

En Garde!

by John Roggeveen

So much for unveiling a new, improved method for selecting Hoye's replacement, since our new v.p. academic was chosen at the last Students' Council meeting. (Who remembers my last column?)

But, even though I missed out on the recent happenings in campus politics, there is always the upcoming provincial election.

A Tory loss in the Alberta election is inconceivable. At least that's what most people think. Our editor-in-chief, Andrew Watts, is among such turkeys. I am not.

Given the recent election phenomenon in Saskatchewan, I refuse to make such a hasty conclusion. Lougheed himself appears to be as frightened as a gopher at a mink ranch.

"What?" you say? Well, for starters, Lougheed is giving away (or at least appears to be giving away) goodies to everyone. Christmas comes on November 3, the PCs promise, if Lougheed becomes reigning lunatic at the fascinating madhouse on the North Saskatchewan again. There'll be lower mortgages, loans to farmers, help for renters, and other assorted presents for good voters and naughty voters too. Petro Pete says that he'll be sure and diversify the economy this time. And, if Bobby Bogle gets his way, Albertans will get the satisfaction of seeing those shiftless welfare spongers being forced to clean sidewalks this winter in return for their cheques.

If I get my way (not likely), Lougheed will be one of those out shovelling sidewalks.

Petro Pete proclaimed to the world last week that the spring will bring economic recovery. CBC's David Halton said that economic recovery is widely predicted for 1983. It seems that a lot of people are attempting to create economic resurgence by the self-fulfilling prophecy method these days. Unfortunately, it will take more than that. If Lougheed actually thought that economic recovery was coming in the spring he'd have waited till then to call the election. The man is a shrewd politician if not a great governor.

Those people who are going to vote PC to get the goodies should also take a closer look at them. The way interest rates are dropping now, people are not going to need mortgage subsidies. They will soon be able to re-negotiate their mortgages at rates below the 12.5 percent-for-two-years that Lougheed is offering. This is assuming, of course, that interest rates do not blast off again. But, because that is unlikely without economic recovery and economic recovery is not coming despite what some people say, they are probably going to be able to re-

negotiate their mortgages for 8 or 9 percent, or less.

One thing that has conveniently faded from the news during this election is the rumor that there was a bid to build the Prince Rupert grain terminal for \$100 million less than the accepted bid. (I will admit that Lougheed deserves some credit for finally building this grain terminal, but it should have been built long ago.) How many students' tuition fees could be paid out of \$100 million?

Now, I'm not suggesting that there was any shady dealing involved in the grain terminal construction bidding, but it would make me feel a whole lot better if the Alberta legislature commissioned an inquiry into the matter. Who knows, they might find that some NDP or WCCer had his fingers in the till and was using the money to subvert Lougheed by financing his election campaign with the funds. Or something more nefarious than that.

- And how about those Tory campaign posters? As you've probably noticed, they all have "for Alberta!" on them. To make a sentence out of the phrase requires that something be placed before it. Placing a word or phrase after it won't do because the "f" in "for" is not capitalized.

However, as you can see by looking at any of the campaign posters, there is absolutely nothing that precedes "for Alberta!" This is Lougheed's subtle way of telling you what he's going to do "for Alberta!" if he and his gang of swindlers get re-elected.

Given Lougheed's recent actions though, a better slogan would probably be "Here comes Santa Claus."

By the way, what is Petro Pete going to tell Ottawa when he gets less than 73 out of the 79 seats in the Legislature? Is he going to sheepishly admit that his mandate from the masses is dwindling? Maybe that's why he's campaigning like he is.

End note: Now that the smoke has cleared about the Oscar Ammar/Dwayne Chomyn motion in Students' Council condemning the state of Israel and the Christian Phalangists for the massacres in Chatilla and Sabra refugee camps, I would like to point out the ridiculousness of the accusation of conflict of interest lodged against Ammar.

