

## Alberta bound

Sunday's installment of CBC Radio's "Cross Country Checkup" was devoted to the topic of Western separation. The guest on this national phone-in program was an Edmonton businessman who has proposed a separate union of the four western provinces as a result of the federal election.

Various forms of western and Albertan nationalism have been springing up regularly as of late, and all of them tend to blame all of their problems on one man: Pierre Trudeau. Their aims and their complaints are, in a word, preposterous.

Obviously, neither Alberta nor the rest of Canada found political and economic salvation in the short-lived Joe Clark administration. Alberta's business base greedily dreamed that Clark would give Alberta preferential treatment in energy and grain deals, an idea that was not within Clark's desire or power to realize.

But now Joe is gone and that evil Frenchman Trudeau is back in power, establishing a permanent dictatorship, according to many lucid Albertan letter-writers to *The Journal*. Criers of Alberta separatism shriek that independence is the only way to free ourselves from the Eastern hordes.

It seems to me that Alberta has not suffered too greatly during the last decade or so. We have an enormous amount of wealth that accumulates so rapidly that other Canadians can only watch in awe. We've grown into a smug province that is much better off than any other Canadian region.

Our biggest ills, such as an inadequate social assistance plan, high rents and intra-provincial disparity are the fault of our provincial government. So many complain about the comfortable Liberal majority in Ottawa, but no one seems to object to a virtual one-party government in Alberta that is almost as old and weary as the Trudeau administration.

We watch the patronage system perform in front of our eyes. We watch our universities diminish in worth and value. We watch natives and others suffer while the American investors take their profits home, laughing all the way.

Yet, big-time Alberta is still filled with small-time thinkers who complain about French Power and bilingualism and these other "serious problems" with the ignorance and lack of humanity of a bunch of backwoods hicks.

Alberta is hardly the province suffering because of the federal government. Separatism is being promoted largely by the wealthy, who want to neglect their duties to the province and the nation in order to maximize their profits.

Those who compare the Alberta situation to the Quebec independence movement are misled. There is no culture barrier in Alberta, no economic barrier that has historically prevented French-speaking Quebecois from developing their own industries.

In Alberta, there seems to be only ignorance and intolerance.

Gordon Turtle

# the Gateway

If it happens on campus . . . it's P. J. Burton's fault.

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STAFF THIS ISSUE: Colin Wong, Alexandra Milner, Bruce Pollock, Mike Walker, where he hell are you — Keith, it's time for all you rookie ed types to brave the terrors of press night, David Marples, Michaleen Marti-Elabdi, Barb Horricks, Maxine Murphy, Mike McKinney, Nina Miller, Brad Keith, hi Chanchal, Rusty Staub (pinch hitting), Sue Jurczak, sorry we missed you Linda Hanna, next time Janice, Brian Chodan voted NDP, Darrell Paranych, Terry Jonestown, Jeff (part II) Moore, Ken Daskewech, . . . ah, Houston, this is Apollo XIII, and . . . we have a problem.

## Punk panic misrepresented

The misrepresentation of facts concerning the 999 concert is appalling. The concert was, in fact, one of the better behaved we have seen despite Burton's obnoxious and immature behavior. While the articles about the concert dealt extensively with the audience's reactions to Burton, none listed the reasons for their displeasure—

—insulting various individuals and groups of people in the audience.

—spraying a revolting air freshener into the faces of the people in the front row.

—asking someone if "his testicles had dropped yet".

—trying to spray some sort of semen-type liquid on the crowd with what looked like an oversized hypodermic needle (he succeeded only in getting it all over his bright red spandex pants).

—an old Alice Cooper trick of cutting off the head of a mannequin with a chainsaw, adding "eat me" and pointing to his crotch.

Burton's boorish behavior

has been put up with in the past, but the crowd refused to subject themselves to further bullshit by a person who was fired from his previous band and who now fires his band after each performance in order to take the blame off of himself.

999, on the other hand is a good example of a band that can play well and control the crowds. 999 did not stand on stage and insult the audience but complimented them and invited the crowd to dance. We would have been much happier to have

foregone "Burton's Bullshit" than to have had it color our perceptions of 999's brilliant performance.

Sharon Domier  
Arts III  
Lori Walton  
Science II

P.S. If it is true that none of the SU executive were at 999's performance, and that "punk" performances are the only events that have profited this past year, then how can they justify the decision to ban future performances?

## Ski axident knot real

We, the undersigned, have serious doubts as to the authenticity of skier Jeremy Guild's axident with the high speed tree at Lake Louise. In our four years of Universitree we have learned that trees ski only at night and move only at very slow speeds; they're much better skaters.

