

Rockies for a variety of reasons). After the election it seems Wilson fell in love with Judi Tyabji, another Liberal provincial member. No harm right?? Well when you are married, there is harm. Both sides got divorced, joined a fringe party and lived in lovers bliss happily ever after. Right? Wrong. Wilson managed to go 180 degrees on the political spectrum by ending up with the NDP and he even got a plum cabinet post. Now he hopes to run for the leadership but folks are having their doubts. Concerns about running up another Visa bill are hampering him.

No surprise there. I'd be a little leery of electing someone leader who can't manage his own money. What the hell would he do with British Columbian's

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money? Not sure but I here he's giving away casino licenses cheap!

From the Rock...

Comes another strange tale. Seems our good Newfie brothers have

recently decided to allow a bulk water export license to a company that applied for it some three years ago. I only mention this because of my shock. After much controversy, the folks in Quebec, Ontario, BC, and Alberta decided that exporting a key resource is not only wrong but potentially environmentally threatening. Yet the folks out on the Rock insist that the application passed the necessary tests. I say yeah so?? Why?? Water is a precious resource. It must be managed properly. Any massive transfers of water out of an area to another is bound to cause environmental damage. If those folks can't see that then they better ease off on the rock they are smoking...

Who is back...

Joe Who, that's who. Mr. Clark has managed to tighten the reins on his indebted Tory party. After thwarting off advances by the United Alternative (which is really a bastard child of the Reform) he held a conference last week. He has promised to field candidates in all 301 ridings in Canada. More importantly for you right wing conservatives out there, he has finally figured out a fundamental Canadian

political law. In order to get elected federally in Canada, a party must attempt to position themselves as close to the middle as possible. Canadians are not really radical. They get a little spooked by parties on the fringe (see Reform in the Maritimes and the NDP in Quebec for two examples). They feel comfortable with parties that don't threaten them with too much change from the status quo. So the Tories master manoeuvre is this: they will try to sway Liberal votes their way instead of competing head on with Reform. This is smart for a couple of reasons. First off is that the Liberals presently have about 55% of the electoral pie and the Reform and Tories probably have around 25%. Instead of scraping over little bits from their own section they are going to go after the bigger portion. Makes sense right?? Took them

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seven years to figure that one out. Look for

this strategy to pay off in the long term as Joe Clark will start seeming like a whole lot less threatening than Jean Chretien (my fingers still can't believe they've been ordered to type that last sentence!)

Skiing isn't the only...
Thing to do at Mont Tremblant. The feds

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have again showed their immense amount of wisdom in holding a conference on federalism in the place which probably has the weakest appetite for it. The boys have opened themselves up to a nightmare of the worst sort. Here's how it played out. PQ Intergovernmental Affairs minister Joseph Facal started the week off by announcing to anyone who'll listen that his government will be the ones to set the rules for the next referendum and further they are not too concerned about the Supreme Court ruling about a clear question and a clear majority. This defiance of the law is interesting

but not surprising. Usually I would've just filed this under ranting. But alas, the federalism conference was the next day. Headache #2 involved Mr. Bouchard getting a private meeting with Bill Clinton and Mexican PM Ernest (goes to Tremblant and is in for one helluva Canadian surprise) Zedillo. This is not some momentous event because as host of a conference of this sort, it is not strange to get a chance to shoot the breeze with these world leaders (see Glenn Clark and APEC some time after the pepper spray cleared). Headache #3 was the worst though. Mr. Facal gets up in a seminar and starts ranting about federalism to the surprise of more than a few foreign observers. What do you expect? For him to praise the virtues of it? A little friendly piece of advice before I sign off... next International Conference on Federalism should be anywhere but in Quebec to avoid this sort of things. You can bet Ernie ain't having any conference of these sorts in his embattled Chiapas province. Oh well, live and learn....

GONZO OUT

END