Saying Ammar is in conflict of interest because he is, or was, a member of the Arab Students' Association is about equivalent to condemning Varsity Christian Fellowship because of the actions of the Christian Phalangists. What about the Christians on Council?

The true truth about the Federation

This is to clear up some of the misconceptions created through the *Gateway* story "ACTISEC puts pressure on FAS" which ran in the 19 October edition.

While the article ran in this paper on October 19 most of it had, in fact, run in the Mount Royal College *Reflector* about a month ago. So, while it is encouraging to see this paper devoting space to a discussion of the Federation, it's unfortunate that it can't be of a timely nature.

The age of this story is particularly unfortunate when one considers the Special General Meeting of the Federation's members occurred after the article was originally printed in the *Reflector*. In fact, as the *Gateway* reporter on the scene could inform readers, many of the people calling for changes within FAS left the meeting more than satisfied with the progress made. This includes the person quoted in the month old story that the *Gateway* ran Tuesday.

The original article contained some inaccuracies which should also be pointed out. Last Spring about 2 per cent of the students at Mount Royal College (about 70 people) voted to leave FAS, this followed by about 12 months a referendum in which 17 per cent of students voted by a margin of 93 per cent to stay in the Federation at an increased fee.

According to the FAS by-laws, 30 days notice must be given before a vote on membership. In the case of the most recent Mount Royal vote this was not done. We are currently involved in discussions with the MRC council to have another, legal, vote taken this year. I am confident students would vote to stay in FAS under these conditions.

At the University of Calgary students will be voting on December 2 and 3 to go to the expansion fee within

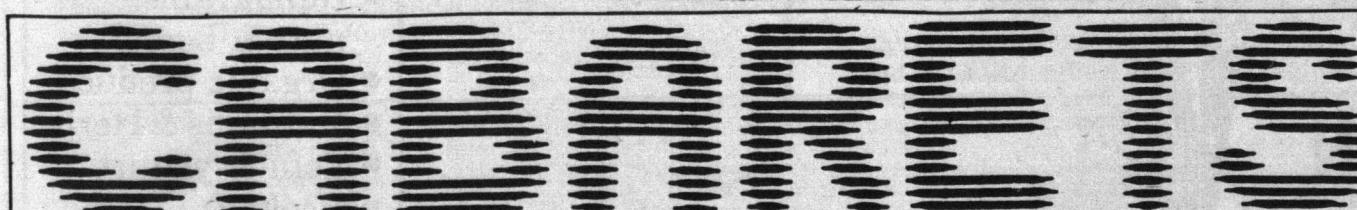
FAS. Currently, the U of C students pay \$1.50 for their FAS membership unlike all other Federation members who pay \$3.50. As FAS is a democratic organization, fee increases are approved by the people who pay them, the students of Alberta in this case. I am confident that the students at Calgary will join all other FAS members (including U of A students who voted 18 months ago to pay the higher fee) and vote for the \$3.50 fee for their provincial organization.

Also, the *Gateway* story erroneously states the U of C "Students' Union will try once again...to convince students to reject FAS." This is not the case, in fact, many members of the U of C council have been working with FAS to reform the organization and make it more effective.

I will be writing soon to fill readers in on the accomplishments at the Special General Meeting. Also, The Federation's Fall Conference is being held here, at the University of Alberta, 19 - 31 October. All interested students are encouraged to attend.

Don Millar
President, Federation of Alberta Students

Letters to the Editor should be a maximum of 250 words. Letters *must* be signed, and include faculty, year and phone number. No anonymous letters will be printed. All letters should be typed, although we will *very* reluctantly accept them if they are *very* neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*.



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"Religion in an Age of Narcissism"

— Rev. Bruce Miller — United Church Chaplain

(How much is the current quest for religion a journey into one's self. Do we choose religious faiths because it offers self-fulfillment and self-worth or because of its claims to truth? Is self-love a heresy or a necessary stage in human development?)

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