

Give everybody a job!

Liberal Jim Coutts, former principal secretary to Prime Minister Trudeau, has a plan that's anything but modest.

At this past weekend's Alberta Liberal Convention, Coutts proposed a new employment and training initiative that would guarantee a first job to every young man and woman in Canada.

He said the Government - with the private sector providing the jobs - should spend \$12,000 a year per person to give people a start in life.

Over 600,000 young Canadians between the ages of 18 and 24 are out of work and under Coutt's scheme, it would cost \$7.2 billion to lift us out of the doldrums.

Currently, Employment and Immigration Canada is planning to spend \$1.16 billion in the 1984-85 fiscal year on job creation, training, and employment services. Another \$150 million was added in the federal budget announced on Feb. 15 "to help young people improve their position in the labour market."

Sorry, but that's hardly enough money to start a job creation trend in Canada.

This is where Coutts comes in. He has the right idea about creating short-term jobs.

Prolonged unemployment is a difficult experience, and Coutts says the effect is worse on youth "facing failure and rejection and a dead-end... These (unemployment) figures are unacceptable."

Unfortunately, as Coutts is well aware, the cost of his plan is also unacceptable.

The costs of a national apprenticeship program would be partially offset by fewer unemployment insurance and welfare claims. However, the net investment would make Finance Minister Marc Lalonde search for a bulldozer since Coutts is really asking for a redesign of the economic landscape.

Nevertheless, Coutts has pinpointed a major problem in this post-recession period. How do you reduce unemployment without adding to an already ballooning federal deficit?

The deficit, estimated to be at \$31.5 billion on total expenditures of \$90 billion, is a dark cloud hanging over Liberal solutions to reduce the national unemployment rate of 11 per cent, or about 1.5 million jobless.

The good news?

The inflation rate is expected to drop in 1984 to 5.2 per cent.

Canada is lagging behind the US, where the economy is making quite a recovery. As Time Magazine reported, with "unemployment falling, incomes rising, inflation at bay, and shoppers crowding into stores, the US economy is entering 1984 on a roll rather than in a rut."

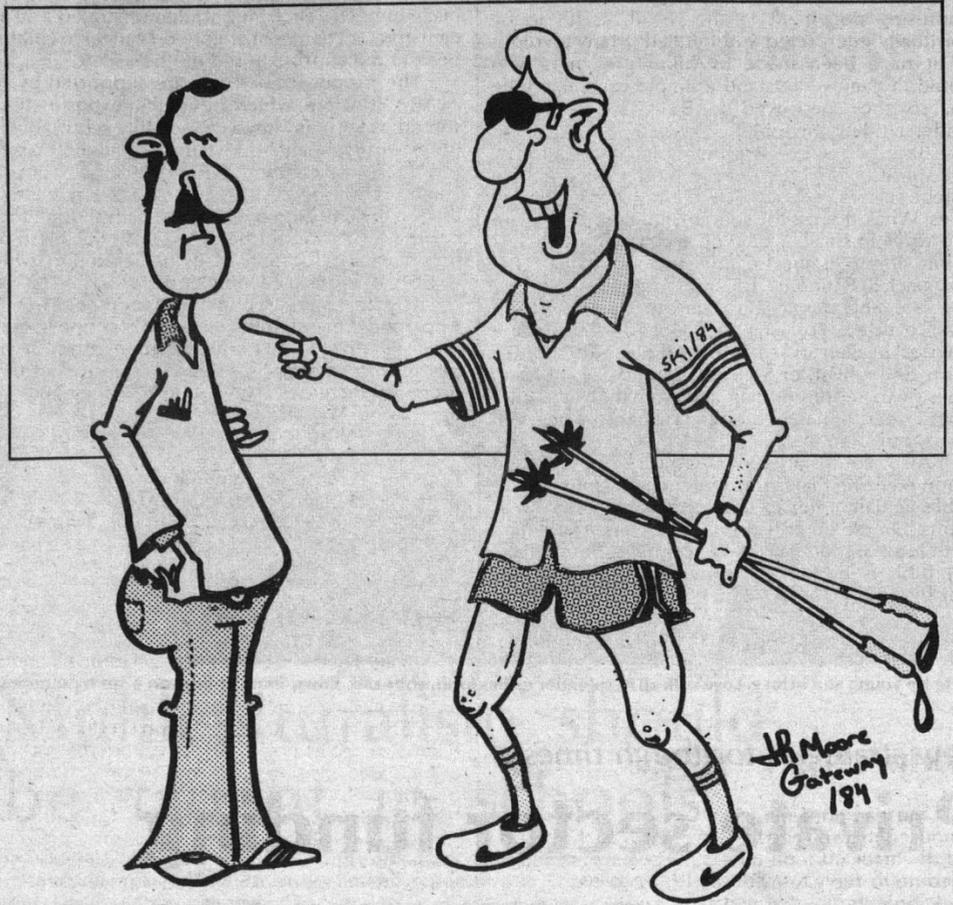
So much for the "where the US goes, Canada also goes" argument.

