

# SECOND WIND

by Richard  
Watts

*Second Wind is an irregular (in more ways than one) column of opinion open to all Gateway staff. It does not necessarily reflect the views of other staff members.*

Dr. Benoit Robert, of the Faculté des Sciences de l'Éducation, Université Laval, spoke at the U of A last Thursday to address the question, "Is there a national policy on education?"

Is there a national education policy? "No," said Robert.

Robert then went on to discuss an issue of far greater

magnitude. According to Robert, what this country really needs is a national policy on Canada Studies.

Through Canada Studies, school-children will become acquainted with the economics, politics, and public issues of 'This Land of Ours!' They will receive a new awareness and appreciation of the Great Canadian Concept.

"But Canada Studies will not deny regional differences," said Robert.

Meanwhile, the Ontario-certified technologist faces a laborer's job in Alberta; his

certificate is not recognized. The new kid in Montreal town faces the trauma of French immersion; neither parent was educated in English in Quebec. All over, parents find their children are academically behind or ahead of their classmates after a move.

And we need a course in Canada appreciation. Unfortunately the teaching of the Great Canadian Concept seems ill-timed. It is overshadowed by the multi-cultural, multi-racial, and multi-stupid Great Canadian Reality.

## Duped again by Commies

Mr. Goff (March 17) claimed that I have confused cause and effect by attributing the United States' more assertive foreign policy to a response to the Soviet Union's actions. Not at all.

Clearly, it is because of the military imbalance that has developed over the past decade that the Reagan administration is proposing massive defence spending increases. Any statements concerning who did what to whom in 1947 and the balance of forces in 1962 are irrelevant now. As I pointed out, it is the Soviet Union that has been the aggressor state recently. None of my facts were disputed by Mr. Goff.

Mr. Goff dismisses CIA facts and figures on Soviet arms expenditure and intentions as "notoriously unreliable." Notoriously distasteful to Communist propagandists more like.

Mr. Goff's bible is the International Institute for Strategic Studies: "They show that NATO outspends the Warsaw Pact on defence by \$180 billion to \$160 billion, one quarter of the Soviet defence effort being directed toward China." I'm sure the Chinese will be alarmed to hear that one quarter of Soviet defence expenditures "don't count" because they are directed against them and not NATO directly.

In any case, what is more important, defense spending or existing forces? In 1979, the Institute concluded "that a dramatic modernization program in the Soviet armed forces had given the Warsaw Pact a signifi-

cant advantage in the event of a landwar in Europe."

Mr. Goff also states that the "NATO brass admitted that the decision to add 574 Cruise and Pershing II missiles to Western Europe was made two years before the replacement of Soviet SS-20 missile appeared." What Mr. Goff doesn't say is when the USSR

made its decision to deploy the SS-20. Again, what is relevant here is not when deployment decisions were made, but what is happening; the United States are not deploying their missiles before 1983 and the USSR is deploying its SS-20s now.

Finally, Mr. Goff was impressed by a transparent Soviet propaganda attempt: the releasing of "classified" NATO documents. The 1978 NATO Council "apparently concluded that Soviet foreign policy was defensive and that its chief aim was to develop friendly relations with the U.S.A."

I pondered over this statement for quite some time; I finally concluded that the 1978 NATO Council was either on mind-expanding drugs or that the statement was just another load, spoon-fed to listeners of Radio Moscow.

Nicolas Dimic  
Arts II

## LETTERS

Letters to the *Gateway* should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters must be typed, though we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*.



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## Booze blues long gone

When I was a student there was a song going around, of which part of the words are:

"We never falter

We never fall.

We sober up on wood alcohol."

I never learned the rest of the song, and would appreciate it if some student or ex-student could fill this void in my education.

Philip Garrison  
Box 338 N.D.G.  
Montreal, H4A 3P6  
Arts & Science 1952

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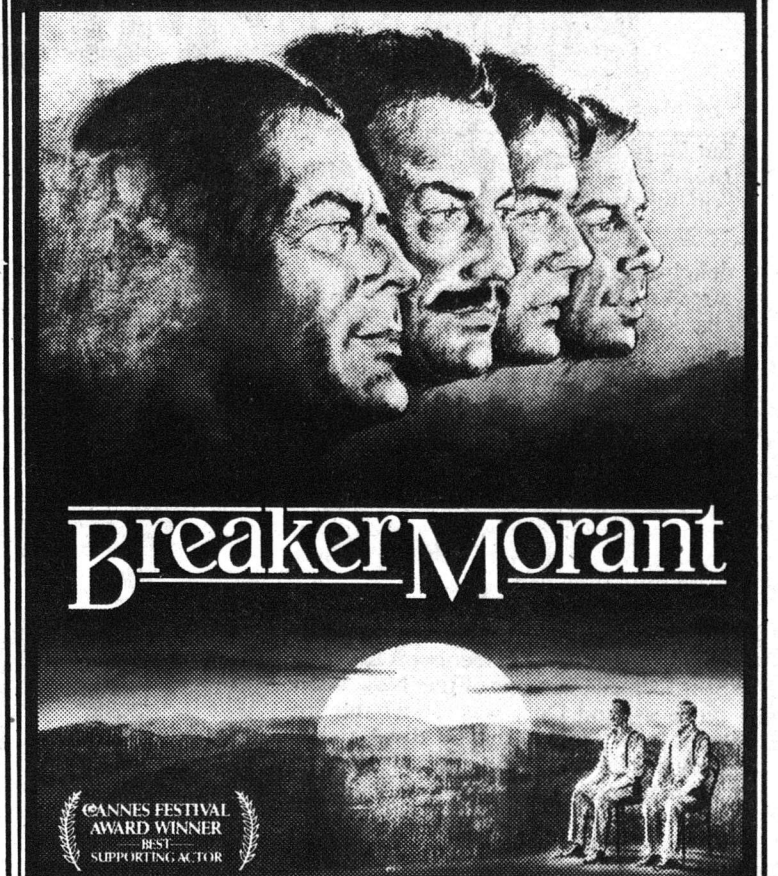
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