

Unique political behavior dissected

by Peter Block

That unique phenomenon, Alberta political behavior, was examined Monday by two U of A Political Scientists.

Professors Garth Stevenson and Paul Johnston commented on the recent provincial election to 65 people in the Tory building.

Stevenson, the Glengarry NDP candidate, explained how the November 2nd election followed Alberta's history in provincial elections.

There have "only been three changes of government since Alberta became a province" Stevenson pointed out. He added that there have now been "three elections in a row where the Conservatives gained overwhelming majorities."

"The typical provincial winning party in Canada usually obtains between 40 and 50 per cent of the popular vote," Stevenson explained. The Tories obtained 62.5 per cent of the popular vote this month.

Stevenson believes this one-sided pattern "promotes, over time, gradually diminishing participation."

He also complained the "two independent members have the audacity to claim (the official) opposition" while not even being members of a political party.

Professor Johnston concentrated on an in-depth scientific analysis of the last election. Stating that he "found this a particularly interesting election," Johnston also expressed his dissatisfaction with the "characterizations given by the

media" which he felt at times were "lacking in insights...faulty...and misleading."

Johnston believes it is "very misleading to say the WCC made no impact." Explaining how the party had concentrated support in "the heartland" of the province, he explained who it was, in his view, that voted WCC.

"The WCC vote most likely came from people that didn't vote in the last election." He also described WCC support as a type of "right-wing populism."

Turning to the NDP, Johnston demonstrated that their strongest support came from Edmonton voters. The 32.3 per cent or 77,500 NDP votes demonstrated "an increase of approximately 80 per cent over the '79 election." Furthermore, their support came from across the entire city, "not just concentrated in certain areas." Their lowest showing was 20.5 per cent of the popular vote, in the riding of Glenora.

In Calgary, Johnston stated "approximately three out of every four votes cast were for the Tories," marking an increase from 1979. Thus, Johnston explained, "one reason why the Tory vote across the province was so high was because of Calgary."

What about the future of Alberta politics? Johnston talks of the possibility yet for the NDP to dominate Edmonton and Northern Alberta, resulting in a North/South split, a common historical phenomenon in Alberta.



Peter Lougheed seen here with his wife, Jeannie, after the PC's stunning election victory. Following Alberta's history.

Photo by Ray Giguere

Who owns what?

Ownership to be studied

by Andrew Watts

The ownership of the Students' Union Building (SUB) is the subject of a study to be initiated by the University.

Although the Students' Union does own 2/3 of the building and the university 1/3, neither party is clear about their responsibilities regarding SUB, as no formal understanding has ever been reached.

"We're unclear as to who owns what," says SU President Robert Greenhill, who continues, "it's been a nagging problem for years and we want to get it cleared up before the end of our term."

The subject was brought up at a liaison meeting between the university and the Students' Union. At that time, the university explained that they would be undertaking this study to define clear and concrete parameters of ownership. According to David Norwood, Assistant VP Finance and Administration for the University, the study is in response to the increased amount of space the university now rents in SUB.

"Our lawyers have been asking us to get it cleared up for a long time," Norwood says.

Norwood explains that it would be inappropriate for a leasing agreement to read 'landlord and tenants' because in actuality, the university holds the title to the building. The question of ownership pertains to any legal agreement the SU and the university might enter into.

SU VP Finance Roger Merkosky agrees, "what we need is a formal, legal relationship because we are renting a lot more space to them (the university)."

Merkosky explained that any

leasing agreement would read leasee and lessor with the SU as the lessor.

Currently, the University is renting the entire third floor of SUB and have recently begun to rent space made available by the closing down of the Art Gallery.

When the building was first built in 1966, the SU and the university agreed to an informal set of criteria for ownership responsibilities. According to that understanding, the university "owns" the 4th and 5th floors, the second floor cafeteria and

buffeteria, half of Dinwoodie, the bookstore space on the main floor and the basement. The Students' Union "owns" the rest.

SU Business Manager, Tom Wright, stresses that the talks are only preliminary right now but concurs with Norwood's desire to get the problem of ownership cleared up.

"We would like once and for all to have a decision on who owns what within SUB," says Wright.

Questions dubious

by Allison Annesley

Students concerned about what questions they should or should not answer during job interviews can benefit from next week's Human Rights Session in SUB.

