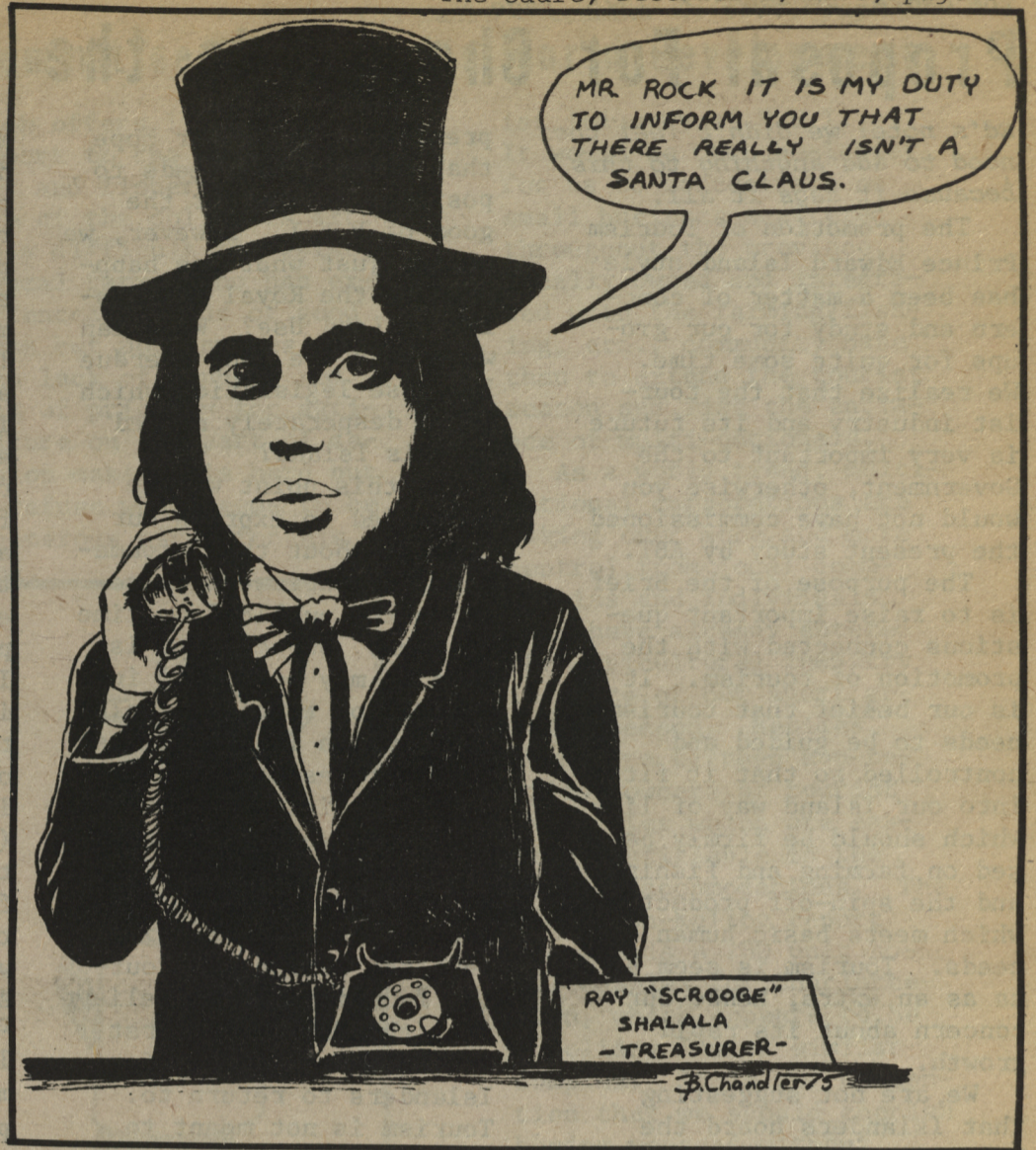
It appears the S.U. executive still has its head in the sand. The only position in the photo club ever resigned was chairman; the original reason photo printing stopped was because a purchase order for fixer was refused, at which time 3 gallons were borrowed, used, and still have not been replaced by your honest executive. Some member's property was removed from the darkroom, and the door locked and sealed. That's how photo club members found out they had resigned. They have not passed in resignations, and would be willing to work under a new treasurer.

The 1975-76 yearbook is practically lost. There is no editor, no pictures except grad pictures. There are two members of the ex-photo club graduating and who would like a yearbook. By now it will take a month and a half before the two months or so work in the darkroom is even started. But for council, it would be finished now.

Any new club formed will produce pictures for the yearbook, starting about March 7 or so. People studying in the library is really hot yearbook material.

While your Student Union administrators sit back and try to place blame for this fiasco on club members, the chances of having a photo club or a yearbook grow more and more remote. Why? "Well I'm too busy right now with exams and everything but maybe after Christmas..."

And speaking of Ray, in reference to his statements on the radio, I hope he's no business major. The way he worked out the supposed \$500 per print cost for the club was to count 150 published pictures in the yearbook, excluding grads. This took no account of approximately 600 pictures asked for that weren't used, besides Cadre pictures (about 100). When you work it out right, it comes out under \$2.00 per print, doesn't it? Finally the people who were discour-



uraged from joining the club. It can't be denied that they were discouraged. When they were shown the equipment the student un-

ion kept in there, no one could have been more discouraged, and no amount of talking could get them back.

Michael Hartshorn with His Interpretation

To me, the purpose of a Student Union function is to attempt to benefit as many of the people within that union as possible. The Photo Club was not accomplishing this. It is a fact that on two occasions that I know of, (and who knows on how many other occasions) students were discouraged from joining the Club. They had such a tight little clique that it was impregnable. The main purpose of the Photo Club was not so much to take pictures, but to give interested students a chance to learn about photography. This simply was not being accomplished.

The Photo Club tries to justify their existence by the pictures they produce for the Yearbook and the Cadre. These could be produced more economically by having it done professionally. So the mere existence of a Photo Club is questionable in my mind, given that it is not benefiting more than a handful of students.

This brings me to the point of the budget. The Council offered the Club a budget of \$1,400. The Photo Club said that they

needed at least \$2,056 to run. The budget committee then said they could supplement their given budget with money they earn. Here is where the real issue comes in, the Photo Club felt that anything they earn should go into their pockets. I strongly feel that this handful of students should be willing to do the work they do for the Student Union. No other activity of the Student Union on campus can use the Student Union resources to make money for themselves. Otherwise we would have bartenders selling their own beer and keeping the profit, we would have the Social Committee making the money off the bands they booked, etc.

So when the budget committee told the Photo

Club to use their earnings to achieve the budget they needed, they replied with a flat no and said that if they didn't get the money they wanted, they would quit.

The student Council executive then decided they would accept the resignation. The Photo Club was trying to put council over a barrel by saying that if they didn't get what they wanted, they were going to screw up the Cadre and Yearbook.

Right now, it stands that the council refuses to be put over a barrel. Instead they are making attempts to get pictures through other means. They may not have all the answers to that yet, but they are making every effort to find the best possible means.

It would have been a grave mistake for the executive to succumb to the Photo Club. To read trash like Kip Puia's which evades the real issue, and is only trying to make someone look bad, to make himself look knowledgeable re-

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