

letters



untaxed

The intellectual void in which the self-styled young socialists toddle was again made evident in their article on the Worth Report.

There was no personal by-line on the article and it was "credited" to the young socialists, which leads to some interesting speculation. Since the references were variously "I'm sure" and "we say" is it implied that the young socialists are really just one schizophrenic (writing from Oliver perhaps). Another possibility is that just one person wrote the article in fear and trembling, etc. and is hiding behind an organization (like an ant hiding behind a flea).

Typical of the stupid reasoning in the article is the impugning of implied government references to "the poor taxpayer". First the Y.S.'s imply that the poor carry most of the tax burden. Then when our provincial government is credited with hesitating to make the "poor" mans load heavier the Y.S. rant that this is a dodge to protect the businessman (who by implication must be paying the taxes).

Several references were made to equity. What is meant? Should we all pay the same amount of tax? Should we all pay the same percentage of tax? Should the "poor" (or the "rich") be discriminated against?

Of course the concept is left undefined and the author's lack of depth is camouflaged by vague terms and sharp insults.

After the usual brainless Y.S. double talk the article insinuates that University is a haven for an elite. Then comes a promotion for more "free" (i.e. someone else pays) non-academic services for students (presumably adding to the tax burden of the non-elite-tut-tut).

The anti-religious freedom tirade betrays the intolerance of the young socialist position. The fact that thousands of Albertan families actively support separate schools financially, philosophically, and freely is lost on the T.S. idiots who maintain that others should be forced to conform to their views.

After all mere people should not interfere with the young tyrants.

It seems that an untaxed part of Canada is that region between the ears of the young socialists.

David Day
Faculty of Law

re-cycle

With all due respect to Dan Shapiro with all his due respect to David Schleich, I cannot appreciate many of his comments in his recent Gateway letter to the editor on the recent Gateway article "the greening of the Bicycle".

The author submits that the current flourish of bicycles has been caused by the "Madison Avenue" hard sell catering to people's ego-tripping and not because of people's insatiable thirst for new and varied experiences that are more direct than the shell of mechanization surrounding western civilization. In a few cases people might find their very life dependent on mechanical technology but to my mind the vast majority of people who own and drive internal combustion machine propelled vehicles have succumbed to the pressures of a time oriented society and to the social status that the advertising people in Detroit and similar places have advocated.

I know that everyone who owns a car or motorcycle will immediately and vehemently deny such motives for their investment and fire a number of vindictive salvos of dissent to my statement, however I am not writing this letter to defend their position in the least bit.

Returning to the article in question, Mr. Shapiro takes a stab at trying to defend the benefits of mechanization asking us to consider "world travel and watching hockey games from other continents" pointing out that many places and activities in this world could never be "experienced" and fulfilled if it were not for the distinct advantages mechanization provides. However, I believe the author is giving more credit than is deserved to mechanization, being more concerned about immediate stimulation than about far reaching results. "I want to go to this place right now because it's very important" people are saying nowadays. "I want to go here and there and there" and everything between is just a blur... until their mechanical device fails. Then "I have to go over here right now and get this thing fixed because its not allowing me to do all the things I wanted to do." Not only does mechanization refuse us the total experience but one thing leads to another ending up in a vicious cycle and pollution from the gas and noise, etc. as by products of your effort. Just think how much pollution a big mother of a rocket puts out to get a satellite up there so that your ego can go through only a very second hand experience of a hockey game "right now". It wouldn't make any difference if the satellite was up there or not. The hockey game would still eventually finish and even if the news got here by camel jockey the results would still be the same. Go out and do your own hockey game and get right into the experience.

I'm not a fanatic advocating a platform of back to nature for the world but I think if people stop trying to amplify with mechanization the effort they put into things they've fixed with so much importance to getting done right now, the vicious cycle this leads to would slow down and maybe prevent a few ulcers. The distinct advantage of this would be an increase in the general health by having to use your own muscles. Having direct contact with the work that's being done you put yourself into the final product so you know success depends on you and not on a fallible outside

source of energy. Anyone with high school physics can tell you the work done getting from one place to another is the same no matter how you get there, whether you use a ten-speed, one-speed, or walk: Ten-speeds merely let you select the amount of force you want to put into getting there but you ultimately do the work.

Let's be damn honest for only a moment about the whole modernization craze. Most people invest in powerful machines because they think might is right. It's a form of self-indulgence and ego-tripping having a powerful advantage over someone else. Then through peer group pressure, societal pressure, and vanity, it becomes important to "keep up with the Joneses" and the race begins. Don't attach so much importance to things. Keep your cool and use your own skill and effort for what you think is necessary, including having fun. Then you'd appreciate life in the way it should be and not in the way you think others think it should be.