The world doesn't owe you a living, says Coutts, but your country should help out by giving you a fair start. He says the government needs to shift the national attention to this "jobs for youth" goal: "I don't believe society can survive unless there is a sense of hope and optimism about the future."

It's good to see that Coutts is concerned. We'll see how sincere he is should he get elected as an MP in the Toronto-Spadina riding. He can afford to dream about his "job guarantee" for youth being a top Liberal strategist.

Sadly, Coutts as tomorrow's Elected Official will be less vocal about his job apprenticeship plan than Coutts as today's Social Critic.

Brent Jang



"Ha Ha. That's a good one, Martin... did I do much homework over Reading Week? Honestly, you slay me!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drastic Cutback?

Funding for Post-secondary education has not kept pace with either inflation or enrollment increases. The University of Alberta is being forced to take drastic measures to match resources to numbers of students.

The Students' Union is forming alliances with other interested groups. During the month of March, this alliance (the Education Coalition) will be working to inform students and the public about issues that affect our education.

All students are encouraged to get involved with the Education coalition and come to a workshop Wednesday Feb. 29 530 in the basement meeting room of SUB.

Barb Donaldson
VP Academic

Park goes coin-op?

Congratulations, Gail. Again, Gail Brown has proven her ability to compare grapefruit with watermelon and come up with avocados. Gail's ability to count on one hand, which enables her to come up with small albeit incorrect figures, must be a great asset to Housing and Food Services.

As a resident of Michener Park I resent Gail Brown's misrepresentation of fact, and as a student I resent the use of the Gateway as an instrument of perpetuation.

Gail correctly states a ratio of one washer to six students. What she fails to acknowledge is that each student has a family, increasing that ratio to an average of 24 users per washer. Convenient slanting of the truth.

Residents of Michener Park are spoiled by Gail's standards. She means that we believed Housing and Food Services advertising stating that we would have a washer and dryer in our unit. Ergo, we must be fools.

Gail neglected to say that Housing and Food Services plan to cap our plumbing, thereby guaranteeing a trade for the coin-ops.

Housing and Food Services asked the residents of Michener Park for input into this project. Before the results to a Park questionnaire were reviewed, Gail and company had announced their intentions. Thank you Housing and Food Services for giving us the chance to invest our time and money in this endeavour. Not to mention the many hours of volunteer efforts that went into the making of a sincere and reasonable proposal.

Once again Gail compares U of A students with Simon Fraser. This is the same logic used to embark on the brilliant Garneau Housing Scheme. Love that deficit, Gail.

Housing and Food Services consistently compares Michener Park to the public sector housing projects. There is no such comparison, Gail. They are successful. They have long range management plans, which you lack. Make up your deficits elsewhere Gail, don't take your failures out on us.

David Morrow
Ed. II

Bible confusing?

The following letter has just been sent to many U.S. newspapers, but if its women readers won't buy it, neither will the men. Can anyone there believe? By the way, we've already been baptized by the Flood.

Bear Country



by Shane Berg

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Staff this issue

Gilbertologists through the looking glass. Up in RATT the screaming horde of visigoths step through the big screen and into MTV land. Neal Watson and Jim Moore beat it while Bernie Poitras, Shane Berg, Brenda Waddle and Ninette Gironella dance all night long. Well dressed men Gunnar Blodgett and Tom Hayward go running through the night with Suzette Chan and Bonnie Zimmerman. Paul Holloway and Violet Patterson work hard for their money but Cheryl Parsons and Sheryl Jackson just wanna have fun. Rick Warren and Vincent Byfield are hungry like the wolves but Tim Kubash say, say, says that's all. Jordan Peterson rejects the Boy George look and Bosco Chang guesses that's why they call it the blues. Algard, king of pain, switches the whole screen to HBO.