Intolerance dangerous

Re: Ranting disappointing (Nov. 10)

I am delighted that Gord Fletcher (Chaplain) was so wholeheartedly in agreement with the thrust of my recent letter about religious freedom, if not perhaps with the vehemence with which I expressed myself.

I am of course in full accord with his contention that Galynne is entitled to pursue whatever system of beliefs she desires. As with Mr. Hussein's letter on the same page as Mr. Fletcher's, I suggested in my letter that everyone else has the same right.

Perhaps the point where Fletcher's views and mine diverge is regarding the lengths to which one should properly go to convince others that one's own system of values and morals is inherently better than those of others. Mr. Hussein is probably familiar with the dangers associated with religious fanaticism in its extreme forms — the Moslem Jihad has a tradition almost as horrible as that of the Spanish Inquisition.

Far be it from me to presume to define which ethical and behavioral codes are most appropriate for Galynne, or for anyone else. Is it not fair to ask for the same measure of respect for my own beliefs?

As for Galynne, I suggest that a reading of Robert Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land*, or of similar histories in the New Testament, would give her a better perspective on the consequences of religious intolerance.

In reference to the rather forceful manner in which my letter was written, I would point out that one of the purposes of a "Letter to the Editor" is to communicate with a larger readership than one might ordinarily reach. Whether I succeeded in that intent is a matter of record — the fact that Fletcher responded means that at least one person read my letter and was moved to express his own beliefs in return. And isn't that what communication is all about?

Peter McClure

Math prof missed

Upon returning to campus every fall, it is always pleasing to see old friends, acquaintances, and *sometimes* even professors. This year, however, many math, science, and engineering students will be denied the privilege and, indeed, the good fortune to benefit from the talents of Math Doctor Hadi Kharaghani. Dr. Kharaghani has a rare ability in that he entertains his students, commanding the undivided attention of the entire class. He gives them confidence in their abilities, and generates great enthusiasm for learning math.

As an instructor, he is among the most effective we have experienced. Dr. Kharaghani gives each student exactly what he wants from the courses he teaches, yet encourages them to strive for more. Some will appreciate the beauty and elegance that calculus can offer, while others will be satisfied with the bare tools needed for their discipline. Dr. Kharaghani mostly teaches students not associated with the math faculty. Many students enter his courses with apprehension or apathy. Many more leave with a better understanding and appreciation of math concepts and a respect for the powerful tools that mathematics has developed.

Yet the most important quality about Hadi Kharaghani lies not in his immense instructional ability but in his commitment to and concern for every student he teaches. Hadi cares about you. He has been known to schedule additional classes on his own time each week for those students with timetable conflicts and for students needing extra help.

Dr. Kharaghani aims at high standards in his profession. His past performance is indicative of this strive for excellence. This is made evident by the fact that his class averages consistently higher than those of other lecturers, often by a significant amount. He acted as a troubleshooter in the second term of 1986 when he taught all the sections of Math 315 after the first term sections produced a failing average.

Dr. Kharaghani was recommended by an executive committee as the best choice for a tenure position. This decision was superceded by the Faculty of Science. Following this, Dr. Kharaghani's application for sessional status was not renewed this year. Consequently, he is currently teaching introductory calculus at Grant McEwan Community College.

James Curtis, English IV
Rory Belanger, English IV

Voters count

commentary by Martin Levenson

Regardless of the outcome of yesterday's election, one can only hope that the Tories have learned that the people of Alberta cannot be taken for granted as sheep-like supporters. Unfortunately, the party's actions and statements do not encourage this hope.

There is a Greek word "hubris", which defines fairly well the state of mind of the Conservatives in this province. It means a sense of self-importance and arrogance that overstates the actual worth of those who are promoting themselves.

To be fair, this arrogance is common to any party or individual who has been in power too long. But it is the Alberta Tories who suffer from hubris now, and it is Albertans who encourage it.

Evidence of Tory hubris can be seen in their tendency to run just about anyone in Alberta. One gets the impression that they feel a rubber boot could get elected in Alberta if they nominated it.

Tories' hubris is found in last Sunday's *Edmonton Journal*. John Chomiak, the chairman of the northern Alberta P.C. campaign, commented upon the effects of the advertising blitz in favour of free trade, and the endorsements of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher.

Chomiak was quoted as saying, "If they have any effect, it will be positive. Many voters have decided to go with the *people who count* (emphasis added), and these remarks will strengthen the decision."

What the hell does he mean by that? The implication, of course, is that anyone who doesn't have the money to finance an advertising blitz doesn't *count*.

Students don't *count* because they are not yet productive. Your grandmother doesn't *count* because she doesn't provide jobs. Anybody who works for somebody else doesn't *count* because they don't make the decisions that affect all of us. In other words, if you have only your own vote, and can't buy those of others through advertising campaigns, *you don't count*!

