

As 1999 ends and a new decade begins perhaps it is time in light of the present controversy

As 1998 ends and a new decade begins perhaps it is time for all of us who have affection for our art association to pause long enough to consider whether we have the kind of museum that a majority of our membership really want, and, if not, then what not?

Working toward for ^{out} five years as an Association board member ^{and on} as well as many other civic and social boards, no will

No one doubts the integrity and good intentions of those people who presently lead our art association. But reasonable minds can doubt the ~~wise~~ ^{on its own} wisdom of an executive board that acts to remove ~~the most~~ ^{important} such a fundamentally important part of the Association's collection and history as the Eakins painting, without availing themselves of the collective wisdom of the General Board and in this case of the General membership. Had they done so, the present embarrassing scenario might have been avoided.

^{interested} ^{now} The ^{current} state of affairs is rather boring and should be dealt with directly by the entire membership, and a more effective system of

1 Communication opened up in order to share important
2 information among Association members.
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5 The Eakins sale itself raises basic issues
6 that should now be dealt with directly by
7 the entire interested membership. The power
8 to act on behalf of the Art Association is invested
9 in its leaders by the general membership although
10 ~~the general membership~~ this democratic process has
11 not really been ^{much absorbed} ~~very active~~ in past years. What
12 ^{may be} ~~is the reason~~ ^{and} of this ~~general passivity~~ ^{alternation} has
13 characterized
14 Rarely have ~~contrary~~ ^{alternation} views
15 been expressed at past membership and board
16 meetings or officers and board members nominated
17 from the floor or by laws changes proposed ^{and} ~~discussed~~
18 ~~These practices have led rank and file Association~~
19 ^{now} members to believe that they have very little impact
20 on how the Art Museum is operated, ^{and} ~~apathy and~~
21 ^{have been the result of} ~~perpetual~~ ^{process} ~~stagnation~~. This should not be. It
22 is time ^{that} ~~for~~ a new ^{system} of Communication be opened
23 between the membership and its appointed leaders
24 and that museum personnel observe long-established
25 rules of accountability to the membership. All members
26 should have the right to see and review the ^{current} ~~by-laws~~
27 and membership list and be informed before the
28 general meetings of any significant proposed changes

1 but so that they can have time to ^{properly} consider them.
2 At the moment ^{no active participation} none of this is being encouraged,
3 and without such ^{involvement} participation by rank and file
4 members and the ^{subsequent} absence of accountability by leaders,
5 it only follows that communication break down
6 and leaders begin to think that they have a
7 mandate to do as ^{determine what is in our best interest} they please. — a mandate that
8 is never reviewed by the Board or the membership.
9 The recent Eakin's Controversy is a classic example
10 for ^{this} breakdown ⁱⁿ of communication and accountability
11 that have separated the executive leadership from the
12 general body of directors and rank and file members.
13 And ultimately perhaps from the city of Fort Worth
14 for which the ^{Fort Worth} art association was founded to serve.
15 Mr. Carson's recent statement; "It's a myth that city part
16 of the city structure in any way" is disturbingly
17 revealing.

18 As an art association supporter for more than
19 30 years and a former board member I call
20 upon each of the current board members to help
21 us make the Fort Worth art association ^{a more}
22 active and viable part of our community.
23 Although I speak here only for myself I believe
24 that there are many present and past association
25 members who would like to see some changes
26 made.