

U of A BOWLING LEAGUES

Tues & Thurs
5 - 7 or 9 PM
TOURNAMENTS

U of A CURLING LEAGUES

Mon 5 & 9 PM
Tues 5, 7 & 9 PM
Wed 5, 7 & 9 PM

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Fund injection

by Michael Walker

Six years of lobbying has finally paid off for the U of A; it has convinced the provincial government to inject a small measure of rationality into its funding policy.

The Alberta government funds new university programs separately from continuing ones. But till now, it has covered only the direct to the faculty costs of new programs, such as instruction and course materials.

It has refused consistently to fund other costs, such as increased load on the library, the university computer system administration and maintenance.

These 'indirect' costs are "perhaps 45 per cent" of the direct costs of new programs like the recently added computer engineering program, according to U of A president Myer Horowitz.

So, every time the government approved a dollar for a new program, the university was forced to trim about 45 cents from existing programs. This was no easy task in a situation of continuing government funding cuts for existing programs.

This has all been corrected now. The provincial government will now consider the entire true costs of new programs. In addition, it has invited the U of A to apply to have the indirect costs of this year's new programs covered as well. This could bring a few badly-needed dollars into the coffers this fall.

THE CHOPPING BLOCK

by Jens Andersen

Ah, democracy; of thee I sing.

This great theory of government that recognizes any cell in the political body as fully the equal of any other. This noble system wherein a humble Schwann cell has just as much say as any elitist neuron in telling the hand what to do; where even the lowliest mucous membrane cell can become President.

How can I praise thee enough?

Perhaps by quoting my favorite philosopher, Clemens von Metternich:

Ten million ignorances do not constitute one wisdom.

If I were Supreme Benevolent Dictator and wished to unload my headache onto the people, I would certainly set up a democracy less egalitarian than our existing one. First of all, only those over 30 would be allowed to vote, since youngsters are more afflicted than oldsters, with idealism and juvenile hormones, and hence more susceptible to silver-tongued quacks.

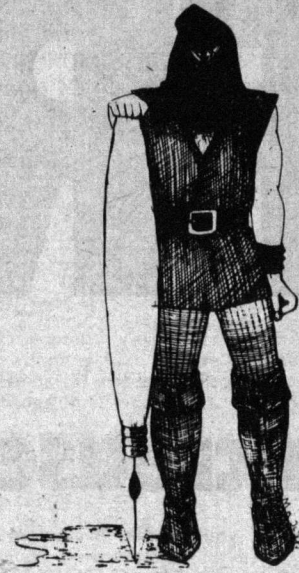
Secondly, the principle of one man/one vote would be thrown out the window. Instead, a certain number of votes would be given to each voter, based on occupation (since one's job is a simple and fairly accurate indicator of relative intelligence). One way to set the number of votes per job would be to hold a referendum where voters would rank a list of occupations (excluding their own) according to worth.

Or, considering Ambrose Bierce's dictum that a referendum merely determines the nonsensus of public opinion, I could as dictator establish the hierarchy myself, and enshrine it in my Sacred, Inviolable And Impervious To Meddling Judges Bill Of Rights And Duties. Most votes would be given to bartenders, newspaper reporters and police patrolmen (10,000 votes apiece), and the least to elected government officials, government administrators, fish packers and philosophy professors (1 token vote each).

Demagogues have always gained power by inflaming the least intelligent members of the electorate, as witness the careers of Andrew Jackson, William Jennings Bryan, Hitler, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Huey Long, "Bible Bill" Aberhart, Joe McCarthy, John Diefenbaker, George Wallace, Khomeini, Ronald Reagan, ad infinitum.

The system of enfranchisement I propose would go a long way towards fireproofing the electorate against such dangerous clowns. And while it would certainly disqualify a few capable voters, and at the same time leave some soft-headed individuals on the rolls, on the whole, political power would rest much more in steady hands. No longer would we be running the circus from the monkey house.

If this principle of an "earned franchise" were incorporated into our new constitution we would truly have what George Woodcock envisioned for Canada in the November 1980 issue of *Saturday Night*: "a new kind of confederation that would be a model and an inspiration, as the Swiss and American confederations were in their time."



Arts quiz answers: Answers: 3. b)
1. b) 4. c)
2. c) 5. c)

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