

EDITORIAL

Biltek for King?

We now know that there's at least one candidate in the running for 1972-3 Students' Union president -- Dave Biltek current Academic-Vice president.

At Monday's council meeting Biltek unveiled a massive council reorganization scheme which would effectively consolidate as much power as possible into the hands of as few people as possible -- read President Biltek.

With absolute arrogance and complacency Biltek presented the proposal confident that it would be passed. He was not disappointed. Council passed the proposal one exception: the section that naively suggested that council reps be on the executive of the undergraduate association. Surely Mr. Biltek is aware that the three largest faculties Arts, Education, and Science have inactive or non-existent faculty associations. He then had the nerve to suggest that "mere" councillors should not screw up his report on which he had laboured so hard. This arrogance now will only be mirrored in the future if the proposal passes second reading and Biltek is elected.

Under the reorganization, the president and executive vice-president would be elected as a team-- so much for the complete abolishment of the slate system which was one of McKenzie's election promises. Students should be given the option of choosing whether or not they wish to elect persons on a slate system. If students favour two candidates they will vote for them regardless of whether or not they are part of a slate.

With this type of set-up the executive v.p. would be practically a puppet on the strings of the president. His duties are simply those assigned by the president of the Executive Committee.

The Committee's role as the sole decision-maker on grants to various campus organizations (on the recommendation of the executive v.p. and the president) is very dangerous indeed. This is an open invitation to petty politicking. If the executive members concerned did not like the organization's politics then the group could just forget about receiving a grant. Money wields a strong stick.

Not only would the Committee administer the grants but it would have ultimate power in appointments to the various Students' Union positions. One very obvious position would be the Gateway editor. Since the residual power goes to the Executive and there is nothing at all in council's powers to say that it ratifies executive appointments to the various boards then it can safely be inferred that even more power will be in the hands of the executive at the expense of Council. At present Council ratifies Personnel Board's recommendations. Under the new system the Executive will chair the various boards and stack them with hand-picked lackeys. How very convenient!!

The reduction of the frequency of council meetings to an organization meeting once a month with very unsubstantial powers such as "hearing petitions concerning the recall of any member of council of the Executive" but not necessarily acting on them raises the question of the purpose of a council at all. Why a council at all. Why a council if it is virtually powerless? The next logical step would be to abolish council entirely.

The proposal was passed in principle Monday night. There is still time for Council to seriously reconsider its decision and the implications that it will have on future councils. If council does not do so, and the proposal passes as Biltek wants, then a year from now there may be no council at all and any worries of executive hassles with councils may be a thing of the past;

Lettitors

Nurdvardian Approach to Sacred Kumquats

Dear Editor,

I am writing in regard to the article about cosmic truth which appeared in the Dec. 9 Gateway. The whole article rests on boundless suppositions that are tied in with the question as to whether or not om is better karma than beluga whale sperm. This matter is dealt with in an unusually disgusting manner. My intestines writhe at the thought of a middle class ascetic gaining revelation by following the time honored principle of seeking truth from sucker fish that have been stuffed with sleazy figs

picked by deranged Bedouins that have just been on a holy crusade to annihilate themselves. While my nostrils grip at my sinuses greedily at the putrid odours that have been described in the article.

The whole article is basically a nurdvardian approach to praying over sacred kumquats. The question I must ask (while holding my nose in the air) is whether or not the cure for cosmic truth is to be found in abandoned manure piles or in the cooking craft of six fingered Italians.

Yours truly
Bohdan Chomiak



from Xaverian Weekly

Profiteering charges

Film Society Replies

Editor, the Gateway:

I would like to make a few comments in reply to Anita Allsop's letter in your January 11th issue about the Edmonton Film Society's advertising of our December 13th showing.

