

## Dying dinosaur

Social Credit: The Alberta Party. That's the new name of the Alberta Social Credit Party, and its intent is to herald a new era for the struggling official opposition. But, it's not much different from the old name, and that's probably how the "new era" will be; not much different.

The historical success of the Socreds in Alberta is due to one factor; the personal attraction of its leaders. William Aberhart and Ernest Manning were the Socreds, and when they were gone, the party was gone. The same holds true for all successful Social Credit governments. Bennett led the B.C. group and now his son has inherited that legacy. The federal party enjoyed its success because of the leadership of Real Caouette, and now that the party is without him, they are undergoing a big crisis on the federal scene.

This is all painfully obvious to everyone except the Alberta Socreds. Refusing to recognize their own impending extinction, the remnants of a once-powerful political party steadfastly cling to their past successes as evidence of victories to come. Their intention to keep the archaic "social-credit" term in their party's name is an indication of their inability to spot their own problems.

The weekend's Social Credit party conference seems to have been a debate between the young and old wings of the party. The religious, bible-oriented old guard still carries a lot of clout in the party, as evidenced by the need for a vote to be held at the conference to decide if proceedings should be interrupted for church on Sundays. The whole religious, extremely right-wing image of the party is so pathetically out of tune with provincial realities, that the Socred has become a group of political dinosaurs.

The Socreds pride themselves on representing the "little person" in provincial politics, and, in fact, this is true. True at least to the extent that much more than the Conservatives, the Socreds have been a grassroots, albeit rightist movement. But to form the next provincial government will take much more political finesse than was required in 1935.

It doesn't look like Social Credit: The Alberta Party is up to it. Their membership is falling, their longevity is in question because of the lack of effective young members, and their support is dwindling with every election. It's entirely their fault though: there's no reason why a well organized right wing party cannot succeed in Alberta. We love conservatives, so why can't the conservative Socreds form even a minimally effective opposition?

The Socreds should have dumped their social credit tag from their name. It's meaningless and only identifies the party with the characteristics that have demolished them. They should have sought a viable new image in order to keep up with the times and the political climate.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not mourning the impending death of the Social Credit party. It's good riddance, and my only qualm is that the right wing votes in the province will not be split.

But it is a touch bit painful to watch a once powerful group gleefully dig their own graves, as the Social Credit Party did this weekend.

Gordon Turtle

# the Gateway

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*If it happens on campus ... it's an illusion*

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STAFF THIS ISSUE: Sarah King, Dave Flanagan, David Marples, Shaune Impey, Nina Miller, Kru Shenad, Terry Jonestown, Jay Score, Lasha Seniuk, Janice Michaud, Maxine Murphy, J.C. LeDalia dropped in, John Charles, get better, Annabella Popskinella, Helena Nowak, get better too, Margriet — nitrous oxide packs a hell of a punch, oh '73 Duster, where art thou when I need you most, congratulations Sue M., Nancy McCupple. Sue the technician, Rick Lawrence, Jim Connell and JOHNNY YUMA (Johnny Yuma was a rebel - and so is Brad Keith.)

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## Fashion and sexism don't mix

I had hoped that my stay at the University of Alberta could have been spent in blissful ignorance and un-awareness of student affairs. Unfortunately, the article "Today's fashion — lifestyle fascism" in the November 14, 1979 issue of the *Gateway* forced me to briefly disengage myself from my usual apathy. I consider three different assertions to be, if not definitely fallacious, highly questionable.

1) "All the male-female symbolism is beginning to fade." If we take so-called "male-female symbolism" as the base of human symbolism, the author's statement has the sad consequence of the possibility of having all symbolism fading away. Such a statement is untrue and contrary to human evolution and progress. Symbolism is forever increasing as the wealth of human culture expands.

2) "... and men are no longer looking at women in the old way because they too are being looked at." What is the "old way" of looking at women? No one can describe another's perceptions and any generalizations to this effect are fallacious. The author can affirm and confirm what he sees and not what everyone else sees. Furthermore, it is inevitable men and women have always "looked at" one another; what should have been said is that the author is

beginning to realize this fact and generalizes a women's perception to resemble his own.

3) "Unisex clothing will help to bring out the real deeper differences by doing away with the superficial differences of sexual differentiation, which simply get in the way of understanding." The basic premise in this statement is that there is something negative and undesirable about "superficial differences". If this means external anatomical characteristics as emphasized by different clothing, I disagree with the author and agree with Kate Bush (1978):

"The more I think about sex,

The better it gets,  
Here we have a purpose in life."

