

Conway caught in "Catch 22"

# Federal politics reach UofA

by Richard Watts

The squabbling surrounding the scramble for the leadership of the Federal Progressive Conservative Party has reached the campus level and touched some of the Young Conservative Party members on campus.

SU VP Internal Ray Conway has become a whipping boy of the Tory Party, of which he is a member, in addition to playing the same role at the U of A Students' Council.

Scott Thorkelson, Vice President of the Alberta Progressive Conservative Youth Association has lodged formal complaints against Ray Conway and other PC youth members in what can best be described as an attempt to stack the delegation from Edmonton Strathcona with Joe Clarke supporters.

A delegation at a leadership campaign consists of six party members from each federal riding. Five of these delegates are elected and the sixth is the President of the Party Constituency Association.

In the Strathcona riding Pocklington had managed to sell 650 new memberships which would have easily bested the Clark supporters in that riding who had only 150 members.

The 5 elected delegates from Edmonton Strathcona could easily have been entirely made up of

Pocklington supporters except for one PC Party rule which states that if a Youth Association exists then they are entitled to hold a separate conference and elect three of the six delegates.

Considering that Pocklington was an almost sure bet to take five of the delegate positions, this explains why certain youth members of the PC Party, including Ray Conway suddenly found themselves to be Executive members of PC Youth Association which previously had not existed.

"I found out that I was Vice-President of this Youth Association on the twenty-ninth of March and was told I was supposed to organize a conference to elect delegates to send to Ottawa," said Conway.

Conway also said the Treasurer of this Youth Association only found out about it on Monday.

Conway explained that the PC members who found themselves on the executive of this Youth Association refused to organize a conference to select delegates and told Scott Thorkelson to allow delegates to be selected at the conference of the entire riding.

Thorkelson then allegedly turned around and lodged a formal complaint with the Western President of the PC Election Committee, John Rook.

The complaint stated that the executive members of the Edmon-

ton Strathcona PC Youth Association have abrogated their responsibilities by failing to organize a conference to select leadership convention delegates.

Conway also maintains that several PC members whose names also appeared on the complaint along with Thorkelson's did not even know that their names appeared on the letter.

Conway declares that he personally did not want to see a leadership campaign at this time, however when one was called he felt that the best thing to do would be to "ensure that the best man for the job was elected."

Conway now feels he is in a "Catch-22 situation."

"If we go ahead and do as some people want us to do and hold a conference to elect delegates we lend credence to the complaint, that there was a Youth Association and we have failed in our responsibilities."

"If we don't organize a conference then Thorkelson and the PCYA (Progressive Conservative Youth Association) will step in and do it for us," he said.

Conway also charged that this had happened in the riding of Edmonton South where the PCYA held a delegate conference which was attended by twelve people.

"The whole thing is a set-up," said Conway, "and what I consider as a personal attack by what I thought were my friends."

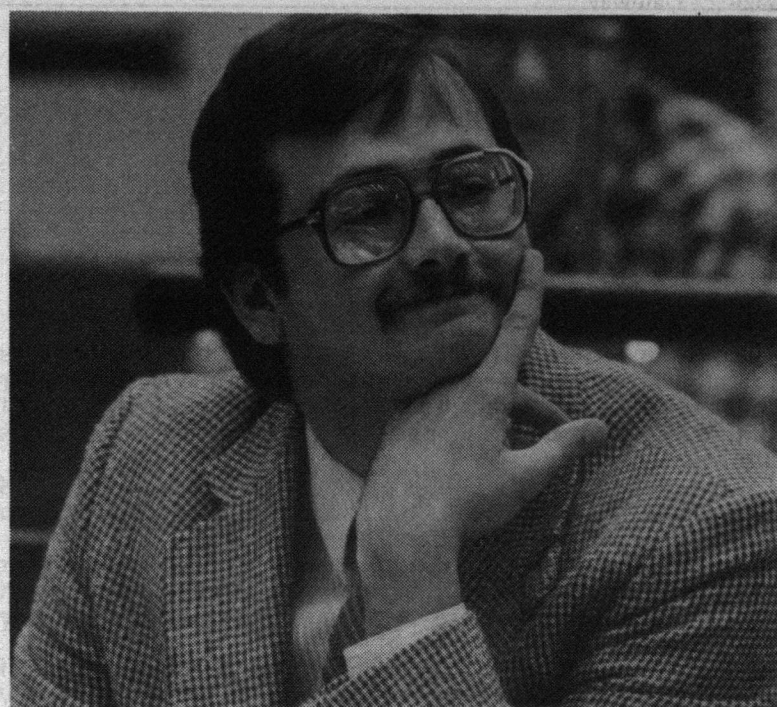


photo Ray Ciguere

Could you lodge a complaint against this face?

