

VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1965

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Ice Sculpture Contest

To the Editor:

We would like to thank all those who participated in the Ice Sculpture Contest this year and helped to make it a success.

The winners are as follows: Grand Aggregate—Delta Kappa Epsilon (Winter Spirits), Inter-Fraternity—Phi Kappa Phi and Alpha Gamma Delta (Bulldog with cigar), Inter-Faculty—Agriculture (Horse at Plow), Inter-Club—Dutch Club (Boy at Dike).

Sincerely,
Linda Mowat
(Ice Sculpture Committee)

More Arts Coverage

To the Editor:

Like most of your readers, I rely utterly on the "Gateway to the Arts" for coverage of the odd aesthetic events which erupt from time to time in our midst. Where else can we turn, with the Edmonton Journal's dramatic criticism performed by Barry Westgate, New Zealand's answer to the fifty-megaton bomb?

But unfortunately nearly all your reviews deal with events past and done with. Exhilarating though it may be for those of us who belong to Film Society to read Marion Raycheba's Film Society views, it can hardly be much of a pleasure for the poor unfortunates who read a rave review of a film now a thousand miles away.

It is therefore amazing that absolutely no mention has been made in your columns of a motion picture that, in my opinion, is an incredibly magnificent creation on a number of levels, and which has been, and will be, on the local scene for some time. I refer to *Mary Poppins*.

Since no one else seems called to mention it, I must point out that for anyone interested in modern poetry, *Mary Poppins* is a must. The curious relationship between Walt Disney and Ezra Pound has never been made so splendidly clear. Indeed, *Mary Poppins* is a cinematic parallel to the *Cantos* in a surprising number of respects; its visual macaronics and the banking sequences are the most obvious examples. But the film is a great work of art in its own right, and should be seen by everyone.

Having delivered my free plug, may I suggest that if the Gateway is to have an Arts page at all, its coverage should be made much more comprehensive. As it is, your reviews are of very little value to anyone save their authors. There is a great need for intelligent film criticism in Edmonton. Should the Gateway broaden its film coverage and attempt to fill this need, I am sure its readership would be deeply grateful.

Yours hopefully,
John Thompson

Intelligent People Vote Socred?

To Bruce Ferrier

via The Editor:

May I begin by adapting the words of R. Wilson, arts 2, in Feb. 23 Gateway. "I believe, Mr. Ferrier, that it takes one who knows the score on some of the (campus political issues) to be able to talk about them, and I don't believe you are qualified."

It might be noted that all organizations that go by the same trade name do not necessarily sell exactly the same type of merchandise. Note the recent

campus Liberal club denial of the stand taken by the national club on the abolition of the monarchy; the campus Conservatives speaking out against their national leader, etc. It just may be that the campus socred club, or certain members thereof, might disagree with certain things that have transpired on the provincial level.

Enough of general terms. Now to be more specific. The Social Credit's nine members proposed a resolution at the recent Model Parliament on Senate reform. Does this sound like "Reactionary Medieval Irrationalism" to you? This resolution passed through the house with only token opposition from the far left. There weren't enough opposed to it to even justify a roll call vote. (It should be pointed out that this was the only "non-governmental" resolution that received the favor of the House.) Once again I ask, does this sound like "Reactionary Medieval Irrationalism" to you?

In your attempt to be a leader of the conforming non-conformists with such bursts of "verbal diarrhea", you are doing your cause more harm than good. Your manner of approach leaves you in such a light that people will turn against you, rather than in favor of what you are supposedly standing for. Why don't you try to be constructive for once? In other words, as a member of a movement that exhibits "Reactionary Medieval Irrationalism", I am telling you to catch up with the times, think logically, and don't be so radical.

Yes, I put the question to you. If there is supposedly that much wrong with Social Credit and the Social Credit government, why is it that intelligent people find reason to vote in nine representatives of Social Credit to Model Parliament? Could it be that they are intelligent enough to see through the smokescreen that you and others like you are putting up?