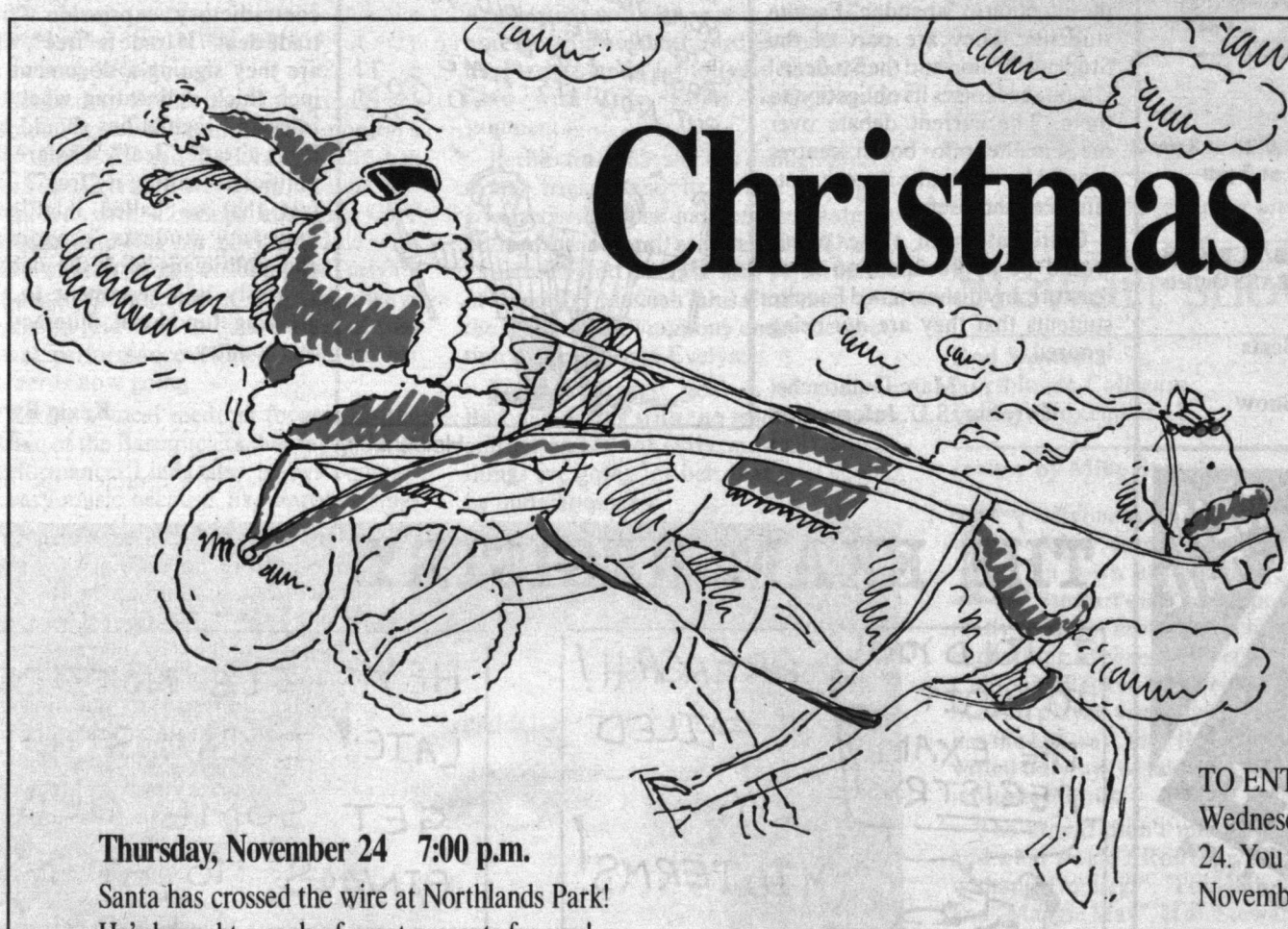
Pardon me, but I thought this was supposed to be an election; the people who *count* are the people who vote.

The fact that the Tories will run just about anybody in Alberta, and the implication that Albertans who aren't businessmen don't *count*, suggests to me that the Alberta P.C.'s have gotten complacent and "too big for their britches."

If Alberta has yet again elected the entire slate of one party, the message is clear: We only get what we deserve.

I'm already planning for the next election. I'm going to start up a rubber boot factory. I'll paint one Tory blue, run it in the election, and if I spend enough money on advertising, the boot will win.

And the other boots will come in handy when the sheep stampede.



Christmas is early at the race track

Thursday, November 24 7:00 p.m.

Santa has crossed the wire at Northlands Park!
He's brought a sack of great presents for you!
Yes, Christmas is early at Northlands Park!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24...
you could win one of these great gifts.

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- One of 5 14" color TVs
- One of 5 VCRs
- One of 5 Microwave Ovens
- One of 5 Compact Disc Players

TO ENTER THE DRAW... attend the races Wednesday, November 23 or Thursday, November 24. You must be in attendance Thursday, November 24, the draw date, to win.

Thursday, November 24, bring a non-perishable food item for Edmonton's Food Bank and receive **free general admission.**

Join us for Christmas at the races.
There'll be wandering carolers
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