Sponsored by the Canada Employment Centre on Campus, this hour long seminar will take place at 3:00 PM November 30th in SUB 158.

The session is in response to student complaints about the dubious ethics of questions they have been asked by potential employers.

"The problem," says Student Employment Counsellor Wendy Caplan, "is when a student wants a job, especially when jobs are fairly tight, they feel obliged to answer these questions."

Questions of contention include "What do your parents do?", and questions worded in such a way that they will suggest to the employer whether or not the student is married. For example: "Are you able to travel?" or "Could you work shifts?"

The interview situation is an uncomfortable one for students to express doubt as to the ethics of the employer's questions. Complaints must be registered of the student's

own initiative with the Human Rights Commission. The Commission does not accept third party complaints. Once a complaint is registered the commission will decide on its validity.

Most employers who come to campus are members of the University and College Placement (UCP) Association. Said Caplan, "UCP has guidelines they ask employers to follow. They have even established an ethics commission to establish what they can do when an employer violates a UCP guideline."

Tuesday's Human Rights Session is being held for student's information, though employers are welcome to attend. Speaker Janet Smith from the Human Rights Commission will be followed by a question and answer period.

Caplan says, "Often employers are not even aware that the questions they are asking could be considered unethical." Although no forum has been organized for their information, the Student Employment Centre will answer any questions employers have, or refer them to the Alberta Human Rights Commission for information pamphlets regarding guidelines.

BAZ

by SKEET and Nielsen



Olivia Butti's Diary

Well diary I've got just a few more things to pack and then Petey and I are off to the Grey Cup. I'll tell you, however, there were times when I thought I'd never have everything ready on time.

First of all I had to be up bright and early this morning to see off our Eskimos at the airport. It was just so exciting as the crowd cheered them on to the plane and Bryan Hall did the commentary. "An' Ilesic punts his getto blaster up the ramp while down the runway Danny Kepley, number 42, puts the big hit on Ray Turchansky."

Actually, I got a chance to talk to some of the boys before they left and Danny explained to me what all that ruckus in the dressing room was about. "It's just that, you know, That Jones is like, really fat and, like, Turkey sky and Cole are pretty porky too so you know there wasn't really room for them to fit in the dressing room you know?"

Ed Jones explained some of the Eskimo's strategy for me, "I se gonna play for the glory of my pussional savior Jesus Christ. What we gonna hafta do is to put Holloway out o'da game early an try to put some big hits on dere receivers to slow um down." He is certainly an inspiring young man, even if he does talk funny.

But anyway, then I had to hurry back to town and clear up a lot of last minute details. First of all I had to approve the \$5,000 the Spirit of Edmonton contingent needed to buy pom-poms and the miniature green and gold footballs that they will be throwing to the crowd during the Grey Cup parade. And then when I was on the phone giving last minute instructions to the Q-Tees (dress warm, keep smiling and stay away from the football

players the night before the game) who should barge into my office but that Jan Reimer. She was all upset that the city was paying my expenses for the trip. As though it wasn't important that our civic leaders provide moral support to the team. Even more importantly, I expect to spend a great deal of time reminding people about Klondike Days and our new convention center. It is \$3,000 (plus expenses) well spent as far as I'm concerned.

Well, I wasn't about to waste time with that little snip so I said I was late for a meeting with a consultant and left. Fortunately, Mr. Gregory could fit me in right away. As he was touching up my perm he told me that at seven points the Eks were a good bet. He has inside information because he does Hugh Campbell's wife's hair. She says that the coach had received a special set of secret game films from someone in Vancouver and that he and the team were studying them every night. The team is going to be red hot for the big game.

That was comforting to hear but I had to hurry along and do some last minute shopping. I looked everywhere for a green and gold snowsuit but there was nothing to be had. Fortunately I found an attractive one in pink. Also I bought a large thermos for Petey's famous Ukrainian coffee. I'm not sure what he puts in it but it ate a hold in the bottom of our old thermos before halftime of last Sunday's game. I hope this one is better made.

I've got both of those packed away finally, along with my booster badge and a stack of Klondike Days pamphlets. All I need now is my cow bell and Petey's air horn and we're all set to represent Edmonton at the Grey Cup.