

Vacuous space for rent

The way a student politicians mind works

With student politicians on the campaign trail more and more these days, the time has arrived, I think, for me to let the voting public know that I have developed extraordinary insight into the way a politician's mind works, which is not too often.

I not only can read the mind; I can read it in italics. Take SU President Phil Soper. After an inspiring ACT (Anti-Cutbacks Team, if you can believe such contrived acronyms), spot in TL-11, he is in languishing in Fridays wondering why the renovations aren't finished. He is met by a middle-aged female constituent, ostensibly from the Home Economics faculty.

"How are you Phil," she calls, waving to him through the sawdust-covered window panes.

(Wave back and smile. They like that. But how to answer this woman's question? If I frankly tell this stranger that I have post-nasal drip, high blood pressure, and a hardening of the left kidney, my opponent next year (for the young Tory leadership — remember, you read it here first) may find I am in failing health. On the other hand, if I tell her I feel great, this might indicate a lack of concern for the problems the Students' Union faces.)

"Not too bad," replies Phil Soper, student politician.

"You've certainly been campaigning a lot lately," says the

woman, who asked not to be identified.

(Damn! This nosy broad (sic) must know I was absent for two percent of the roll calls. There's only one way out.)

"I've always felt the prime duty of every student politician is to visit with his constituents as much as possible so he can better represent their views," Soper says.

"We haven't seen you in a long time," the woman replies.

(Aha! We've met before, then. But is she one of my many ardent supporters or one of the other kind? Find out.)

"I hope you will stand beside me in our unending search for ..." Soper begins.

"Glad to be of help," she interrupts. "Is that brown sock on the left supposed to clash with the blue one on the right? I hope you're not working too hard."

(How the hell am I supposed to answer that one? 'Yes' implies I'm on the verge of a nervous breakdown, 'no' implies I'm just a lazy bum.)

"I thrive on hard work," says Soper.

(Now don't forget to show concern for this voter.)

"But tell me about the grave problems you face, Ma'am."

"Well, my gravest is that I don't have enough money to get my car out of the parking lot. I was hoping you ..."

(A problem. Look vigorous!)

"You can count on me to lead a vigorous fight against poverty and inflation (not to mention

student loans and North Garneau). Let me say that ..."

"Oh, darn. There goes our little chat," the woman said. "Here come the Gateway photographers."

(Photographers? What's a heart-warming picture? Quick! Pick up the ugly little kid she's got. Soper loves little children.)

"My you're a manly little chap," he lies.

"Thanks, Daddy."

(Daddy! Good Lord, I can see the headlines now: 'Soper faces paternity suit.' Take the offensive.)

"You won't get away with this, my good woman," cried Soper. "What's your game?"

(Woman removes false skin head, reveals herself to be, in fact, Bob Kirk, sometime SU presidential hopeful.)

"Bob?" Soper queries incredulously.

(Relief. My Tory leadership is safe. Kirk recently joined the young NDP club; look out, Grant.)

"You old fish, Phil. You found me out. How did you know?" Kirk asks drily.

"It's your kid, Bob. He looks suspiciously like sometime engineering graduate and Kirk Slate reject Ken Lawson-Williams."

(Ha!)

"Hey," Soper says with contrived merriment, "We're broke. Have a beer."

(Adapted from Job Keefawer)

1. Ralph Brock, Winnipeg
2. Terry Evanshen
3. 1971 (6-10)
4. The current incarnation (ie. post-'49) of the Eskis feature a 2-14 record in 1963, when they gave up 425 points while scoring only 220. In 1938, though, an Edmonton team went 0-8, scored 29 big points and gave up 117. Kind of makes you long for the good ol' days, doesn't it?
5. Houston Oilers and Boston Patriots.
6. The 1979 Toronto Argonauts were penalized 202 times. Naughty.
7. The poor jerk's name was John Eckman. What ever happened to him?
8. They were pseudonymous football leagues. They are the subjects of next week's sprots kwiz.

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