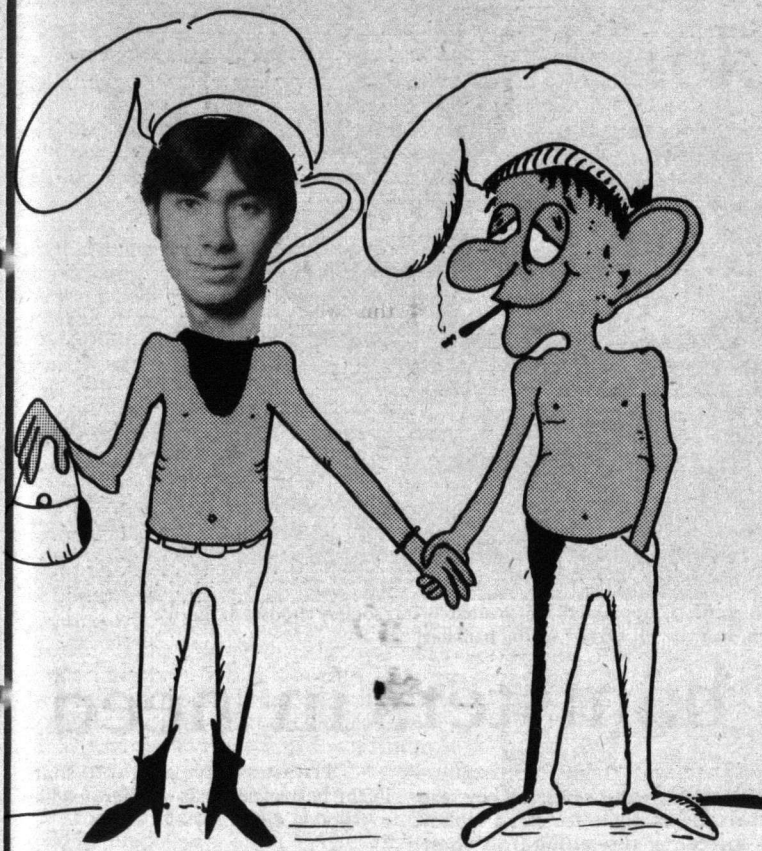


V.P. finance reveals all on true blue nature



Roger Merkosky on the streets with his smurf companion

SU VP Finance Roger Merkosky has finally come out of the closet admitting to being a confirmed smurf.

The *Getaway* recently presented Merkosky with evidence painstakingly assembled during months of investigation. Merkosky on seeing the evidence broke down and began to cry.

"It was just latent at first," wept a tearful Merkosky.

In between sobs Merkosky managed to blurt out; "I've always felt like a smurf trapped inside a man's body but I managed to suppress it."

"My skin would flush blue from time to time and I'd get this incredible urge to wear white tights," he said.

Merkosky explained that things really came to a head when he was at a party and came into close contact with

a group of confirmed smurfs.

"I was irresistably drawn to them and their blue skins and their floppy little liberty caps," he said.

Merkosky said the last few months have not been easy. Every time he went cruising in smurf bars or blue bath houses he was terrified somebody would recognise him.

"In a way," said Merkosky finally recovering himself, "I'm kind of glad it's all out in the open now."

Merkosky explained he is just beginning to come to terms with his own smurfuality and will no longer fear to go around in public with blue skin and white tights.

"There is nothing to be ashamed of in being a smurf," said Merkosky, his composure now fully restored.

"The Ancient Greeks and Romans used to accept and glorify their own smurfness and they created some beautiful smurf art and poetry," he said.

Merkosky said after he has retired from student politics he plans to settle down with his smurf friend and live quietly drinking the occasional glass of smurf beer.

"Of course we can never be married or have children but the relationships between smurfs is something very unique and special," he said.

Merkosky added, "And smurf beer is great; you don't get drunk because it isn't beer."

Student paper and RATT merge

All under one happy roof

by Igor Polgorski

"It seemed like a good idea at the time," says SU VP Internal Ray Conway.

Yesterday, the SU Executive Committee unilaterally decided to merge the operations of the *Getaway* and the bar RATT.

This does not mean an increase of staff for either group.

"I was told early Tuesday morning to prepare and move my staff and equipment up to the seventh floor," explains *Getaway* editor and bar manager Andrew Whats. "I thought it was a joke until the maintenance staff began to move our filing cabinets and disconnecting our phone — while I was talking on it."

The merger is a part of a new budget reduction proposal brought together by the Executive Committee for approval by the next Students' Council meeting (January 11).

"Edmonton's City Council has shown us the light," explains SU President Rob Greenhill. "We can make massive layoffs of personnel

and still maintain our services. All it will mean is a little more effort from those employees to cover for those lost in their own areas."

"Just look at the Executive Office," adds Conway. "We laid off our front office staff and are doing an extremely efficient job of covering the work among the executive members."

"I'm sure the *Getaway* and RATT staff can make the same adjustments," Greenhill says. "I mean, we are almost bending over backwards to accomodate them."

Greenhill refers to the new hours RATT will now be opened for business.

"This is fucken-ridiculous," says an outraged news editor and waiter Rich What.

Whats first complained that his staff could not function within the RATT hours.

"I told Robert, Raymond and the rest of the executive that in order for the paper to be completed and distributed the next day, there was no way we could do it between 3 p.m. and

1 a.m.," he explains. "I mean our news department really gets rolling around 1:30 in the afternoon."

The executive discussed the situation and approved new hours.

"We found Andrew's counter proposal to be sound and within reason of the existing Alberta Liquor Control Board's licence regulations," says Conway. "So RATT will open at noon and close at 2 a.m."

"But Andrew will have to capitulate and lay off some staff," Greenhill adds.

Whats says he will make the cuts, but he must first review the existing staff, their functions and efficiency.

"There are some who say two news editors is redundant and unnecessary," he says.

"But I'm not redundant," interrupts news editor and waitress Alisson Anesly. "I never repeat myself, so how does that make me redundant. I mean have you ever heard me say the same thing twice — or at least the same way. Let me rephrase that ..."

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