

## EDIBLES, COKE, AND DAVE

So in August I mentioned in passing some of UBC's old food outlets, including a place called Edibles. **[slide from last time's presentation: highlight Edibles]** Mathew said, What was Edibles? Good question, especially since nowadays "edibles" means **weed brownies or hemp gummies**.

Well, since this was back in 1990 and marijuana was illegal back then, though I haven't done a minute's research on this, I can assure you that that is not what Edibles was selling. My assistants did some research on this, and found they sold snacks and burgers and **Rice Krispie squares**. Hmm, Rice Krispie squares, that makes you think, but no, I can assure you there was no weed in their Rice Krispie squares.

So why, you may ask, was it called Edibles? Well, because it was in the **Education Building**, also known as the Neville Scarfe building, so **Education – ED – Edibles**. And according to reports, they tried to play up their Education side, decorating with kid-size, colourful furniture and giant murals like you might see in a kindergarten classroom. I wish I could find a picture of that, but no one seems to have taken one.

Anyway, Edibles was the Education coffeeshop or snack bar from 1983 until about 2008, then it closed and was replaced by something called **Neville's [that Ubysey article you found]**, which went all adult instead of young person, selling espresso coffee and organic tea. But I think it may be closed now too.

And that is the story of Edibles.

Since we're talking of food (and I suppose drink), I thought I'd also tell you about something that came up in conversation with **Esmé and Ian**. Somehow we got to talking about the Coke deal. Now again, let me be clear, I'm not talking about drugs – or maybe I am, because it's Coke, as in **Coca-Cola**, and after all Coke used to contain cocaine. But I'm actually talking about the modern, non-cocaine drink.

Anyway, back in 1995 the AMS entered into a 10-year contract with Coke. It was actually a threeway contract with the University, Coke, and the AMS. Under it Coke got exclusive rights to sell cold beverages on campus: **no Pepsi, no 7-Up, only Dasani bottled water** (Coke's brand), along with **Fanta, Sprite**, etc., othe Coke products.

In return the University got about \$850,000 a year and the AMS got about \$130,000.

This was a very controversial agreement. For one thing, it was confidential; nobody would release the terms of it – at least not for a half dozen years until **Stanley Tromp**, a Ubysey reporter, succeeded in getting a Freedom of Information request **approved**.

(You may have heard of Stanley Tromp; he's continued to work on FOI requests, and lately has been trying to get the FOI system to cover **UBC Properties Trust**).

There were other objections to the Coke deal; some people thought Coke's business practices were unethical; this eventually led to our VP Finance, **Kevin Keystone**, being sent by us to sit in on hearings in the United States to look into what Coke was doing in various places around the world, like Colombia and India. It also led to us putting something in Code to allow for **Ethical Review Committees** to look into any of our contracts.

Some people also didn't like the restriction of choice: they wanted to be able to drink Pepsi or Orange Crush or **other brands of water**. Or perhaps they just wanted to drink water from a **water fountain**, but around this time lots of fountains on campus mysteriously disappeared. Hmm.

The capper was that when, thanks to Stanley Tromp, the contract was finally released, it turned out that there was a two-year extension clause under which **Coke** would continue to have exclusive rights to the UBC market without paying a cent if not enough Coca-Cola had been purchased – and we didn't even come close to selling enough Coke, so Coke got its free two years.

After that, when UBC talked of entering into a new deal, the AMS passed a policy calling on the University not to do that. And when some people said, Wait a minute, what about a policy for the AMS, Council passed an internal policy saying we would never enter into an exclusive cold beverage agreement again.

So that was the Coke deal. 1995-2007.

And now, if I have time, I want to quickly talk about **Dave Tompkins**. Dave was the Speaker of Council for many years. Actually before that he was a regular Council member and also a Senator, but then wanted to become Speaker. And he served altogether about 13 years, so no, Max is not close to the record – yet.

Anyway, Esmé was telling me she was guiding some **SUDS delegates** around the Nest during the SUDS weekend in August, and they were noticing that in some of the Council composites there was one Councillor who was there year after year for 13 years, always wearing the same outfit. Oh, I said, Dave Tompkins.

You can go down to the second floor and see what we mean, but in the meantime here are some pictures of Dave over the years: **[photos from the 2021 Dave presentation]**

Dave in the same outfit year after year – he changes in other ways, but the outfit is always the same – and why? Well, apparently he missed the photos in his second

year, so one from his first year was used, and after that he thought it would be funny to keep showing up in the same outfit, which he did for 13 years.

And more than that, some of the other Councillors decided to do an homage to Dave, so in a couple of years you can see **other Councillors wearing Dave's outfit**. And that's how you get to stand out at the AMS.

Oh, and I got in touch with Dave to check some of the information here. He teaches at the University of Waterloo now, and is easy to find online: here's his **web page**. So as you can see, he is keeping the tradition of his outfit alive.