Dale Enarson
Poli. Sci. 3

viewpoint writers today level literary guns at bruce ferrier, model parliament, varsity varieties, and arts coverage.

Who—What—Why

To the Editor:

Who—What—why is Bruce Ferrier? Although I am not surprised to see trash like his "Reactionary Medieval Irrationalism" in The Gateway (February 23), I find it beyond belief that he could rise to the position of columnist, which I formerly thought was a position reserved for writers of high ability, popularity . . . or something.

However, his last article was the worst I have ever read by him. Upon looking back through some of the Gateways I have saved (and God only knows why I saved them—even He probably has doubts!) I find some of Mr. Ferrier's columns amusing, sometimes thought-provoking, but usually scorn-provoking. His last article hit rock bottom.

Let me insert here that I did not vote Social Credit, although I would have, had the Liberals not been running. I have friends who did vote Socred, and I have no doubt of their supposed intelligence. It is on their behalf I write this letter.

Is Mr. Ferrier suggesting that the freedom to vote for whom we choose be withdrawn when he states "A philosophy . . . has no place on this campus, what is it doing in our Model Parliament?" and "Social Credit has no place in Alberta, let alone in the university?" Because the views of a few party members conflict with those of a few university professors and their students, we should wipe the complete party from functioning not only on campus, but in the entire province?

Oh, no, Mr. Ferrier; if you start with Social Credit, you must carry on and obliterate the P.C.s, Liberals, N.D.P.s, etc. for each of them have views which are certain to conflict with somebody. That would leave anarchy. Is that your ideal, Mr. Ferrier?

(Perhaps I am ignorant, but I have never heard of the press control act, or an act providing for sterilization of mental defec-

tives. I have my doubts as to their existence.)

The Social Credit party has never tended to force its theological views on me, and I have been born and brought up in this province. Perhaps I have never felt the effects of mixed religion and law because I have something in common with Premier Manning—we're both WASPs (White Anglo-Saxon Protestants). However, none of my Roman Catholic friends and associates have ever complained about having to change their religion to remain "good" Albertans.

Can you blame Sunday Blue Laws on Mr. Manning? on Social Credit? They were instituted "several" years before the advent of Social Creditism in Alberta. Incidentally, such laws are found outside of Alberta, too. You were aware of that were you not, Mr. Ferrier?

Liquor legislation? Sorry, but I'm opposed to restricted advertising in the press. However, I'm not going to blast Social Credit from the campus or Alberta for that issue. It will change, I'm certain, but in the meantime, I'm not suffering from not seeing liquor ads in our papers or on television. If I was, I could get the desired effect from reading Macleans' et al.

Regarding Mr. Ferrier's paragraph about Tom Jones (and what a paragraph it was—all those damned "big" words and me only an English major), I can only ask, aren't you glad it happened? Restricted adult rating has produced all those wonderful movies: *In Any Street*, *Boccaccio 70*, etc. But don't get me wrong, I'm not Victorian—I "loved" *Irma La Douce*, *God's Little Acre*, etc.

Finally, does Mr. Ferrier only look at the "bad" points of a subject? Doesn't he realize all the good Social Credit has done for Alberta, and what it can continue doing in the future? Are we to forget everything of value whenever some issue arises that produces conflict?

I suggest Mr. Ferrier think before writing hereafter. If his column was meant as a joke, I beg his pardon, and will laugh

my darnedest. That's a big "if".

Once again, who—what—why is Bruce Ferrier?

Sincerely yours,
Richard Lind
Ed 1

Editor's Note — Perhaps you are ignorant, sir, for there indeed was a 'press bill' introduced in 1937 in Alberta and later declared ultra vires, which attempted to control the press. Further, there is legislation dealing with mental defectives, although in all fairness it must be noted that other provinces have similar acts.

Ferrier's Joke Column

To the Editor:

"Reactionary Medieval Irrationalism." Now that does sound impressive. But isn't it just a little too ponderous a title for a joke column. With such a pedantic beginning some might be tempted to take Mr. Ferrier seriously. Surprisingly enough some of the letters written in recently tend to do just that.

