ASG: combating student apathy

Jamie Hargrove

ASG now has well over one hundred active students working for it in congress and in the committee system. They are proving to themselves, to other students, and to the University that the key to success is found in enthusiastic and unapathetic students working together.

So what is ASG doing in its effort to combat the massive organization call “Student Apathy”? Student Government is expanding established committees and adding new and exciting committees to the structure in its attempt to push a load in the battle against apathy.

The problem seems to lie in the area of communications and a simple two step solution is being sought. First is to find out what the students’ needs and views are. The newly formed Student Opinion Poll is a step in that direction. It is the first random sample opinion poll to be administered on a regular basis to aid ASG. Its purpose is to provide student government with an up-to-date analysis of accurate information about how students feel toward various issues and problems. It takes the guess work out of ASG. Another aspect to this same solution is the reorganization of the complaint committee. This committee will consist of students actively questioning other students to open the way for new ideas and programs. It increases ASG boundaries to include all students views.

Step number two in the fight against apathy is to keep students informed. The new Public Relations Speakers Corps is doing just that, along with the new ASG Bi-Monthly Updates, an expanded communications committee, the housing committee, the new WKYU-Ask-It radio program and, of course, this newsletter.

It used to be that a bad word about ASG or a negative letter to the editor about student government didn’t really offend too many people. But ASG is no longer simply a body of forty-six students elected to take the abuse of apathetic students. It is a growing organization involving more and more students who are taking much more pride in the students and the organization that is set up to represent this great student body of WKU. So watch out because the times are changing and the tables are turning for a stronger student body—a stronger student government.

Resolutions passed by ASG offer new student services

The past congresses of student government at Western have achieved many accomplishments since ASG’s establishment at Western in 1966. The 1979-80 congress is in the process of passing several topics of legislation in an attempt to improve student services.

This semester, ASG has been successful in getting Regent’s Avenue, located between the College of Education building and Bemis-Lawrence Hall, rezoned from faculty parking to student parking.

Resolutions recommending the rezoning of Grise Hall and Potter Hall parking lots from faculty to student parking and the designating of a floor in the parking structure as faculty parking have also been passed by ASG this semester. The resolutions must now pass through several University committees before they are officially approved.

In an attempt to achieve equal student representation on congress, ASG has unanimously passed an amendment guaranteeing 8 on-campus seats, 8 off-campus seats and 8 general representative seats on congress. In the past, students have been represented by 24 representatives-at-large. With the new representation, congress hopes to obtain a greater percentage of student representation from the dormitories, therefore, an increased number of on-campus opinions voiced.

ASG's accomplishments since 1966 have helped or resulted in the improvement of many areas on campus that affect students:

1. Placement of a television room in Downing University Center.
2. Designation of 15 minute loading and unloading zones near dormitories.
3. Student representation on the WKU Board of Regents.
5. Achieving the present closed-door policy for dormitory visitation.
6. Obtaining the stereo listening center at Downing University Center.
7. Scheduling of pre-registration for junior and senior students.
Homecoming

Preparations for Western’s 50th Homecoming are in full swing as students, faculty and staff work to get campus ready for the return of thousands of WKU alumni to “the hill” on Oct. 27.

Alumni receptions and events are scheduled for the weekend, but student activities fill the entire week preceding Homecoming. Many long hours will be spent stuffing parade floats, decorating houses for competition, and planning banquets and dances.

Weeklong activities include:

- **Tuesday, Oct. 23**
  - 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Homecoming Queen Elections, DUC
  - 5 p.m. Outdoor Concert, DUC lawn
  - 6 p.m. Homecoming Pep Rally, DUC lawn
  - 8 p.m. Pat Paulsen Show, Diddle Arena, free to Western students

- **Friday, Oct. 26**
  - 8 p.m. Homecoming Concert, Pablo Cruise tickets $7 ($8 day of show)

- **Saturday, Oct. 27**
  - 10 a.m. Homecoming Parade
  - 12:30 p.m. Queen’s Coronation
  - 1 p.m. Homecoming Game, Western vs. Morehead
  - After the game Homecoming Reception, DUC lawn
  - 8 p.m. Homecoming Dance, Garrett Conference Center Ballroom

Get the facts from Hargrove on WKYU-Ask-It

WKYU-Ask-It, a project of ASG Communications Committee, is a radio talk show aired Bi-monthly on campus radio station WKYU.

The show, featuring ASG President Jamie Hargrove, answers questions about student life that are mailed or phoned in by Western students.

Questions on shows in the past have stirred interest in several topics already, and we hope for further success. Call or write in your questions to: Associated Student Government, Downing University Center, 745-4354 and listen as your questions are answered every other Monday night at 7 p.m. on 580 WKYU.

Western’s cheerleaders and the Big Red Marching Band lead the 1979 Homecoming parade down Center Street. The theme was Red Letter Days in history.

University Center Board sponsors new programs

The newly created University Center Board’s key responsibility is to plan and organize student activities. This is the Board’s first year and it has many goals and objectives.

Chairman Dan Pelino stresses that the UCB consists of a broad representation of campus groups that will “ensure programs for all sectors of the campus community.”

Members serving on the Board are the ASG president, ASG’s vice-president for activities and programs and a representative selected from each of the following groups: ASG, Inter-Fraternity council, Panhellenic, United Black Students, Women’s residence halls, and Men’s residence halls. Two representatives from the programming committees and three faculty members will also serve on the board. The dean of student affairs and the director of university centers will serve as ex-officio members.

There are five planning committees—Contemporary music, Lecture, Arts and Exhibits, Recreation and Leisure Life.

