

## ENGINEERS, TROJANS, AND OUR SECOND PRESIDENT

After the Ubyyssey did their presentation a couple of meetings ago, **Rowan Bapty** got in touch with me and said why don't I do a Historical Update on the **Engineers and the Ubyyssey [logos?]**? They have a long history of interacting with each other, he said, and so they do. Interacting is one way of putting it; mostly relations consisted of the Ubyyssey denouncing the Engineers and the Ubyyssey reacting by trashing the Ubyyssey's offices, stealing copies of the paper, and otherwise creating mayhem. Oh, and kidnapping Ubyyssey editors.

Rowan helpfully sent me some news stories, mostly from the 1950s – this is rather ancient history; I think the two of you get along well enough now, no? Anyway, here's a **report from 1957** and a photo of the Engineers stealing a Ubyyssey desk [**2<sup>nd</sup> news story from Rowan's email**] And in another case they tried to kidnap editor **Joe Schlesinger [book photo D.35]**, but he escaped and later went on to become a well-known CBC reporter. More spectacularly they kidnapped another editor, **Alan Fotheringham [D.43]**, three times, one time marooning him in Horseshoe Bay without any belongings, another time chaining him to the Birks clock downtown. Perhaps he had it coming: he kept referring to Engineers as Applied Scientists who didn't belong at a university. Anyway, he survived and went on to become a respected columnist at Maclean's Magazine.

But the Engineers didn't only fight the Ubyyssey; they got into snowball fights with Arts students, held chariot races [**D.27a**] that often became violent, with altercations with students from Forestry and Commerce; they antagonized feminists with their Lady Godiva ride [**G.21**]; they stole the **Stanley Park gun** and the **Speaker's Chair** from the legislature in Victoria; every year they went after the First Years, dunking them in the mud [**D.27**] or tossing them in the library pond [**C.35**] – this used to puzzle me because weren't some of the First Years (or Frosh as we called them then) Engineers? But no, in the old days you couldn't enroll in Engineering until your second year.

But the Engineers' main target used to be ... Volkswagens; they hoisted them on poles [**G.67**] – there's a Volkswagen on a pole – or on buildings, or hung them on bridges, most notoriously going down to San Francisco and hanging one from the **Golden Gate Bridge**.

Sometimes they even hoisted prime ministers – well, she wasn't a prime minister at the time, but they put Kim Campbell [**E.66**] up a tree. You know Kim Campbell, Canada's first and only female prime minister, who started as an AMS Council member running under the slogan "Kim is cuddlier" [**E.67**]

I could go on, but enough about **the Engineers [G.56]**, probably our most colourful Constituency.

**Mathew Ho**, who asks the occasional question himself, wanted to know last time whether there were any Greek soldiers in the Trojan Horse: not Homer's Trojan Horse,

but the one the AMS built for the 1987 Welcome Back BBQ [H.23]. I do have pictures of the inside of the house [Tim Bird's email], thanks to Tim Bird, the AMS Executive who built it. It looks mostly empty, as you can see, but there is a note saying inside was a cooler of beer for the Execs up top who must have been exhausted from tossing condoms to the students below.

Mathew also asked who paid for AMS VP Finance **Kevin Keystone** [see **Coke presentation**] to go to Chicago to help investigate Coca-Cola, and I can tell you, We did; it came out of the AMS budget.

And finally another question from Mathew was about **John E. Mulhern** [September presentation], our second president. Mathew said you always tell us about **Sherwood Lett**, our first president, and even **Evelyn Lett**, but what about Mulhern? So I have looked into this too. So let's get the Letts off the screen and focus on **President Mulhern**. First of all he seemed to go by his middle name, Ed or Eddie, and he went on to help create the **Alumni Association** and became its first president. Before that he was in the debating club, and he was noted for fisticuffs (but he wasn't an engineer) – fisticuffs and dancing, a perhaps strange combination. There were rumours that he was going to follow **Sherwood** to war in World War I, but it doesn't look like he did – hmm, there's Sherwood on the screen again, let's go back to **President Mulhern**: He ended up becoming an accountant for a New York pharmaceutical company and lived to be 80 years old in Tucson, Arizona.

I gathered some of this from a project we started over the summer, prompted by a question from **Kamil**, who wanted to know how many AMS Executives have come from Calgary. (Just by coincidence, Kamil himself is from Calgary.) A couple of years ago, our President, **Cole Evans**, was from Calgary, and so was one of the Vice-Presidents, **Georgia Yee**, but we decided to do a more systematic study starting from the beginning, and with the Presidents; we only did the first 31, and one thing that emerged was that **President Mulhern** was one of the few who was actually from Vancouver. I'd expected to find that most were from Vancouver, but no: **Sherwood**, for instance, was from Ontario. And after **President Mulhern** [he keeps disappearing from the screen] ... anyway, after Mulhern from Vancouver, we got presidents from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Illinois, England, and even Japan (not an Asian president, in case you're wondering, but I think the son of missionaries; his name was **Willson Havelock Coates**).

Eventually we got a few more from Vancouver, but also one from Malaysia (again not Asian, but the grandson of a plantation owner from England: **David Carey**), a couple from Scotland, and ones from Manitoba, Newfoundland, Missouri, a couple more from Ontario, and finally in 1942 **Harry Rodney Morris** from Alberta, but Kamil wasn't entirely happy because President Morris wasn't from Calgary, but from that other town, Edmonton. Oh, well. Next summer when we resume the project we may find more Calgarians.