Though how anyone could take seriously a journalistic "Don Quixote" who writes fatuous nonsense about the two thousand dollars we can all have at the beginning of each university year, or who dashes off columns on anti-banning and one's banning everything from winter weather to banning Manning and the Social Credits is more than I know. (I look forward with expectancy to an article banning air.)

It's all good humour I know, but just imagine what some people might think if they took Mr. Ferrier seriously. Why they would think that Gateway had a columnist who was anti-democratic, bigotted, and intellectually impoverished. Please inform these individuals about the true nature of Mr. Ferrier's articles so that they can laugh along with the rest of us.

Yours sincerely,
Jim Burk
Science 2

VV '65 Hit New Low

To the Editor:

The occasion is rare when I even come close to agreeing with Barry Westgate of The Journal but concerning his review of Varsity Varieties I am forced to admit that he isn't too far out. The show this year must have hit a new low in university productions. The cast looked as though they enjoyed themselves immensely but the feeling definitely wasn't shared by the audience.

Parts of it were, as Westgate says, quite good. The choreography was the highlight of the show. It was pleasant, too, to hear Miss Unwin's words coming out distinctly after the spasmodic utterings of Mr. Magill and Mr. Vassos. And the performances (though not often the material) of Messrs. Clews and Stefan kept interest from disappearing completely.

The worst part was the 'humor.' There just wasn't much. Half a dozen good laughs is an extremely poor average for a 2½-hour musical-comedy. Admittedly new, funny frat jokes are probably hard to come by but surely Mr. Somers could have done better than that. If you extract humor from the type of show that Varsity Varieties is designed to be, you are left with very little—as this year's show proved.

Yours sincerely,
Ken Watson
Arts 2

Should Tackle Key Problems

'Mock' Parliament Needs Changes

To the Editor and
Model Parliament:

Mock parliament is the apt name for the bunch of stuffed shirts who gathered there and hashed up their own multi-barnyard philosophy views of issues they know nothing about. Are you so worldly that you consider yourselves fit to tackle international and societal problems that have plagued mankind for ages? The great minds of time and antiquity did not arrive at fully equitable solutions to the problems, how can you, who know nothing about them? Have you lived so long as to have partaken of life's experience to the extent that you are qualified to advise the government on these matters? I don't think so. You have proven nothing. You have wasted your time. The country has legal experts in divorce, international law and jurisprudence and can well do without your advice.

However there is a problem nearer home that you should have tackled, with considerable gusto, rather than piddle about

with problems out of your ability or your immediate problem area. The problem is that of University fees and their uninhibited rise. The mark of good parliamentarians is to solve prevailing problems at home, regardless of how petty they may appear. The sampling technique havig proved inadequate a good hearty debate would have solved far more. Or is such a problem below your dignity? It appears that most parliamentarians once in the seat contested for this seat becomes a comfortable pew, from which life's problems are viewed in a soft manner from a safe and comfortable distance.

Model parliament should be reconvened as an emergency measure to debate and discuss the issue of rising fees. The mere fact of doing so will focus attention on the key issue. Will you as parliamentarians be able to say that you have done something of concrete value to University society? Or will you just be able to say that you occupied a chair there? Is mock parliament a hoax and a farce, or is it possible to direct it to immediate problems? I think that

the whole thing could have been handled in a more intelligent and astute manner and more pressing problems dealt with. Are we masters of our destiny at this time? If we sit like lumps of clay others will mold the future for us, particularly the setting of fees. To take the old adage, the squeaking wheel gets the grease. How about dipping into this tacky problem?

In summary, those who are for the abolition of fees appear to be chicken to say so. Those against are too confused to know why. A good argument sets issues aright, a properly conducted debate should certainly cast light in the proper direction. The solution of "fees" will extend benefits to all people, now and in the future, directly and indirectly. Do we take this opportunity to uplift society and humanity over time or shall those in key positions stand by and allow this opportune time to pass? Changes in history have come about when key problems were tackled at the right time. Our time is now.

Martin Iftoy
Ed. 2