

EDITORIAL

Why PC's now?

In the past few months this province has seen its unemployment rate rise to over seven per cent. Food and clothing prices are up, productivity is down in almost every sector of the provincial economy and people are leaving this province instead of coming into it.

Of course, the natural consequence of emigration from Alberta is that many of the new homes being built are not selling and the vacancy rate in the city for apartments is so high that landlords are offering the moon to get people to move in.

One would think that with all of these problems a government would be foolish to call an election. Yet the Conservatives did just that. Why?

Peter Lougheed could have waited until the spring to go to the polls. By that time the economy might have improved a bit. His mortgage relief program would have had some direct affect on the home owners of this province and the time of the year would have been better as well.

It puzzled me a little that Lougheed would choose now to let the people vote. But this man is crafty, some would even say slimy. I don't think I would.

By choosing to call an election now he has assured himself of a victory. His new mortgage program is just beginning to take affect and people don't want to vote in a party that might screw that up. If left until the spring, the voters might think that the legislation was so firmly in place that a new party couldn't screw things up even if they wanted to. So Lougheed keeps the voters guessing by dissolving the legislature now. But don't fool yourself. That new mortgage program is going full steam ahead with or without the PC's in power. So knowing this and having been in Alberta to watch the obvious decay the province is undergoing, why should I want to tell you that I am going to vote Progressive Conservative?

Basically, it is because I feel that there is no viable alternative.

The Liberal party in this province doesn't even get consideration. The ARM group has some merit in that it has a fairly astute leader in Tom Sindlinger but that is not enough to warrant forming the government.

The WCC, in my opinion, is a pack of yahoos led by a cowboy who his party has trouble finding most of the time. Kesler has assured himself of a job as a rodeo cowboy because he isn't a politician. You don't get elected by dumping the people who originally got you into office. The man's a dummy.

This brings us to the only other party worth considering in the election, the NDP. I am not too fond of the party but they do provide some interesting thought. But to let them form a government when they haven't even been in opposition is not a very good idea.

I firmly endorse the notion that this Conservative government needs a strong opposition. The government has grown lazy and complacent and an opposition that was, would keep them on their toes a whole lot more. But I would like to see how the NDP perform in that role before ever voting for them.

The only real question in this election is how many seats are the NDP going to get? I would like to see them get 25 or 30. One of the best governments I have ever known of, was a Conservative majority with a good, strong NDP opposition.

The Conservatives must form the next government. They have the experience and knowledge of the past ten years to draw from. They know the bureaucracy of the legislature (I'll admit it is because they created it.), and they know how to handle the feds.

Give the NDP four years of worthwhile opposition to learn the ropes. Then consider them forming a government.

Andrew Watts

Sixty-three years ago yesterday Pierre Trudeau was born. Twelve days later the Great Depression started. You think we would have learned from that.

A.W.

All the conditions of happiness are realized in the life of the man of science.

Bertrand Russell, 1930
The Conquest of Happiness

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Heather-Ann Laird is Queen of all she surveys. To her left are the knights errant Zane Harker and John Roggeveen. Peter Dwan watches the rook Beth Jacob as she glides past Bishop Aaron Bushkowsky. Margo Schmitt attacks Mark Roppel *en passant*. And in the far corner, pawn John Algard has become a Queen, much to the disgust of King Nate LaRoi.

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« LETTERS TO THE EDITOR »

Nuclear threats to cure racism

Clearly, I must have a sadistic streak. All these letters you're getting, and here I go, piling one more on you. Well, you could print this letter in 4 1/2 point type, to caution people about what might happen...and I'm even going to mention Lebanon, being unmerciful to you people.

First, I know you guys want to get home after a later press night. But couldn't you have re-typed, even by hand, the last few paragraphs of "Does rep speak for Arts?" in 6 point? I know it looks nicer if it is all the same size, and for that matter that the M. E., presumably your managing editor, Jens Andersen, had little sympathy for your letter-writers after his column had been so shrunk.

Second, since "the province increase their grant" is so obviously awful, I suspect that your Miss Annesley has not invented a new kind of mistake at all. Maybe someday it will even become a legitimate shortened way of saying something like "The organization increase its members' contribution". Still, though, it would be nice if printed publications such as the Gateway were careful with grammar; they do set an example.

Third, I'm surprised my earlier letter this year hasn't received even one reply; it should have outraged feminists, anti-feminists, Creationists...and even caused the mildly imaginative to see a plot to preserve the purity of the White Race.

Finally, as to Lebanon: the needless killing of innocent people is always wrong, and should always be condemned. If the Students' Union were to pass a resolution simply condemning the massacre, without calling for Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon or blaming anyone but a few Phalangists for the massacre, I wouldn't mind.