Leaf-ing through our notes from the past four years of Forestree, we can only conclude that the tree had been angered by

what would appear to be an axe of violence. Stumpthing must be done to insure that these atrocities do knot reoccur.

Guild had better leaf those woody species alone or he'll break another limb.

Fir ever yours:

Frodo B. For. IV  
J. Peartree For. IV  
R. Forester For. IV  
Treesaw H. For. IV

## No funny bone in writer

Re: "Classified not in good taste" (a letter in Thursday's *Gateway* protesting the classified's entry: "Med student requires pregnant woman to perform abortion on. Professional methods (supply own coathanger)". I would like to express my objection to the blatant provinciality of Mr./Ms. Rogers' letter, and hope that it and others like it have no effect upon *Gateway* management. Perhaps Mr./Ms. Rogers found the entry repulsive, perhaps the entire student body found it so too, but certainly our disapproval or contempt is insufficient to justify its exclusion. Were repulsion sufficient to ban advertisements, then certainly those nefarious religious ads would be the first to go; nobody objects to them, however, because those insulted by such vulgarities have the intelligence to realize that such insults are necessary if we are to have a more or less free press.

Furthermore, Mr./Ms. Rogers' accusation that the aforementioned advertisement suggests that there is "something humorous (about such) backstreet butchery" is absurd. Perhaps Mr./Ms. Rogers denoted as odious the object of every joke he/she tells, but I think it is safe to say that the majority of us allow for enough liberal interpretation that every Ukrainian or Newfie joke does not become a cutting remark against Ukrainians or New-

foundlanders. Few would giggle at an abortion; does that mean that there is no room for humor in an obviously facetious witicism?

I am sure some found the advertisement distasteful; those who read it in the light it was intended to be read in did not. As one of the prior, Mr./Ms.

Rogers, I would suggest that if you cannot find the humor, you would at least respect the right of the rest of us to find it; you just might find that, if your trivial protests are heeded, those who censure our humor might not find yours so amusing either.

William Kachman  
Arts I

## Reader Comment

Before I even attempt to express my opinion, let me point out that I am originally from the province of Ontario. Unfortunately, I am aware that this might encourage some people not to pursue reading, but I believe that those who continue will see that I am a concerned individual who cares about this province.

Last June, I left Ottawa with the intention of making Alberta part of my future. My goals were to receive a degree in Commerce and then find a good paying job. Well, things do not look so good anymore. I do plan on finishing my education at this fine university but I do not know if it is worth living in such a frustrating province.

Most of the Albertans I have met so far are wonderful, warm people but they do not fight for their rights. Keep in mind, that this article was not written with the intention of degrading Albertans but to inform them that changes are way overdue. As future professionals we, the students, must initiate these changes to improve our standard of living. Whenever I try to express my opinion people generally reply: "If you do not like it here go back to Ontario." I am sick and tired of hearing such an ignorant response when I see how screwed up things are around here. Let me explain with the help of a few examples.

Let us discuss snow removal as the first example. Where I grew up, snow removal is the responsibility of the municipal government and all roads, as well as sidewalks, are plowed by the city. In Edmonton, people are fined for not shovelling their sidewalk (senior citizens and handicaps might be getting a break in the future from what I heard on the news). The whole situation is absurd because the city owns all sidewalks yet they force the residents to maintain them. I just don't see the logic — I must clean the sidewalk but the city never plows my street.

There is also absolutely no excuse for the poor quality of social services in this province. Did you know that Alberta has the poorest day care facilities in Canada? Qualified personnel are definitely here but there is a lack of support (funds) from the provincial government.

My last example concerns Mr. Bob Bogle, the minister of social services. He has been asked three times for his resignation in the past ten months as a result of his incompetence. Since not enough people are putting pressure on Premier Lougheed he still has his job. I guess Albertans do not mind if some health services feed dog food to children or have them sleep in urine soaked beds as a form of punishment. That is really something to be proud of!

Come on Alberta, wake up! With the shortage of professional people in this province, the government and many companies are transferring more and more individuals from eastern Canada. Westerners though, get upset when people like myself complain. Many of us easterners love this province and know of ways to make it a better place to live there if the suggestions are positive please listen.

Conrad Clement  
Commerce II

## Courses for used car connoisseur

Are you buying a used car this spring? If so come to the session offered by Grant MacEwan College's Consumer Drop-In Centre on Buying and Maintaining a Used Car. Brian Williams, Manager of the Repair and Maintenance Department at Alberta Honda, will be speaking. The session will be held on Monday, March 31, 1980 at 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at M.E. Lazerte High School, 6804-144 Avenue. For registration call Linda Lee at 474-8521.