

Opinion

Randal Smathers



PC out to lunch

Sunday's *Edmonton Sun* reported the existence of an "anybody but Thorkelson" campaign in Strathcona. Scott Thorkelson is the local PC candidate in the upcoming federal election.

He also represents a lot of what is wrong with the Tories in Western Canada. His apparent arrogance in refusing to attend last week's SU forum is yet another reminder of how little many PCs care about working for westerners. Thorkelson's misinformed reason for changing his mind about appearing didn't help his image (he claimed that the forum would have been cancelled if he hadn't appeared; actually, it would have gone on with no Tory representative). Neither did his being seen "doing lunch" while missing yet another forum earlier in the campaign (as was reported in the local dailies).

Too many western Conservatives take their elections for granted: a Tory-blue prairie is a given. This allows Tories from Thorkelson to Brian Mulroney to treat westerners as vassals who are expected to pledge allegiance to their liege every four years.

In the past, the PCs have been able to rely on Alberta suspicion of easterners (Liberals) and socialists (NDs) to ease their way. This time out, the Reform party has muddied the political waters. Some Reformers are expected only to divide the small-conservative electorate. Others, like Preston Manning, are given a real shot at being elected.

Doug Main, Scona Reform candidate, looks to be in the latter class, especially given Thorkelson's attitude. Perhaps a few Reform seats in the next election will remind Western Tories that their duty is to the people who elect them, and not to Baie-Comeau, Quebec. Perhaps David Kilgour won't be alone in the next federal Conservative caucus.

At any rate, I suspect there are a lot of thinking Edmontonians who are saying "Anybody but Thorkelson."



Letters

Humour not amusing

I hate to complain, but it would be nice if you could put something funny on the humour page for a change. If this is too much trouble, then could you at least change the name of the page to "Useless Space We Just Could Not Leave Blank"?

P.S. Hint, hint. Maybe next time Miss Mortenson could write about "Fun Times Sharpening My Pencil", or "Wild Times Waiting for the Elevator".

Myles McCallum
Paul Yates

Attitude "masturbatory"

Re: "Christians share cure", October 25, 1988

Galynne Howard, you really take the cake. Of all the presumptuous, arrogant attitudes that one continually encounters around campus, the self-congratulatory fervour of the various evangelical Christian groups is one of the worst.

Presumptuous? You illogically assume that yours is the only right way to pursue religious beliefs — most of the world doesn't agree, and have found other ways to do so, more suitable to their culture and environment. The attitude of saying that God is a Christian presumes to understand and know his/her mind. Pretty snippy way to look at the all-knowing, all-seeing entity you present as your ideal...

And that's where the arrogance comes in. You have one narrow view of the world, and fanatically devote your time and resources to trying to convince everyone else to agree with you. They don't, and are understandably pissed off when you tell them they're all going to burn in Hell.

From a number of years of observation, I have come to the conclusion that the main role of your crusades and proselytism is to reinforce your own belief that you're better than everyone else — a kind of childish ego-building system that begins with the assumption that you're right and everybody else is wrong.

It is that same assumption that is at the root of any fanatical group. It wouldn't be quite as acceptable, on a

social level, to become a Nazi or a Hare Krishna, but the initial premise is the same.

One would hope that students come to university to learn; to broaden their horizons and open their eyes to the potentials of the great, wide world. Your attitude is exactly the opposite — it is a masturbatory, self-serving limitation of your mind to the parameters you've grown up with. Maybe you could try hanging around with somebody other than your own tight little clique for a while — the real "cure" that is needed here is exposure to the ideas that you came to learn in the first place.

Get off your high horse, Galynne, and take a look at the world around you. There's a lot more out there than red-necked, bible-belt Alberta.

Peter McClure

McKnight inconsistent

It is frustrating to see that the progress made recently (Saturday, October 22) between Chief Bernard Ominayak and Premier Don Getty is now being stalled by the Federal Government, and namely the Minister of Indian Affairs, Bill McKnight.

The main stumbling block in Lubicon-Federal negotiations is the number of band members which McKnight's department is willing to recognize as status Indians. The Lubicon claim a band membership of 468. McKnight's "formula" would exclude 50 to 60 Lubicons, effectively tearing families apart. This is unjust. Historically, when a treaty has been negotiated, the right to determine band membership has been decided by the band. Even as recently as this fall, with the signing of the Dene/Metis Agreement-in-Principle in the Northwest Territories, membership was left to the Dene/Metis to determine. Why is McKnight being inconsistent in his dealings with the Lubicon?

The Lubicon Lake Student Support Group feels this situation is intolerable. It is important that considerable pressure be applied to the federal government before the federal election so that they are aware that the resolution of Lubicon rights to self-determination in addition to those of

other aboriginal groups across Canada is of vital concern to Canadians. The Lubicon do not have another 48 years to finalize their claim.

Ingrid Kritsch
Lubicon Lake Student
Support Group

Respect needed

Re: "Christians share cure" and "Words dangerous"

Ms. Howard, I recently attended a debate on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, although I am neither Jewish nor Palestinian, because I wanted to become "better informed" about this controversial issue.

In your letter, you shared Christ's mandate for his disciples, and your desire to share the changes that Christ has implemented in your life. But would it not be more respectful to allow your non-Christian counterparts to express their interest in Christianity by attending functions which would present a clear depiction of the gospel message, as well as personal testimonies of faith, instead of engaging them in awkward, tension-filled confrontations which tend to make them more resistant to the claims of Christ?

And isn't Christianity "a restorative religion" which aims at "healing, renewal, and wholeness", and not just "the ability to cope" with the stresses of daily living?

Mr. Spindloe, in your letter, you shared your "justifiable" resentment at having Christians infringe their beliefs upon yours, but must you resort to the use of harmful and emotionally-laden stereotypes, which are exaggerated and only serve to create barriers of misunderstanding and hatred between people, in order to defend your beliefs of autonomy?

And, if there is no God, why did Christianity not die out centuries ago according to the argument of the revered Jewish Rabbi, Gamaliel, of the Sanhedrin who said "... if their (the apostles) purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God." (Acts 5:38-39 NIV)???

Veronica Vamosi
Home Economics III

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CONTRIBUTORS

COLIN NORTHCOTT, PAUL MENZIES, RON KUIPERS, CLIVE OSHRY, RON SEARS, SHELBY COOK, TERI CLARKE, WILL GIBSON, WINSTON PEI, RACHEL SANDERS, CAM MCCULLOCH, GRANT WINTON, DAVE ALLERS, PAUL DYCK, DARREN KELLY, ANDREW LUMMIS, ROSS GRAY, DAVID DUDAR, MICHAEL MCGRATH, BRIAN JORGENSON, WINSON LAI.

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