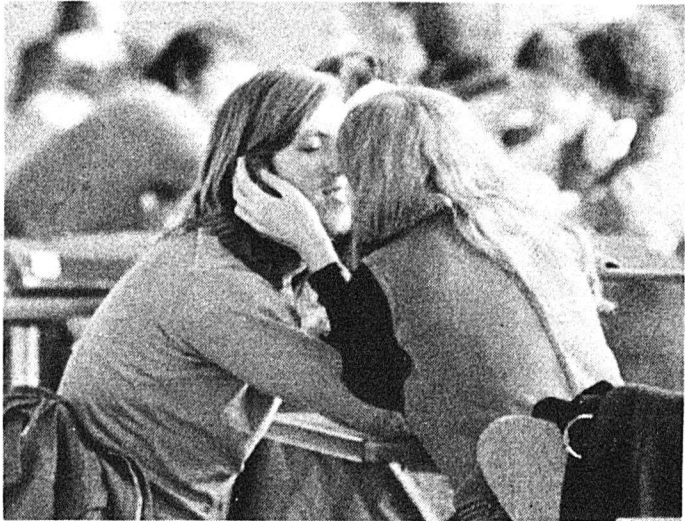




Valentine's Day +2

and so
by your love
the very sun itself is revived

— w.c. williams



Leitch claims , "No Mafia in Alberta "

by George Mantor

Tonight at 8:00 p.m. in Dinwoodie Lounge Joseph Sorrentino prosecutor of many notorious mafia members, will speak on "The Mafia in Canada." Sorrentino has himself served time in a New York reformatory, been the leader of a street gang in Brooklyn, and served a short stint as a professional boxer.

Sorrentino then had "a resolution within". He graduated as Valedictorian from Harvard Law School, went on to become a prominent lawyer responsible for the prosecution of several mafia notables. He is an award winning author and lecturer well versed in the background and execution of organized crime.

Sorrentino will speak on The Mafia In Canada and for this reason we have attempted to obtain background information on organized crime in Alberta.

The Edmonton City Chief of Police was out of town and our request to speak with the head of the narcotics division was denied. With some difficulty we were able to obtain a short telephone interview with Attorney General Merv Leitch.

Gateway: Is there organized crime in Alberta?

Leitch: I can't answer that because you simply cannot phrase the question that way.

Gateway: Is there a mafia in Alberta?

Leitch: I have no information that there is a mafia or family or a cosa nostra in Alberta.

Gateway: Is the mafia making inroads into Canada?

Leitch: I have heard reports that the mafia is responsible for some criminal acts in some major urban areas in Canada.

Gateway: What particular crimes are most likely to become the business of an organization?

Leitch: Organized crime tends to flourish

in areas where there is a demand for a service or product that is contrary to the criminal code. Loan sharking, prostitution, gambling and drugs are areas where participants are both anxious and willing to be involved.

Gateway: Is there any influence from the U.S.?

Leitch: Distribution of pornographic material in Alberta may well be the responsibility of certain persons in the U.S.

Gateway: As organized crime is a business that depends on a network of individuals and certain desirable circumstances isn't there a way of controlling it?

Leitch: The best way to control organized crime is to have an honest police force. We are very fortunate to have that.

You are right however in calling it a business. We need to be aware of the danger of it infiltrating Alberta for several reasons. We have two major population centers approaching one half million. We are relatively affluent and this area would be attractive to organizations.

Gateway: What things are done differently when law enforcement agencies deal with organized crime as opposed to individual crime?

Leitch: Again, I cannot respond in detail. We have no organized crime in the normal conception of the word. There is no

mafia type of organization in Alberta. Each crime has different techniques and each situation is handled individually.

Gateway: On October 12, 1972 police forces across Canada began a series of raids on the homes of known drug pushers. Do you have any knowledge as to whether or not these raids had any effect on the drug market for any length of time?

Leitch: I wouldn't want to comment on that without having more information.

Gateway: To my knowledge no raids took place in Alberta. Is that correct?

Leitch: I wouldn't want to comment on that either.

CANDIDATES' INTERVIEW

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More fundamental changes in the Gateway's organization and policies were advocated by Winston Gereluk, a doctoral candidate in Educational Foundations, who worked on the Gateway for three of the eleven years he has been on campus. A champion of the "rights of last year's staff" which he said were violated by the selection of the editor last year, Gereluk observed that a newspaper "invariably will be a political tool."

"It is just a matter of deciding what kind," he said.

Gereluk proposed a "de facto separation" of the Gateway from the students' council because it would formalize the Gateway's role as "opposition" to the council.

"I would like to see a legalistic separation, too," he admitted.

"What are you saying," Carl Kuhnke, council rep on the Publication Board demanded. "That you want our money but don't want anything to do with us?"

"No, I didn't say anything to give you that idea," Gereluk retorted.

Gereluk said later that his commitment to staff democracy would make it impossible for him to treat this year's staff badly. He also argued that the staff ought to choose the editor although he agreed that the present Board is "in a sense representative."

He explained that his news coverage of university governing bodies would depend on their power to make decisions. The Board of Governors should, therefore, be covered "fully", the G.F.C. "much less" because democratization was followed by

the loss of its decision-making power and students' council "very little".

"You've got to handle these administrative things until your administration is called into question," he said.

Besides his work on the Gateway, Gereluk has experience as a teacher, coach and as adviser to a student paper, as acting editor of the Alberta NDP paper and as editor of the "Strathcona Issue", an election paper.

Like Gereluk, Y.S. candidate Richard Thompson called for an "activist paper" which is an "organizing tool" for students to use in changing the university and society.

Thompson was the only candidate not to advocate some separation of opinion from news: editorials as such would still exist, he said, but the people who write news articles would not be discouraged

from injecting their own opinions.

"That's the only way that the paper will become a forum," he said.

"The paper has to be open to all opinions," Thompson stated, but it must still represent changes which are desired by students, anti-war activities and abortion law repeal, for example.

He emphasized the need for an editor who could bring the Gateway and the Poundmaker together.

A fifth candidate, Les Reynolds, withdrew before the Board began its deliberations.

Board members were Kimball Cariou, Ron Treiber, Brian Tucker and Terri Jackson of the Gateway, Patrick Delaney, Carl Kuhnke and Howie Christensen for students' council, J. n Osborne, Director of Journalism at Grant MacEwan Community College and Sidney McQueen-Smith, "student at large".

Letters to the Gateway on any topic are welcome, but they must be signed. Pseudonyms may be used for good cause. Keep letters short (about 200 words) unless you wish to make a complex argument. Letters should not exceed 800 words.

The Gateway is published bi-weekly by the students of the University of Alberta. Contents are the responsibility of the editor. Opinions are those of the person who expressed them.

Staff this issue: Jan Beal, photos; Belinda Bickford; Gary Bigg; Allyn Cadogan, editor-elect; Linda Fair, photos; deena hunter, arts; Terri Jackson, editor; Peter Johnston, photos; Sylvia Joly, typesetter; Andy Klar; Harold Kuckertz, jr.; Loreen Lennon, arts assistant; Rod Luck, photos; Art Neumann; Les Reynolds, footnotes; Michel Ricciardi, photos; Candace Savage, news; Margriet Tilroe, typesetter; ron treiber, production; Brian Tucker, sports; Lawrence Wilkie; Jay Willis.

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