Contemporary Music will present a diversified program of major concerts, mini concerts and dances. Lecture Committee will be responsible for scheduling outside speakers for on-campus lectures. The Arts and Exhibits’ duty is to present a series of art exhibit within the university center, to present a cultural entertainment series, and to oversee the stereo-listening center and the craft shop. The recreation Committee will oversee the recreation floor of the Downing Center and sponsor tournaments. Leisure Life will plan theme programs such as Halloween, Christmas, April Fest and offer various other leisure-time activities.

Seven members were selected at large from the student body to serve on each of the 5 committees.

“UCB encourages involvement and offers leadership opportunities,” says Ron Beck, director of university centers. Beck also foresees expansion of existing programs, such as the mini-course series, and development in new areas. Ideas being considered include offering low cost student trips and displaying local and campus talents in the stereo listening center.
ASG organizes PR Speakers’ Corps

Associated Student Government’s newest committee, the Public Relations Speakers’ Corps, was organized this semester to inform students and faculty of ASG—its history, past projects, composition and misconceptions.

Committee member Tuwanda Coleman presented the first speech of the semester to Gamma Sigma Sigma, a WKU service sorority, on Oct. 1. Following the presentation, ASG speakers talked with members of the group to identify ways the groups can work together for the benefit of each organization.

Members of the speakers’ corps are Coleman, Jane Burton, Ken Cooke, Charmane Fowler, Bob Moore, David Sturgeon and Steve Thornton.

The speakers’ corps plans to contact a majority of people on campus by presenting the program to faculty and student organizations. During the month of October the Speakers’ Corps made presentations to Circle K, Forensic Union, Accounting Club and Delta Sigma Pi, and Gamma Sigma Sigma.

Any campus organization may contact committee chairman Leslie Freels or the ASG office (745-4354) to schedule a presentation or suggest a subject for discussion.

Freshmen elect 2 new officers

The newest Congress members for this year are Pat Connors and Marcel Bush winners in the freshman election on Oct. 2. Connors, a Jeffersontown broadcasting major, narrowly defeated Anthony Smith for the presidential office. Connors and Smith were the winners in the primary election held Spt. 25. Marcel Bush, a broadcasting major from Lexington ran unopposed for the office of vice-president.

Rules and Elections Committee chairman Tim Irons said that there was a larger voter turnout in the general elections than in the primary. Irons stressed tight control at the voting poll to ensure a fair election and said security was the committee’s top priority.

Congratulations Marcel and Pat!

Student: Please answer the following questions and return to the ASG Office.

1. Do you think your opinions are being voiced through ASG?
2. How can ASG better represent you and other students?
3. What specific suggestions do you have for improving ASG Programs?
4. Questions for WKU-Ask-It:

Dear Student:

...This is a great time to be a student! Career opportunities are readily available in most fields for people who work hard and have some innovative abilities. America is looking for leadership. I hope you plan to become one of its leaders.

...In the brief time that I have been here, I have become acquainted with many of you. You are an impressive and enthusiastic group. You represent nearly every county in the state, all the bordering states, and numerous other countries. Because of your varied backgrounds, there is much that we can learn from each other.

...During your years at Western you will develop your own approach to learning, but I want to offer a few suggestions. First, build friendships. Most of us are products of the people we have come to know. Some we admire and want to imitate; others we find deficient and want to avoid making similar errors in our own lives. One beauty of this campus is that people care and want to be your friends. Every person you meet may not express it the same way, but we all want to see you succeed and share in your triumphs or disappointments.

...Secondly, get to know yourself. Education is more a process of learning how to overcome personal limitations than it is one of collecting a huge storeroom of facts. Set goals for yourself. Every piece of evidence I read about successful people contains a statement about their ability to set and achieve goals that are of value to them. In the process of trying to achieve your objectives, you will make important discoveries about yourself.

...Thirdly, develop your leadership skills. Now is the time to learn the basic characteristics of problem solving. Leadership is participation, not arrogance. Learning to help other people to accept responsibility and grow is an important trait. Draw other people into the process of solving problems, and you will feel a sense of accomplishment. Check your own values. What do you want from a leader? You will find that most people have the same expectations.

...Finally, build on what you can do, not what you can’t. Few of us can run a four-minute mile, but we all can jog. Many of us can’t star in plays, but we can applaud an outstanding performance. Only the most gifted win the Nobel Prize, but all of us can find ways to serve other people and our communities. Life is a process of sharing and so is education.

Best wishes,
Donald W. Zacharias
Bates adds 'creative touch' to ASG

The struggle to victory was a difficult one for "Boy Bates." His successful campaign for ASG Activities Vice-President was a competitive one with tough opponents. But Bates' imaginative off-the-wall slogans and posters, created with donated materials and the help of many friends, brought the 22-year-old rugby player to his new position on ASG Executive Council.

Dean Bates, a senior environmental engineering technology major from Fairport, New York (a suburb of Rochester), said that he enjoys planning activities which will involve all students on Campus by providing "good, clean fun."

The newly created University Center Board has assumed many of the responsibilities that belonged to past activities vice-presidents. Bates serves as a member on the UCB—aiding in the selection of concerts, lectures, and special events; advising ASG of UCB activities, and taking ideas from ASG to UCB.

Bates said that he ran for the office last semester because he wanted to "have a say about what happens on and around campus."

His position as activities vice-president gives him the opportunity to "fight for what the majority of students think is necessary for Western."

Since his election in April, Bates has set several goals for the coming year. Among these goals is to get all students involved with campus activities and to "touch on the fringes of the students' tastes in music and offer a wide variety of music—soul, jazz, bluegrass, and rock—with the limited budget available to the University.

Following graduation in May of 1980, Bates hopes to attend graduate school at the University of Kentucky or Vanderbilt, or join the Peace Corps.