Firstly, I do not accept personal praise or blame for the ads: they were made up mostly of quotations from the Alberta Censor, compiled by the Society's advertising committee, and approved by the whole Executive. My own personal feeling about them was one of cynical amusement. I regret that Ms Allsop does not share my amusement, but apparently took them seriously--but then, so did a great many other people. Witness the size of our audience. This perhaps does say something about "the motion picture as an art form", at least in its social context.

Secondly, we might start up the eternal debate of means versus ends. I was rather saddened that so many people would still fall for that kind of advertising; but I was also glad that so many people got the chance to see INTIMATE LIGHTING, which happens to be one of the best films ever made.

Thirdly, the "three previous films", and indeed the whole series, were very widely advertised, both in The Gateway and elsewhere. The results were not particularly encouraging.

Finally, the "rumours" reported by the Editor in his "note" are, like most rumours, wildly inaccurate, and don't even agree with the information I had given him by phone. The Film Society is a non-profit organization, so there is no point in talking about our "total profit for the past three years". The amount we made on the December 13th show will be made known to our members in our annual audit in March; meanwhile, I will only say that it appears that it may be sufficient to keep us in the black this year, and enable us to continue fulfilling our functions, which Ms Allsop so concisely describes.

Yours sincerely,
Stephen Scobie
President, Edmonton Film Society

EDITORIAL

Police State Tactics

The unpleasant incident involving Dr. David Craig and his confidential medical files (see story on page 1) shows up the Edmonton police force in its worst light: as a hated secret police force that will stop at nothing to achieve its ends. To arrest a man for having defrauded the health care commission of a measly \$43 almost two years ago is ridiculous but to use the arrest to seize his confidential information, especially when that information concerns such a touchy subject as heroin addiction and methadone treatment, is absolutely intolerable.

The police handled the affair very clumsily, taking nine full months to come up with such a meagre charge, and then subjecting Dr. Craig to the most distasteful treatment at the station: but they seemed determined to screw Dr. Craig, regardless of the consequences. Such actions can serve only to lower the image of the police in the eyes of the public, and that's the last thing Edmonton needs.

We condemn the police action this very alarming case, but most of all we fear for the privacy of other doctors' files. As Dr. Armstrong noted, the Craig affair could set an extremely dangerous precedent for future police intervention into confidential dealings between doctors and patients. Such future actions must not be tolerated: indeed, we demand a full investigation by the provincial department of justice now into this wholly outrageous affair.

What will happen to D. Craig's unfortunate patients now that he has been effectively prevented from dealing further with them? A goodly number of them will undoubtedly go back to heroin, quite possibly robbing stores and people to get money to feed their habit.

There are few enough people around like Dr. Craig, people who will deny themselves the comforts of an everyday life to go into skid road areas and try to help people there. Dr. Craig's clinic is genuinely trying to help these people break their heroin habits or at least relieve their own suffering a little; police action of the type demonstrated in the Craig case can only be a negative factor in the treatment of these people.

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Glory Road was paved to-night when the staff laid bare the hideous secrets of the ivycovered tower and the demons therein who write their missals on tablets of stone. We fought the men that drive those cars with lights on top and swung our weight behind the doctors. Though some did sigh and some did swoon at the bravery of our knights, we still kept our vow and quaffed the ale, though to be true we did no wenching for the disgruntled wenches were in no mood to be wenchd and resisted all attempts at such. Those that braved the cold winter of our malcontent were: Ron Yakimchuk, Jim(sleepy)Selby, Dawn(who hardly dawned) Kunesky, Dave(who dug deep)McCurdy, Stu Layfield, Ron Ternoway, Henri(who stuck around)Pallard, Malcolm Fraser, Winston Gereluk, Beth Nilsen, Colette Forest, Elsie(who is in love with CN) Ross, Bob(who fell in love with a taperecorder)Beal, Bob Blair, Karen(mad and incomprehensible)Moeller, Rick(who is going into shock)Grant, Barbara, Meredith, and finally, Harvey G (for godawfull) Thomgirt, a frozen snake in frozen grass.

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