It is inconceivable that clothing will do away with the sexual difference. One attempt at

unisex clothing, jeans and T-shirts, do anything but eliminate sexual differences. A woman's hips show clearly rounded through jeans and her breasts are much more apparent under a T-shirt than under a loosely-fitting dress. We live in a social environment which necessitates at least some degree of human interaction. Men and women dress to reach a personal aesthetic ideal but since a person can not look at himself or herself, he or she dresses also for the people who will look at him or her.

I am a student in a male dominated department, I do not want to hide my superficial differences. The clothes I wear never deny my sexuality and I am reasonable certain that my "superficial differences" with my fellow male students do not hinder in bringing "out the real, deeper differences" of each individual.

Simone Gareau  
Philosophy

## Timeless libraries

I am writing to express deep concern about the limited library hours on this campus, and the reduction in part-time library staff.

As a fourth year student I have several major assignments requiring a great deal of research in Cameron Library. As most of these papers deal with current issues, most information is required from journals and books on reserve. For all practical purposes, these must be used during library hours.

Working weekends severely limits my time available in the library when it closes at six p.m. on Fridays, and five p.m. on Saturdays, especially when due to the new computer checkout

system you have to be at the circulation desk one half hour before this to ensure your books will be checked out.

Since part time staff has been reduced, reshelving occurs infrequently, and as a result books and journals shared by our class are constantly unavailable. Although we are trying to facilitate their use by reshelving ourselves, it remains a concern.

I have expressed my concern to Dr. George Baldwin, vp academic, and encouraged other interested students to do the same.

Betty Hobbs  
Nursing 4

## Parking system unfair

With reference to W.F.G. Perry's comments on the Windsor Park car problem I would like the opportunity to present another point of view and also correct an error present in Perry's comment.

Daytime parking in the Windsor Park area is restricted to a 1 hr. period not 2 hrs. as reported. We've all heard the jokes about the private by-law enforcement officer that the Windsor Park residents have hired; and for those who don't use cars to get to University or those safely ensconced with a parking sticker, its a source of some amusement. The fact remains however that a real and contentious parking problem exists here. As an employee, and now as a student of this university I have observed the decline of parking space availability for some 10 years. At one time you could park in the Windsor area with no problem; then they introduced 2 hrs. limits, now its 1 hr. and soon there'll be no parking there at all.

Perry, in his letter, claims

that the student who drives his car to the university and parks in the Windsor area is not being considerate of the residents of that area and I would like to comment on that statement. In the first place he's assuming that these vehicles can be parked elsewhere. The fact that there are more vehicles brought to campus than there are legitimate parking spaces, a fact of which he must be aware, implies that he is of the opinion that these vehicles should not be brought to campus. There is some truth in the implication, however not all the cars parked around the University are brought here by inconsiderate individuals. I know of more than one person who must occasionally bring a car to campus. Not enough times to warrant applying for non-existent parking permits for over-sold lots, but due to circumstances, enough times to express concern over the lack of parking facilities. Consider the following: the residents of Windsor Park presumably object to having to park other than in front of their homes. Isn't this a little too hard nosed? Most of the houses in the Windsor Park area (a) have their own driveways; and (b) don't require parking space during the day. Even if you don't live in Windsor Park can you always park outside your door wherever you live? Is there something special about Windsor Park residents that allows them to shout the odds about parking on city street that happen to be outside their homes?

Gary R. Coy  
Graduate Studies

## U. S. not a war criminal!

Why does Mr. Turtle give an interview to someone who actually believes the U.S. government to be war criminals? Is it because he likes listening to leftist propaganda? It must be, because I'm sure that most of the people who read this paper don't really believe that the U.S. government is a bunch of war criminals as Mr. Douglass believes.

The fact that Douglass makes this ludicrous statement nullifies any rational argument that he may have although I can assure you that his argument is totally without any basis.

He speaks of the American first-strike capacity, but then how come the Soviets have 500 more land based missiles and 150 more sea-based missiles than the U.S.? How come the Soviets are continuing to outspend the U.S. by 10% each year? Are they doing this for self-defense?

No, of course not, they are trying to gain a clear military superiority over the Western world which by the way includes us.

Come on, Gordon, let these people say their bit but don't give them the benefit of being able to air their views on people who didn't go to the forum (on Nuclear Living) because they didn't want to hear that crap.

Glenn Martin  
Commerce II

## Books not available

Book burning will never become a common practice in Alberta. With the library system that exists at this university, books will simply become inaccessible.

On Tuesday afternoon I waited 35 minutes in line at Rutherford library as a computer terminal systematically rejected everything that was stuffed into it. The librarian was a kindly lady with sympathetic

eyes and a worried smile, but that wasn't good enough. I missed my bus. It cost me \$9.50 to take a taxi so that I could arrive home late for supper.

The supper was cold; my budget was ruined, and my ulcer was irritated. I write as I bleed.

As for the books, I intend to memorize them.

Murray Lindman  
Arts