## Time for surer peace

by Peter Pullicy

I was awakened by a marshmallow (which I later learned was an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile Re-entry Vehicle) crashing into my forehead and a male voice stating "what a bunch of bastards we are."

I started awake, blinking. Relieved, I saw that I wasn't in jail or at a fritz Frat party, but in Tory Lecture Basement I. The time was 8 p.m. Tuesday, and the speaker, anti-nuker Brian Milligan, a member of the Canada Peace Research and Education Association, was giving a talk optimistically titled "Our Future, Our Choice."

The marshmallows that he tossed at the audience one at a time (Single Vehicle Warhead Re-entry Missiles) and then by the handful (Multiple Warhead Re-entry Vehicles) were a psychologically persuasive demonstration of the nuclear weapon threat and the potential for destruction.

The "what a bunch of bastards we are" was a quote from U.S. President Harry S. Truman in 1945 just after Nagasaki. The sneer was Milligan's own, and it seems, rightly so. Milligan's experts are convinced that the crispy-searing of Orientals wasn't a necessary move on the part of the American Government; rather it was more of an excuse to squirt someone with a newly made water pistol. Milligan brought to life the horrors that resulted from a "nukem til they glow attitude", which is again rising within the American military-industrial complex. With 'Bonzo' Reagan at the throttle, the American war machine is being accelerated in an attempt to scare off the Ruskies, says Milligan.

Although Milligan didn't use the engine analogy, he did outline the engine parts and functions. These are a confusing, glow-in-the-dark, alphabet soup of nuclear weapon titles: Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, Multiple Independent Re-entry Vehicles, R.V.'s — not the camper thing, but a Re-entry Vehicle, which is the only fact the layman can grasp and an assortment of other bewildering but deadly missiles designed to melt and burn.

Milligan discussed strategic theory, which included an examination of political-military semantics, phrases like "acceptable deaths, counterforce and collateral damage," which exemplified political rhetoric justifying a nuclear war. After outlining the historical development of nukes, Milligan discussed relatively recent developmental steps of nuclear weaponry and various political leaders irresponsible attitudes toward this seemingly overly versatile tool of foreign policy.

It is the present apathetic attitude of members of the Canadian government toward the possibility of a horribly french-fried (the quick way) world which Milligan despises. He convinced the massive audience of thirty-odd initially bored students that action is necessary, and it seems that apathetic Canucks will have to

leave their hypno-tubes, barstools, and books and get into the streets or at least as far as the mailbox.

It's spooky. A nuclear war isn't "coming." It's here. We've fired in the past, and are all set to fire again. According to Milligan, the National Military Command Center, through a variety of manual and technical failures, has put the American Military on varying stages of 'Alert' — including 'Red' or 'Final' alert — at least 54 times that the public is aware of.

Milligan outlined the results of several current, respectable strategic studies, which among other things delineated the results of a nuke hitting earth. He painted a verbal picture of the C.P.R. — High Level Bridge melting, waterfall and all.

Until I was marshmallowed tonight, I considered the chances of being personally nuked equal to that of getting in a car accident. I hadn't worried about that possibility either until leaving a mess of type AB negative and some bad memories on a piece of pavement one night.

Milligan outlined the present nuclear weapons situation as a dramatic play of six acts: I - setting the stage, II - dress rehearsal, III - the props (all the nukes we have), IV - revising the script (the newer foreign policy moves by Bonzo and Yuri), V - final scene - high level bridge meltdown, part of a 'tit for tat' deterrent policy, and VI - Curtain Call - wherein all earthlings do an excellent imitation of a water-splashed, wicked witch of the west melt scene.

