

# Media Board/ Student Graphics tussles: a case of politics

By Howard Troxler

Now that the existence of Student Graphics is at least temporarily assured, another look is needed at the underlying forces at work in the Graphics Board of Directors—Steve Gould—Media Board Situation.

Graphics' General Manager Steve Gould has claimed that efforts to dissolve the corporation were "political, rather than economic." This is true to the extent that campus politicians made the value judgment that Graphics was no longer worth the trouble to maintain it. Student Body Treasurer and Graphics Board member Tod Albert said, "The conditions that led to the establishment of Graphics no longer exist. There are now other places where students' needs can be met."

Now, the Graphics Board of Directors has decided not to dissolve the corporation—or

at least failed to dissolve it. It is now the board's responsibility to make sure that Graphics is run correctly. It is the board's responsibility to make mature, well-informed and intelligent decisions concerning Graphics, and to work with Steve Gould rather than against him, as it is Gould's responsibility to cooperate and work with the board within the bounds set on him by that board.

The Media Board and the Board of Directors have the same faults of any student organization. Its members are transient. There are other concerns that detract from members' willingness to give time to the board. There is a lack of cooperation between outgoing and incoming board members. Transition is rocky at best. Leadership is transient and inconsistent.

But all these faults, inherent in a student organization, can be overcome by hard work and effort on the part of Board members.

There is a more serious and more basic factor that has played a dominant role in Media Board/Board of Directors activities this year—that of attitude. It appears that the members don't really care about the issues at hand. They are too busy insulting each other, yelling accusations, stalking out of meetings and displaying their "wit" by ridiculing each other's opinions and comments. The conduct of its members has been recognized and called into question by the board itself, the board itself.

It is hard to promote an atmosphere of intelligent thought while paper airplanes are

remains unquestioned. Criticisms directed toward lack of good management should be directed at the board as much as at Gould. It is the board's responsibility to run Graphics. Criticisms of Gould are, in effect, criticisms of the Board of Directors.

The board, on the other hand, has put Gould on the defensive. He is constantly quizzed. His abilities and achievements are attacked. Gould has done perhaps the best he could under the conditions he has assumed, including lack of direction by the board and a lack of knowledge in areas that the board should direct.

## Perspective

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being flown around the room. Yet the board chides its audience for distracting the board while it is at "work." Maybe it's the example they set.

A large part of the problem lies in the relationship between general manager Steve Gould and Media Board/Board of Directors. (The two groups are synonymous, with two exceptions: organizational representatives on the Media Board are not allowed to vote on the Graphics Board, and Steve Gould is chairman of the Graphics Board of Directors instead of Media Board chairperson Patty Turner.)

Gould largely ignores the directives of the board. He submits financial reports that contradict each other and the SAFO records. The board does not trust Gould, and has tried unsuccessfully to fire him. Criticisms of Gould have not been directed at the actual work of Graphics, but at Gould's management. His ability as a printer

The result is hostility and lack of communication between two parties where communication is most vital. The corporation cannot survive under these conditions.

This is not a clarion call to abolish Graphics, the Media Board, or the Board of Directors. These groups are made up of intelligent people who have devoted large amounts of time and work to their jobs. There now emerges a chance for these groups to be constructive rather than destructive, unified rather than torn by political and personal struggles. New faces on the board promise to help build a working organization. Now, of all times, we should not condemn and destroy, when the board shows signs of unification and a new sense of responsibility. The Media Board is well aware of the responsibility it now faces.

We must wait and see if it can meet that responsibility.



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