So much blood has been shed in that part of the world that it is not surprising that an honest humanitarian response to events over there is not common: that can lead to a person changing sides every week.

Religious arithmetic (continued)

Since Jens Andersen's Gateway (Oct. 7, 1982) has become a Journal of scholarly theological research, may I point out that Gen.20:13 in critical editions of the Hebrew Scriptures reads, "When God sent me wandering from my father's house, I asked her: 'Would you do me this favour? In whatever place we come to, say that I am your brother'."

You are right, Jens, in Ex.20:1-17 the first four commandments deal with man's response to God, and that puts sex in seventh place (also cf. Lev.19:1-19). We're still dealing with monolatry here not monotheism. By the time of Deut.5:6-21, however, a new enumeration has taken place: the wife has been taken from among the chattels, and coveting her has received a prohibition all by itself. Thus, sex is in sixth place with three commandments dealing directly with God. As you can see by the texts quoted, many enumerations are possible.

Augustine, the Catholic bishop of Hippo in Africa, in 405 a.d., tried to integrate the various formulations of the Hebrew Scriptures. It is the Augustinian enumeration which is used by the Anglicans, Catholics, Lutherans, Orthodox, Reformed, and others. Thus for more than 95% of Christianity the sixth (*de sexto*) deals with sex, and the seventh deals with justice. Some small Protestant splinter groups (post 1600 a.d.) use a different enumeration. Yours!

Jens, perhaps you should ask the question whether these small sects, cults and alliances are really part of Christianity, - not because of their math, but because of their alleged theology. Jens, where did Winkie Pratney earn his academic degrees? Is he a shyster foisting himself on gullible kids? Is he running a personality cult like Jerry Falwell or Jones of Jonestown fame? I hear there's good money in it!

Ron MacDonald
Arts

Managing Editor's note: Okay, okay: I said Genesis 20:13 when I meant Exodus 20:13. Nonetheless I stick by my thesis that by any sensible standard the prohibition of adultery is the seventh commandment.

It is unnatural to take the first four commandments, which are quite distinct, and make them three, while

Myself, I tend to think about the forgotten victims. The majority of the Lebanese people are non-Moslems. Consequently, if a foreign country must keep the peace in this strife-torn land, Israel is simply more appropriate than Syria. But now that Israel has been so severely embarrassed by the recent actions of the Phalangists, the people of Lebanon may be out of luck as far as escaping from minority Moslem rule is concerned.

I said "finally". Well, I was mistaken. Fifth, concerning Andrew Watts' editorial "Boycotts not enough" in the October 5th Gateway: I too have argued that boycotts of South Africa were not enough, but from a different premise. The black people of South Africa have the right to equal pay for equal work, equal access to education, and many other things, including the vote, right this minute, not when white South Africans finally become understanding enough to grant these things.

Only the Communists have supported directed action against the apartheid regime. Repression, torture, internal passports instead of passbooks, press censorship - life under Communism and as a "Bantu" under apartheid are little different. Since boycotts weaken South Africa without otherwise influencing it, there is only one way to gain freedom for the black South African.

The U.S. should threaten to declare war on that country unless certain minimal concessions - equal pay for equal work, equal access to employment and residence, equal provision for education - are granted immediately. A mushroom cloud over Pretoria or Cape Town would be the alternative. Anything less, and the Soviet Union will continue to use apartheid to separate the Third World from the world's industrialized democracies.

John Savard
not a student

simultaneously splitting the logically unified covetousness commandment into two commandments. In addition, such a Procrustean operation produces a redundant commandment, since coveting one's neighbor's wife is already considered adultery, according to Matthew 5:28.

I think even Mr. MacDonald can see the force of these arguments, since in his last letter he asserted flatly that "sex is what the sixth commandment is all about," whereas he has now retreated to the position that many enumerations are possible.

Furthermore, the distinction he makes between monolatry and monotheism is academic, since no one has ever done a reliable census of the gods. Nor do Augustine's opinions in the matter carry much weight: he also believed in relics, numerology and the demon theory of disease.

And the fact that 95% of all Christians fall into goose-step behind him proves nothing either; they probably haven't thought about the issue any more than they have pondered the validity of the prophecy in Luke 21:32. The Jews, just for the record, also consider the adultery clause number seven.

To the question of what groups constitute true Christianity, I would say none. As T.H. Huxley stated, the original Christian church died with the Christian-Jewish sects of Nazarenism and Ebionism. All present "Christian" sects, from Catholicism to the lowliest Baptist splinter group, are full of dubious revisionism.

LETTERS

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.