

# Opinion

Alan Small

## Don't follow the bull



Nobody thought Albertans had it in them.

Last week, Reform Party candidate Deborah Grey finished on top of the heap in the Beaver River riding, easily outdistancing Tory hopeful Dave Broda by 4,000 votes in the sprawling, rural riding's byelection.

Let us hope for the future of Alberta that this protest vote isn't just a one night stand. The reason this province is stepped on by central Canada is that we are cows: wherever the bull goes, we shall follow.

For a decade, all federal ridings in Alberta were represented by Progressive Conservative members. For a decade, only five ridings (four Socreds and one New Democrat) were represented by someone other than Loughheed's Conservatives. It was that way since the time of MacKenzie King, who controlled the West nearly as well as the Conservatives do today.

Before Loughheed came around, Albertans spent 40 years in a one-party state under the firm grip of Social Credit. Yes, Bill Aberhart, Ernest Manning, and Harry Strom were all elected by the citizens of Alberta, but Albertans were so tuned into Socred doctrine that we voted for them en masse, election after election. Only a smattering of dissent in the Legislature occurred.

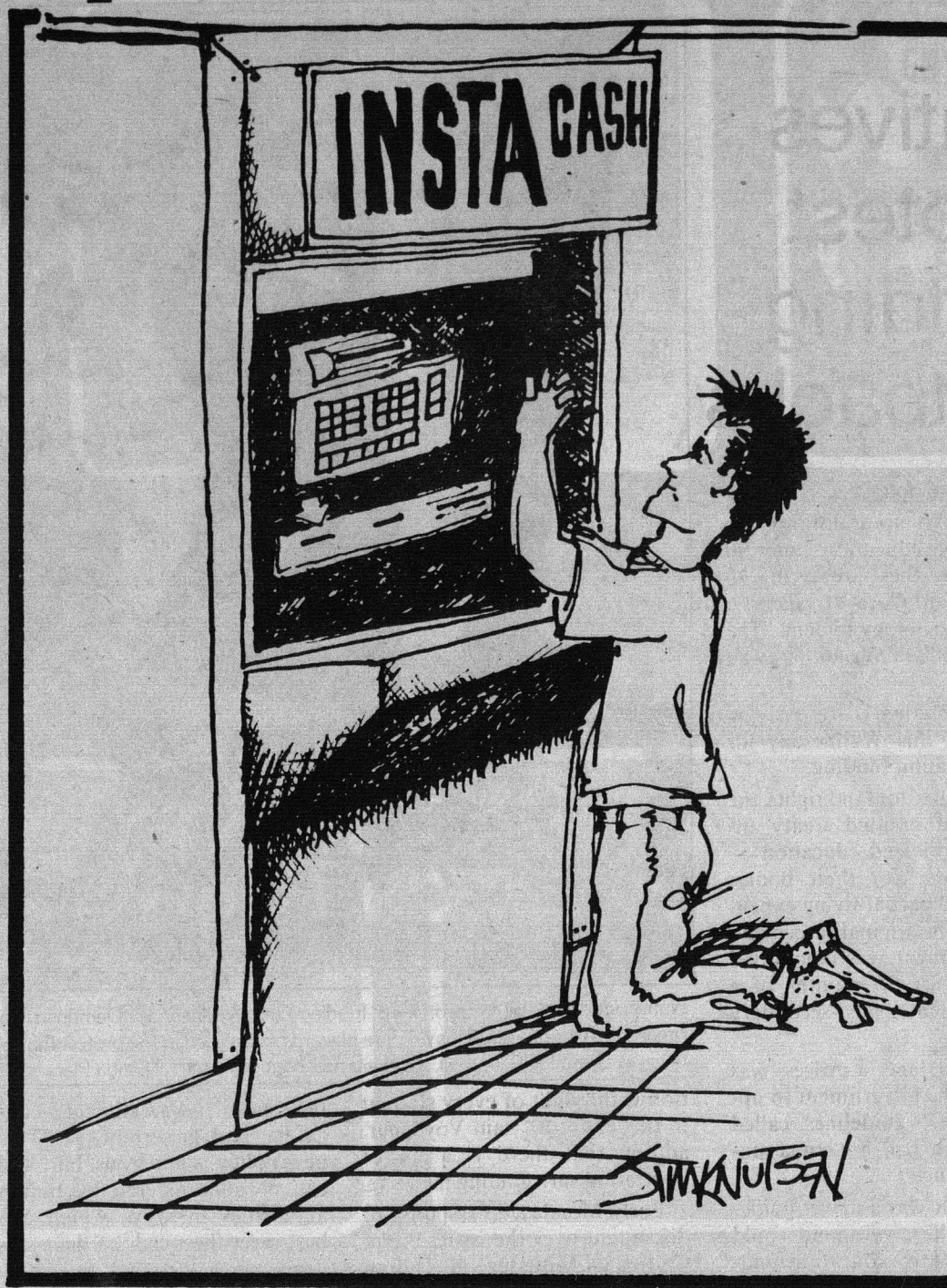
Before them, the United Farmers of Alberta held power for a decade with majority governments. The UFA, started by Henry Wise Wood, came out of nowhere to escort the Liberals out of government in coup-like speed. The UFA was booted out by scandal and the Great Depression, and turned themselves into a non-political co-operative.

