



REACTION

BY

John Bosnitch

Before starting in on what may hopefully be a regular column, I would like to thank the Editor for permitting me the opportunity to speak out. Naturally, everything I say and all the views expressed should be considered to be those of a fanatic radical and do in no way represent the views of the Student Union establishment.

After a month of martial law and years of oppression in Poland, reaction has finally come on the campus. Arts student Filip Vanicek has formed a UNB Solidarity committee which will attempt to publicize and support the cause of the Polish people. Solidarity buttons bearing the official symbol of the Polish union are now available on the campus from any STUDENT PARTY member. All profits will be turned over to the Solidarity office in Toronto. Look for people wearing SP buttons or Solidarity armbands to buy your sign of support for the Solidarity movement.

Now for the Disorientation Report....as far back as October, people were predicting a \$5,000 deficit this year as opposed to last. In fact I was almost impeached for even suggesting it. Had we only known then what we know now! The story of Orientation 81, and its chairman Gerard Finnan deserves space in Ripley's Believe it or Not. The report we were promised in October has not yet arrived. The assistant comptroller of the Student Union was refused permission by the group to attend its financial meetings. The new SRC executive was elected without saying one word about the missing receipt book or happenings of the Orientation program. Finnan promised the students he would present a full report before taking office...when the report came up this week it was our President Finnan who gave it...a list of seven numbers with no record of earnings or spending whatsoever. Finally, the minute the report began, Comptroller Young, who was to answer all financial questions, got up and left the meeting. Discouraging isn't it? Why bother with any report at all?

With elections coming closer every day, we are, as usual, getting our fair share of election irregularities. Try this one...Liz Lynch, sister of Sue Lynch SRC Vice President, has decided that she shouldn't have to go to the voters in February the way the rules say she should. Quite to the contrary, she wants to stay on until October regardless of when her Arts seat is supposed to be contested. Naturally, big sis and Gerard agree with her...it took the opposition of that lunatic engineering representative to stop the whole deal. Why worry anyway? Even if Liz Lynch does run, it seems Sue Lynch will be counting the votes anyway.

For the last word on SRC have a look at Gerard's new chairman, Dave Kay, you know...the one who let his roommate, Thorbourne vote against his own impeachment and who was recently massacred in the elections for the Board of Governors. Despite a clear conflict of interest as SUB board chairman, and despite a definite bias against certain councillors, he was approved. True, the other chairman, Wayne Shreurer, turned the council into a romper room by sheer incompetence, but with Kay it's "out of the frying pan and into the fire" with a man who seems to want the SRC to become his second little personal castle after the SUB board. Why can't we have a chairman who is both unbiased and competent just once?

If I say any more it'll be just too much happiness for one article, so until next week....

"Cubists" do it 3-D

Reprinted from THE IMPRINT

By Peter Saracino

Some people are doing it on buses. Some people are doing it on planes. And some people are doing it in the privacy of their own homes. The object of attention for an ever growing number of individuals is none other than the Rubik's Cube.

The ingenious toy and mathematical model is the invention of Erno Rubik, a Hungarian design and architecture teacher who originally invented the device as an instrument to get his students thinking in three dimensions.

The cube is found everywhere. "It has been marketed in North America in such a way as to become part of pop culture", says Elliot Avedon, curator of UW's Games Museum, and a professor in Recreation. "It is freely available and cheap."

Rubik's cube also poses a complex and formidable math problem. According to David Singmaster, the author of the book on the mathematics of the cube, a mathematician named Paul Taylor once found a cube in a pub in London with a bottle of scotch as the prize for solving the cube. Taylor solved the cube, only to be denied the bottle of scotch and be accused of cheating by the pub manager, believing that the cube was 'impossible' to solve.

Avedon believes that most people do not understand the mathematics of trying to solve the cube. Hence one company is now marketing a Rubik's hammer to permanently find the solution. Avedon states, "I know nine and ten year olds who can solve it (the cube) and 30 year olds who have bought the hammer."

Rubik's cube comes in a variety of sizes, and is available as a key chain, a computer game, and variations of it in various shapes can be found.

The novelty of the cube goes back into history about 100 years, as far as Avedon is concerned, to a game called 'Pigs In Clover', in which the player has to manoeuvre marbles on a board with raised, concentric circles. The object of the game is to get all the marbles in the center hole.

Mathematicians have calculated that there are 43 quintillion positions that the cube can assume. Mind boggling one might say, but Avedon says, "If you really want to understand the cube

then you must take it apart (literally). There is a basic mathematical pattern you have to follow."

David Singmaster, a Lecturer at Polytechnic of the South Bank in London, England, and more or less regarded as the world's foremost authority on the mathematics of the cube, regards the introduction of suitable notation as a major step in solving the cube. Singmaster's notation is described in his book, *Notes on Rubik's Magic Cube*, and in the March 1981 issue of *Scientific American*.

Erno Rubik, now 36, is a teacher of design and architecture at the Academy of Applied Arts in Budapest, Hungary. Dr. P. Rosza, a mathematician and visiting professor from Budapest, says cubes are so popular in Hungary, that for more than two years, very few have been available for sale

because most are exported to the West.

Although now an international celebrity, Dr. Rosza describes Rubik as a simple unpretentious person.

Rubik originally created the cube as an exercise in spatial thinking for his students, little realizing the success it would achieve commercially. In Hungary, there now exists a club known as the Cube Rotating Club, with a large membership drawn from various branches of the intelligentsia.

Alas, while a source of joy to all those who possess one, most of the financial benefits of the cube have not fallen upon Mr. Rubik or the original manufacturers. Not anticipating its future success, Rubik failed to take out the international patent for his invention, only to find most of the sales go to inexpensive Taiwanese models of the cube.

Biology Society to host Career Day

The UNB Biological Society will be hosting a Careers Day Symposium in Loring Bailey Hall, Room 146 on Saturday, January 23.

The first talk will start at 9:30 a.m. followed by speakers in various biological careers. This promises to be an exciting and informative session with 10 different speakers and plenty of time to ask questions on a formal and informal basis.

There will be no admission charge - coffee and donuts will be available during the informal breaks. All interested are welcome to attend.

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