Mitchell Choukalos
Science

pylypa!

As logical as what concerns our finances and personal possessions in this Mandate '72, there should be a statutory requirement of all candidates to disclose the sources of their campaigns, including record of expenditures and budget. Real estate holdings is also favored. I strongly believe one should not let things drift; do something positive. While congratulating Mr. Paproski, I know that he will be very busy on business trips, chatting on a casual basis with important personalities. I firmly believe you can convince others of the worth of your ideas or creative projects by raising your voice in support of the winning candidate. We have had a nice relationship during the election and I hope I can assist him in any way possible with his job as Member of Parliament for Edmonton Centre Constituents. And if I may add, Steve's the kind of person who would go ahead and draft large plans to bridge the generation gap. I know for a fact the young voters will react happily to the example he'll set in the "Youth Citizenship Fund". Steve's got the common touch. And when you know Steve better, you know that more prime polls from wild fur-bearing Progressive Conservatives are taken in Alberta than any other province. Edmonton Centre constituency is the home of the world's largest and forms an almost perfect triangle:-

1. First of all, I would like to thank all the people in my constituency who expressed their confidence in me by voting for me. I would also like to thank my campaign committee who worked so hard on my behalf. Since I was the youngest candidate in this election, and entering politics for the first time, I didn't have the opportunity to meet most of the people in my constituency.

2. However, by the time another election rolls around, I hope to be able to get to meet each and every one personally.

3. I would like to congratulate Mr. Paproski and wish him well as our representative in parliament.

Glenn "P.G." Pylypa (Arts)
Candidate,
Edmonton Centre

counter point

staff comment

How crass, how joyless, how antediluvian the grubbing of money. That my overwhelming reaction to the presentation of "Catalyst" findings on post-secondary student reaction to Worth Commission recommendations should be: "What a waste of money" is sadly revealing. However, what is the value of confirmation of the seemingly self-evident? That is, I believe that any reasonably perceptive individual could have successfully foretold majority response to Worth Report proposals without the expenditure of whatever sum S.T.E.P. (Student Temporary Employment Program) chose to allot Catalyst and four months of what Jim Head and Ken Chapman, Catalyst representatives, termed frankly "frustration."

I do not wish to insinuate that, in my opinion, the members of this organization willfully misappropriated taxpayer's money and ran merrily amok. I was impressed by their honesty and sincerity in describing the problems they encountered with student apathy, ignorance, role-playing, and reluctance to get involved, and its resultant effect on the enthusiasts, shall we say, of Catalyst workers. In fact, I wonder now whether they would not admit to the same coubts as to the innediciacy of what they accomplished as I.

It can be argued that the acquisition of this information is in itself relevant, predictable or otherwise, and that this direct approach to those who stand to lose or gain from the proposals is only common sense.

My objection is that all this fine liberalsim is unnecessary. I have yet to fall upon a "peer" who gives a damn. After observing the excesses of exultant school officials over "open areas" (which were to revolutionize elementary education), and the cameras whirring happily away over some miraculous innovation whose only percentage so far as we were concerned was that we might get our pictures on the news "working" furiously while some becalmed administrator of something-or-other farted about in the foreground, I am fashionably cynical when it comes to educational "advances". And to being inveigled for my grassroots opinion.

Lisa Wilson

You may have seen the article on the rapid transit petition elsewhere in today's paper, and I'm sure that many of you realize it's about time Edmonton had such a system as that proposed. I for one dislike standing out in the snow, taking forever to get across town, being stifled in packed buses, and taking part in all the other horrors that constitute our present system. Freeways are fine for some people, but it simply isn't necessary to destroy neighborhoods and ravines for them and at the same time add to our future problems with pollution. The sooner we get rapid transit, the better off this city will be, and to that end, I ask everyone who reads this to get the copy of the petition below filled out and sent in or brought to the Gateway Office, 282 SJB. Thank you.

Kimball Cariou

We, the undersigned, rate-payers, tenants and students want to see a Light Rapid Transit system in Edmonton which will:

- bring people instead of cars into Edmonton downtown area and to places of work and study.

- move people quickly and efficiently at low fares, saving time and money for transit users.

- keep down debts and taxes.

- reduce air pollution.

- save the ravines and the river valleys for parks and recreation.

- stop criss-crossing and division of residential areas with ugly structures of concrete and steel.

NAME ADDRESS OCCUPATION

Ad Hoc Committee on Rapid Transit System for Edmonton
Box 2662, Postal Station A, Edmonton, Alberta.

Letters to the editor on any topic are welcome, but they must be signed. Keep them short (about 200 words) unless you wish to make a complex argument. Letters should not exceed 800 words.

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