

NDP candidate blasts Tory job creation

by John Watson

The Tories' small business policies have created jobs, but those jobs don't come without a host of additional problems, said NDP Goldbar candidate Randy Morse.

"Most jobs the small business sector creates are the worst paid, least secure in the economy; jobs with little room for intellectual or financial growth," he said.

The jobs the government has been creating are not desirable, or are they durable. "Most jobs lost in an economy are lost from the small business sector, bad jobs are quickly created and just as quickly discarded."

Employees of the small businesses the Tories have been promoting are the ones that lose out. The Conservatives have been "creating jobs with absolutely no benefits," said Morse. "Small businesses cannot compete, in salary and benefits with the internationals." Meaning the province is losing qualified people to other places.

An NDP proposal to set up a fund for small firms aims to stop this attrition.

"We want to save the brain, or talent, drain that is certainly happening in this province," he said. The fund would do this by helping

small businesses make more benefits available to its employees.

The proposed fund is modelled upon Manitoba's system. "Manitoba managed an 18 percent growth rate while our economy has been floundering."

The Manitoban fund was developed

by government and private sources to create immediate jobs. After one year unemployment was down by two percent. Now in its second year the fund is being used to develop structures for the long term. The fund is "creating jobs that did not previously exist, meaningful jobs that have a good chance of lasting."

The banking system is also a problem for most small businesses. "It is virtually impossible for small business to access sufficient amounts of working capital," he said, "the banking act, as it is now, is woefully inadequate."

The federal conservatives statements and actions are incompatible, he felt. "They speak free enterprise out of one side of their mouth and are incredibly spend free with the other side."

Returning to the federal Tories actions in the recent demise of the CCB, "Where is the control? Where is the direction? Where was the public input?" asked Morse. "Public dollars were thrown away into a situation that was clearly unsatisfactory."

provincial election, Morse expects to see Don Getty leading the Tories. And with Getty leading, there will probably little in the way of policy shifts. However, that remains to be seen. "It is hard to say, he (Getty) is so reluctant to talk in terms of policy, he is so reluctant to talk at all."

wrong," said Morse.

"There is a superb chance to win seats in this city as they have never been won before." Morse sees the race in Goldbar as being probably the most interesting 3-way race in the province. His competition is Tory Al Hebert, and Liberal Bette Hughes.

The public realizes the need for a competent and healthy opposition," Morse said. They want, they demand, a real opposition in the legislature. He felt the NDP's job is to get the voters to "articulate at the ballot box what they are saying on their doorsteps."

To do this the NDP must first decide if it is to "sell itself as the opposition or as the next government," said Morse. To accomplish either they must be able to win seats.

Despite strong opposition in his own riding (Hebert is the incumbent, and Bette Hughes as an ex-city alderman) Morse is confident. "I can't think of a more articulate person for a bankrupt party than Mrs. Hughes," he said, "we have an excellent chance of winning that riding."



I've suffered enough!

NDP bumper sticker.

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Case in point being Suzanne Blais-Grenier — recently attacked in the House of Commons for extensive vacationing. "I must agree with one M.P. who raised into question, not her propriety, but her intelligence."

Looking forward to an imminent

Disabled forge ahead

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opens your eyes to other fields of knowledge as well."

"Sometimes, I wish that he didn't have it (disability). You are just one little link and he is counting on a lot of people to help him," Herbich said.

"A lot of people just stare at disabled people because they don't understand. They are scared that they might do or say the wrong things. Actually, disabled students are like everybody else. They wanted to be treated as such, not to be stared at. And I think a lot of them like to be independent, they don't want to be babied," Leong explained.

Both Herbich and Leong expressed their intentions to continue helping the disabled students even after graduation if possible.

John McNaughton, a fourth year commerce student who is a quadriplegic, thinks that the Student Services deserves a four-star rating. "This service opens up the possibility for other disabled students who wouldn't continue their education otherwise."

McNaughton said: "People on campus are also very considerate. And I don't find any overt prejudice towards disabled students in general. It's more an unawareness. People don't know what to expect, that's when the uncertainty comes in."