This province defies opposition. The size of the opposition before the election yesterday (20, or 22 if you count the PC, Socred-like Representative Party) was the biggest this province had seen since the '40's.

Grey's election has the bastion of Conservatism worried. They are already saying that Grey won't be an effective representative for Beaver River. They are saying that Grey will never have a chance to speak during question period.

She'll do more for the constituency of Beaver River just by getting its name in newspapers all over the country. Grey won't be heartbroken by not seeing her picture in small town weeklies passing out government handouts like Gretzky passes pucks.

A little dissent never hurt any democracy.



## Letters

**The Gateway welcomes letters to the editor.**

**The name, faculty and year of study of the writer must be included for publication. The writer's phone number and University of Alberta I.D. number must also be provided, but will remain confidential.**

**Letters should be double-spaced, and typed if possible. They must not exceed 300 words.**

**The Gateway reserves the right to edit for length or clarity. Material of a racist, sexist, homophobic, or libellous nature will not be published.**

**Please submit letters to Room 282, SUB.**

### Editorial error-ridden

Mr. Ruiu's recent espousal on the needs for continuing the Writing Competency Test is sadly accurate, yet the evidence for the demise of grammatical structure and writing skills should not only be found in the unedited *Gateway* letters that he is forced to elucidate so often, but even in his own articles that he has published in *The Gateway*, in which he is guilty of such grammatical negligence.

In a recent article on sensationalism in journalism Mr. Ruiu displayed an appalling level of writing skill that practically begged reply on account of its error-ridden prose style. However, at the time, I dismissed the errors as just sloppy mistakes — myself being somewhat fallible on occasion and sympathetic to pressures of deadlines. Nevertheless, to come out as some pedantic editor-in-chief only a couple of fortnights later, I am

certainly shocked to see such blatant hypocrisy.

Like many other University students, I take solace in the upcoming summer. Not only will I have finished exams, gotten into summer vacation, and begun to enjoy warmer temperatures, but I will have finally been relieved of Dragos Ruiu and all the garbled bunk that he has spat forth over the last year onto these very pages. Certainly the campus community can look forward with some joy to this wonderful bit of "real" news!

Paul Adams  
Arts III

### Greenhouse effect demands research

Re: Global trend could parch Canada (March 16)

I read the article dealing with the greenhouse effect with interest. I was somewhat disturbed by the statement attributed to Dr. Halliwell that *thinking* needs to be done on the economic, social and ecological effects of major climate change." (My emphasis is provided.) Much more than thinking is necessary. The situation demands a great deal of *research*!

I was disappointed by the assertion made in the article that "the University of Alberta is not researching the greenhouse effect or its possible outcomes." Here at the U of A, there is in fact a group investigating the ecological consequences of climate change. The primary investigators are Dr. Ross Wein (Boreal Institute for Northern Studies), Dr. Vic Lieffers (Forest Science), Dr. John Hoddinott (Botany) and Dr. Ken Higginbotham (adjunct, Forest Science). Other

members of the research team include postdoctoral researchers Dr. Ted Hogg (Forest Science) and myself and graduate students John Hogenbirk (Botany) and Robert Wright (Forest Science). We are attempting to predict vegetation change roughly along a transect from Edmonton to Inuvik as a consequence of the greenhouse effect.

A broad spectrum of people across campus are interested in doing research on the consequences of the greenhouse effect. The changes that a greenhouse climate may induce present some of the most serious environmental problems facing human society. In hindsight, 50 years from now, other environmental problems may seem unimportant.

Dr. Arthur Schwarz  
Boreal Institute for Northern Studies

### Coloured condoms expired

I'm writing this letter to complain about the booth at Health Week in CAB, dealing with AIDS and other STDs. They were doing a good job with education and awareness, but they were distributing expired condoms. I realize that the coloured condoms were more of a novelty than anything, and that most people (I hope) won't use them, but I found this to be disturbing. I mean these people are trying to help prevent AIDS, and yet they are passing out condoms that are more likely to break because of age. All that was required was to break a few open to check. I hope they do this next year.

David Robinson  
Poli Sci I

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