

Council chortles out of collective cloaca

News Analysis by P. Murphy

The Students' Council meeting of Sept. 20 was characterized by council's inability to agree on anything, as well as by their unwillingness to take a stand on anything more left of centre than peanut butter sandwiches.

In his inauguration interview of April 7, 1976, Len Zoeteman, SU Pres., was quoted as saying: "Not every student is that concerned about politics. It is so far beyond their touch that it has no meaning for them. What we've tried to do this year is to come up with issues that students are genuinely concerned with." From council's reaction to the issues which were before them, it

appears that the student councillors are true representatives of the student body, as seen by their leaders.

Nick Cooke made a representation to council in defence of FSAC and those who were arrested at Saturday's demonstration in Victoria Park. After considerable tossing and squirming, council went into closed session to form a collective opinion. During the next half hour they hashed out a motion which seemed to take away with one hand what they held behind their collective backs with the other. The ostensible reason for the retreat behind closed doors was the reluctance of council to be quoted on their opinions (or lack thereof.)

Ken Reynolds, Arts rep., asked, before going into closed session, whether "something which does not sound so radical" could be brought before council. From the motion which worked itself slowly out of the collective cloaca, it appeared that this view was shared by the other members of council.

Councillors finally agreed on

the following motion: "that because it is questionable whether the issue of apartheid in South Africa is within the terms of reference of the Students' Council, we cannot ask that the charges against the 'Edmonton 61' be dropped."

With what seemed like a collective sigh, the motion was passed 17 for, no against, and 1 abstention, with Kevan Warner, Ed. rep, remarking that "the laws of the land should not be applauded, just because they are there." When questioned later, he expressed disappointment with council's inability to take a stand, but indicated that he "expected this to happen."

Council, however, seemed unwilling to do either and throughout the night it remained hesitant to involve itself in any issue which might possibly be termed controversial.

Brian Mason, acting coordinator for FAS, spoke to council and attempted to enlist their support for FAS.

From the discussion that followed, it appeared that few councillors wanted to have an opinion on anything which might

conceivably have an effect on students' thought process. Zoeteman declared that "council cannot take a stand on FAS membership, because it would bias its position." Eileen Gilles, finance vp, felt that "taking one side or the other would cause students to vote against it purpose."

Reynolds, one of the few councillors willing to stick out neck, (however cautiously) noted that "no councillors have taken any stand on FAS and the support for the motion would motivate council to do something about FAS."

Gilles still thought that it would constitute "biased objectivity".

Council remained undecided until Zoeteman reminded them that should they take a strong stand on this issue "the sleeping giant which we have in this campus will roll over and crush us." Since the student representatives seemed to have difficulty removing their heads from the sand, this could indeed have disastrous consequences.

The motion, supporting U of A membership in FAS was finally passed with ten votes for and five votes against which showed the council is still solidly immured behind the fence.

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Answers

1. Bobby Orr and Dennis Potvin.
2. c) Catfish Hunter, 1968
3. d) 22
4. Marcel Dionne, 10
5. d) Don Drysdale
6. False. Paul C. Morphy (1858-62)
7. False. 2 others have won the title twice, Warren Shaw and Louis Meyer
8. b) Ottawa, 38
9. Bobby Clarke, plus 83
10. Toronto

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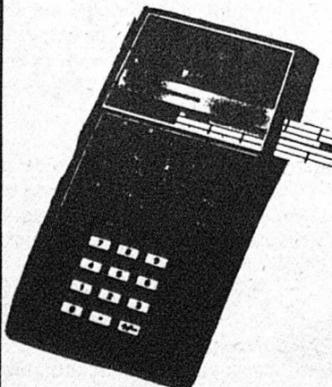
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