"I probably worry about relationship and dealing with people more than before I was injured. At first, I was more self-conscious. As time goes on, I began to accept things. You can't prevent things. I am continually adjusting and I think that goes for everybody."

McNaughton, who laughingly said that the description of "your regular pussycat guy" fits him thinks that it is very important to have the ability to laugh at yourself.

"I always wish that I wasn't in this situation, but you can't dwell on it. It's done and I try to make the best

out of it.

"I miss sports though, a lot. I still attend sports events. I like good parties and I also go to see movies."

McNaughton thinks the wheelchair accessibility in SUB theatre isn't very good.

Careerwise, McNaughton said: "If I was an employer, I'd be concerned whether the disabled person could do the job. I don't think there's a lot of prejudice. I have had a couple of summer jobs and they (the employers) went out of their way to help (in terms of setting up the jobs)."

Dawn Blaser echoes McNaughton's view: "I have had summer jobs and I think employers are pretty considerate."

Blaser has muscular dystrophy. She walks with the help of crutches or rides a "scooter" around the campus. She uses the services of DATS in winter and sometimes it gets her frustrated because the bus is often late.

"Being short is more serious than muscular dystrophy because I feel inadequate," Blaser said.

Blaser loves dancing and she said that: "It's embarrassing when a guy asks me to dance and then realizes that I'm disabled. He's embarrassed and I get embarrassed, too, because he is embarrassed."

She chuckled. "I generally try not to be pessimistic, otherwise I'd end up committing suicide. My friends consider me to be pretty happy."

"Sure I have that 'why me?' feeling, especially when I was a teenager, I know I am different but I don't dwell on it," Blaser said. Blaser is in home economics studying family studies.

Blaser thinks that if somebody would like to get to know her, he/she should just treat her like any other normal person.

"I'd rather be asked about my disability than get stared at. Oh, it doesn't bother me as much as it bothers some of my friends. They

get upset when people stare at me."

ping malls," said Wilson. "In Cal-

In terms of relationships, Blaser said: "I am beginning to think that it's partly me. I am self-conscious around guys. In high school, I used to feel invisible. Some of the guys feel sorry for me, one guy even went on to say that handicapped girls are more dependable. I personally think the opinion was dumb."

Scott Wilson agree with Blaser. Wilson was involved in an accident five years ago that left him a paraplegic.

"In some areas of life, I may feel pessimistic for relationships, it might take me a little while to form close relationships. At the same time I realize I have to do something with it. I try to convert pessimism into motivation. And I've always been surrounded by supportive parents and good friends."

Wilson thinks that the facilities on campus for the mobility-impaired are good although he said: "They shouldn't charge money for any parking lot. There should be parking spots for the mobility-impaired students."

"There should be more enforcement as well. It's partly the fault of the city that it's not enforced enough at the university or shopping, people who park in parking spots reserved for the disabled get ticketed."

Wilson plans to move back to Calgary to work for an oil company once he finishes his education in petroleum engineering.

Wilson leads quite a busy life. He swims, plays ping pong, goes to see friends, and concerts.

"I get depressed sometimes but I overcome it with lots of humour. If you can't laugh at yourself, life gets pretty rough. Laughing at yourself also makes other people accept you easier because it means that you've accepted yourself."

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TIME MAGAZINE (Entertainment)

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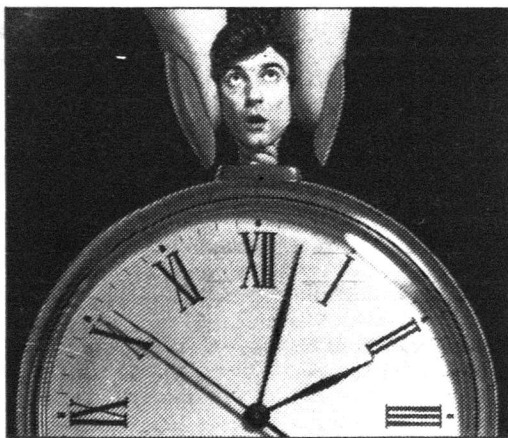
NEWSWEEK (United Artists)

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TIME MAGAZINE (The Turner Network)

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