Milligan's talk was full of sometimes confusing but always convincing, systematic, and well researched facts. For example, The London School of Strategic Studies, a Stockholm International Peace Research Group, and the Club of Rome were sources.

Milligan's position on Anti-Cruise Demonstrators was supportive. He supports the anti-nukers march on principle as a display of Canadian citizen disarmament concern. Perhaps the demonstrators are protesting a moot point: the Cruise Missile has been tested in the U.S.A. already; missile mechanics want to 'final test' it in a familiar climate to see if the guidance and other systems will function in the overseas area of final placement. In the past, Canada refused to lease air bases to the Yanks. Now it seems we're becoming the thumb on the fist of the American military arm.

One becomes convinced, examining the infallibility of aggressive human nature, the historical cycle of conflict utilizing weapons on hand, and the present geopolitical tensions, that although the marshmallows are still in their expensive little bags, Bonzo and Yuri will soon have a weenie roast, with you and I serving as the firewood. I also left the talk with a renewed perception of human advantage over bonfire-type cordwood; we have feet, voices, and most importantly votes.

### Marching for jobs

# Unemployment is not working

VICTORIA (CUP) — Many of B.C.'s unemployed are mad as hell and aren't going to take it any more.

Beginning April 4, a handful of these angry unemployed people will begin a 150-kilometer march from Nanaimo to the provincial legislature in Victoria.

The march begins in Nanaimo and will proceed south along Vancouver Island, through many towns that have been hit hard by shutdowns forcing hundreds of people out of work.

The march, expected to reach its destination on April 7, is part of a depression-style protest organized by the B.C. Coalition of the Unemployed. The coalition is a group of unemployment committees founded last August. The organizers hope other unemployed people will join the march as it proceeds.

"It will let the government know the unemployed aren't invisible," says Harry Minter, a representative from the Victoria Unemployed Workers Union

(UWU).

For a local International Woodworkers' Association (IWA) member, the reasons for such a protest are obvious.

"They're losing their homes. They're frustrated and angry at what the government is doing," says IWA's Al Carley, referring to the many IWA workers who are out of work and have exhausted their unemployment insurance benefits. "Our members are used to working year in and year out. It's degrading for them to take welfare. They dread it. They just want to have a job."

A big rally is slated for April 9, when the B.C. Coalition and B.C. Federation of Labour will join forces to protest the province's high unemployment. The rate for Victoria alone is well above 14 per cent.

Minter said the protest will help publicize the B.C. Coalition's five-point job creation plan.

The coalition is demanding that the government immediately increase welfare benefits and

work to extend unemployment insurance for the full duration of unemployment; legislate a moratorium against home foreclosures and evictions; end its restraint program and cutbacks in education and health care; and legislate shorter work hours at no loss in pay to compensate for the elimination of jobs through technological change.

Minter said the UWU will ask Victorians to participate in the march and the April 9 rally to show their support for the unemployed.

A support demonstration will also be held in Vancouver April 9. The University of Victoria Students' Society has contributed \$650 to the UWU and will offer room and board for those in the march.

The Victoria march is not the first of its kind.

University of Regina students took to the streets March 24 protesting unemployment with the slogan: "Unemployment is not working."

Unemployed teachers at the University of Alberta held a meeting March 20 to discuss their problems.

Meanwhile, a group formed in St. John's, Newfoundland, to help the unemployed is looking at provincial and federal grants to help set up shop.

The group launched an organizing drive March 3 which attracted more than 100 people.

Paul Merrette, a member of the group's steering committee, suggested the idea of such a group to the Roman Catholic Social Action Centre.

"I wanted to investigate the possibility of forming an organization to help the unemployed with their day to day needs, or not specifically their search for work," said Merrette.

The group received support not only from the Roman Catholic Social Action Centre, but also from the St. John's Oxfam Centre, St. John's District Labour Council and Ten Days for World Development.

Merrette said the group's first priority is to open an office and drop-in centre. After studying the various grant programs available from the federal government Secretary of State and Canada Employment and Immigration, the groups will work on political action concerning employment and unemployment-related issues.

