

poetry

**"A L'Auberge Richmond
October 1961"**

The sun, once more attempts to pierce,
Smoke-glazed windows,
Falls back, once more, defeated
and despairing.
If rays of sun can fail to break the
mists that
hem this place,
How then can I,
I am pressed in by pretty girls and
cheerful men,
Yet unknowing, I cannot speak,
nor act.
They turn their backs once more,
Once more, indifference sets in,
And I am left, cold and lonely as a
winter bird.
- Out of place.

P.D. Ridley



"THE POET" (1966)

The problem always lies
For poets
To communicate.
How to tell,
The ordinary man,
In ordinary words,
What he himself,
The ordinary man, has felt,
And would say,
If he could
But find the words
Thus to express
This something
Which is greater than himself.
The ordinary sights and sounds,
Smells,
The everyday things,
The trite expression,
Must be said
In a different way.
The poet must cope
With that gnawing ache
Of knowing,
Knowing that he can only fail,
To be but barely half
Of expectations.
Unrealistic and unrealised,
He finds brief solace,
In spasms,
Like a woman giving birth,
He lives -
In hope.

P.D. Ridley.

**THE CAGE OR FOR PAUL ROSE
(1972)**

The awful theatre of the mind
Screams its repressed whisper
To the closed doors
The locked windows
Of the metal brain
The plastic substance
Of our impotence
Alone sustains imagination.

We are not able to imagine.
They very image of our selves,
Emasculate us,
Negate us.
But are we rapists,
Liars, thieves?
No, No
I tell you
These thoughts
Tear at the very roots
Of our "civilisation"
Our excreted society.

We are dead men
With only the stalks
Of stinking lilies
Breaking through our eyes.
They clutch the foetus
Strangled at our birth
We suffocate,
In sterility.
There are no innocents
We are all Roses.

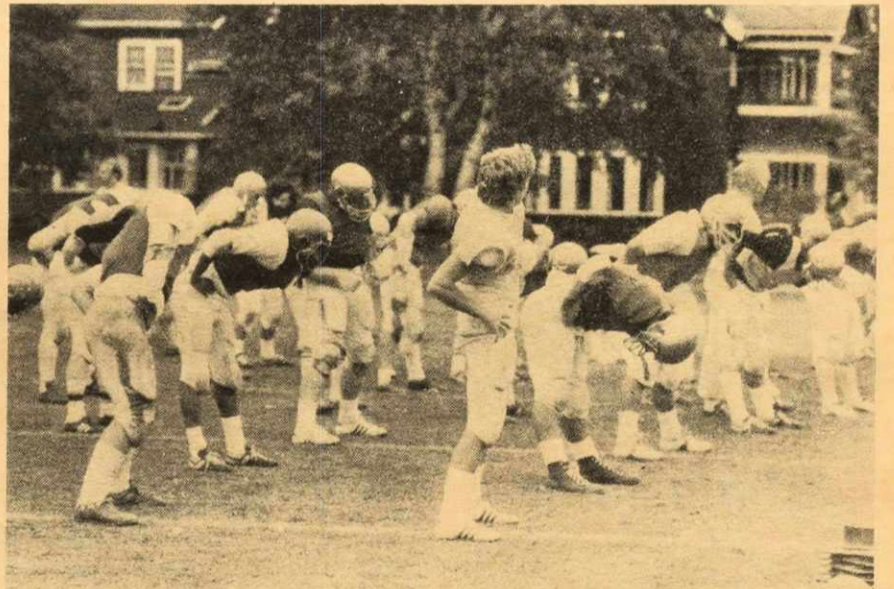
P.D. Ridley

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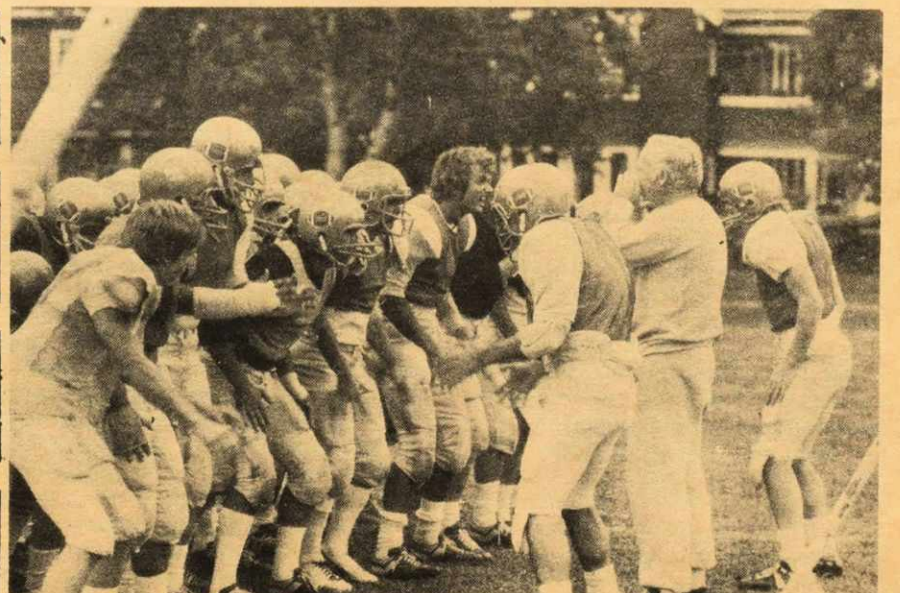
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