

Liberals are a 'true populist party'

by Jim Herbert

The Alberta Liberal Party requires a new leader if it is to take advantage of the upcoming "generational" change in Alberta politics, says U of A political science professor and Liberal party member, Dr. Jim Lightbody.

Speaking at a political science undergraduate association (PSUA) forum Friday afternoon, Lightbody explained that the Alberta Liberal party has a real chance to improve upon its dismal showing in previous elections because "a political generation is changing."

He believes that Alberta politics evolves a "generation," in which a party is dominant for approximately 15 years then gets tired and stale

and is finally defeated.

Both the Liberal government which ruled Alberta for the first 16 years of its existence, and the United Farmers Association fit this pattern, he said.

Only the Socreds were able to span two political generations, he said.

According to Lightbody, the Lougheed government is incompetent and near the end of its political lifetime.

"We are watching a very tired 14 year old administration. Albertans are at a changing generational point."

As the Tories decline in popularity, the Liberals have a chance to improve their fortunes, "if we can

define ourselves in centrist terms."

The Liberal party must change its image, he said. It must be "urban in focus, liberal in nature." It must be progressive on social issues and conservative on fiscal matters.

"We have to appeal to the populist heart of Alberta."

It must also appeal to former Liberals who became disillusioned with the past federal Liberal administrations — "people who are so pissed off they left the party."

Lightbody said that the party will not be able to accomplish this change of image with Nick Taylor as leader.

"It is time for him (Taylor) to step down. Later, Lightbody commented that "anyone other than Nick Taylor could do better than Nick Taylor."

Under Taylor's leadership, the Liberals gained less than two per cent of the vote in the last provincial election, leading Lightbody to remark that, "We're a true populist party. We have less substance than margarine."

Lightbody didn't say who he would like Taylor's replacement to be, but did say that he believes that "if the situation were right, Mayor Decore might consider it."

Despite their present low popularity, the Alberta Liberals can benefit from the sorry slate of Alberta's other opposition. "On



Political science professor Jim Lightbody

Photo Bill Doskoch

Future is now

by Kent Cochrane

The third annual "Canada, the World and the Future," conference began yesterday at the U of A.

The conference, which lasts until Friday, consists of eight forums on various current topics and one musical performance.

The subjects today will be "International Aid or International Interference" and "Canada's Role in Regional Conflict," with the latter featuring Colonel J. Almstrom, the former UN Deputy Chief of Staff on the Golan Heights, among other speakers.

"Popular Music: Cult or Culture?" will be the focus of discussion on Wednesday, with a musical performance in the evening titled "The Right to Decide," which will feature six musical ensembles.

On Thursday, there will be forums titled "Abortion: Views from All Around" and "Biomedical Technology: Ethic of a Caring Society."

The speakers for these forums

will include Dr. David Roy, the Director of the Centre for BioEthics at the Clinical Research Institute of Montreal and Dr. Thomas Preston from the Cardiology Department at the Pacific Medical Centre in Seattle.

The final forum of the conference will be "The Threat of Nuclear War" on Friday.

Dr. J.B. Van Stolk from Physicians for Social Responsibility and Dr. Wytze Brouwer of the U of A Physics Department will be among the featured speakers.

All lectures are free and open to the public, and will be held in Bernard Snell Hall on the second floor of the Walter C. MacKenzie Health Sciences Centre at the U of A.

The first forum each day will be from 2:00 to 4:30 pm and the second from 7:30-10:00 p.m., with the exception of the musical performance on Wednesday night, which will be from 8:00-9:15 p.m. *Gov't policies presume 'sacrificial generation,' page 8.*

the far Left stands the NDP and Burt Barker," he said.

And "for entertainment value alone, we have the far Right." He labelled the Western Canada Concept the "Western Canada Clowns." he sees the new representative party as just a new form of Social Credit, and said the force is not with them. Social Credit is not relevant to the "Age of the MasterCard."

The provincial Liberals will also benefit from the defeat of their

federal counterparts, to whom "the voters have given the collective finger."

Asked to comment on John Turner's leadership, Lightbody said, "Turner can be effective."

But he worries that in the next four years, "the preoccupation in the party with recapturing the Quebec base will become so prominent that the West will be cut off. "That would be a tragedy because, I don't think they can recapture it."

Yard Apes



by Hans Beckers

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