

## Talk to us Gerry

During the Liberal youth rally here in the SUB, Gerald Regan approached the crowd like one would approach an assembly of grade-schoolers.

"Hey gang, are you having fun?" he asked in the most condescending of tones—never mind the fact that most of the crowd were of university age and were sipping on an alcoholic beverage.

We have been frustrated in this campaign with Regan's attitude towards us. Although Regan has availed himself to other media, he has refused to make time available to be interviewed by us. Is it that he thinks students are unimportant, or is he avoiding some pretty choice questions on his government's attitude towards youth and post-secondary education?

In an orgy of spending designed to placate an angry electorate this spring, education became an isolated target for restraint. Bill C-12 put the post-secondary education system on the six and five programme, cutting \$380 million in transfer payments to the provinces over two years. When Regan had spoken to us in Sept. '82, then as secretary of state, he said education wouldn't be put on the six and five programme unless the economic situation got much worse.

How can we take Liberal promises to reduce unemployment seriously when the government is cutting back on one of the best methods of helping youth to eventually find work?

It is no secret that university educated youth are faring better in the unemployment crisis than their less-educated counterparts.

Stop gap programmes designed to provide relief for unemployed youth do not address the problems of structural unemployment. Moving into a post-industrial society it is more important now than ever to prepare tomorrow's workforce for the changes to come.

Instead of a strategy to deal with the changing demands of the workplace, governments throw money into make-shift programmes that do little in solving our long term economic problems.

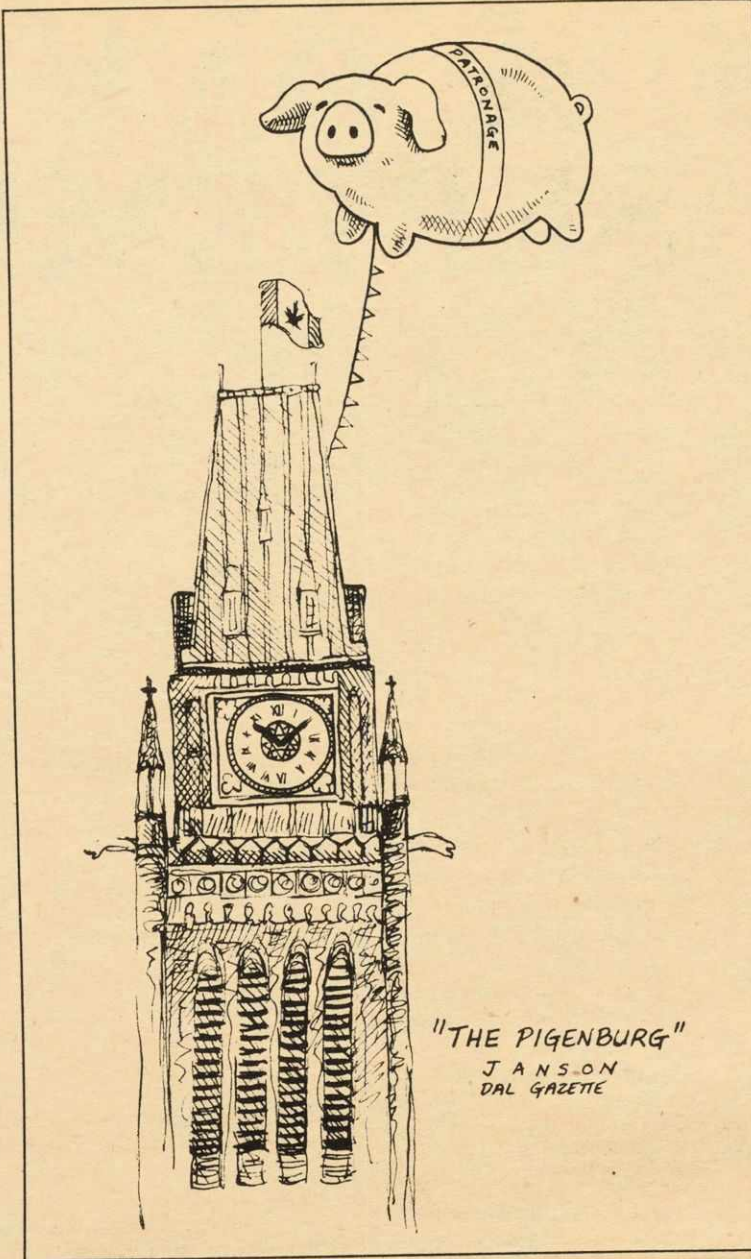
Education is a relatively small investment compared to the costs of dealing with high unemployment and at the same time a workforce incapable of dealing with the demands of employers.

The reduction of funding for post-secondary education will inevitably rebound onto students, increasing tuition fees and reducing the quality of the education they will receive.

Facing these factors, education becomes less of an alternative for youth.

It is shocking to find that none of the candidates in this riding are making education an issue, especially when one takes into account the number of post-secondary institutions in it.

Hey gang, are you having fun? No Gerry, we're not.



## Stew— Tell us you're kidding

One of the big surprises in this campaign for us is PC candidate Stewart McInnis' lack of knowledge on education issues.

McInnis apologized for his lack of understanding of the federal Bill C-12 (involving cuts to federal funding for post-secondary education) by stating "there were so many issues to cover in an election campaign."

McInnis also apparently told a number of PC youth supporters that he was not that familiar with education issues.

Considering McInnis has been a long standing member on the Dalhousie board of governors, we have to seriously question his participation and commitment on that board. How can we trust this man to give rational input on the university's most important decision-making body if he is not even familiar with education issues in the heat of an election in a university riding?

## Letters

Deadline for letters to the editor is noon, Monday before publication. Letters must be typed double-spaced and be less than 300 words. Letters can be dropped at the SUB enquiry desk or brought up to *The Gazette* offices, third floor, SUB.

## ELECTION NOTEBOOK

### PM pays price patting posteriors

Despite numerous and pressing election issues facing the nation, almost an entire week early in the campaign centred on John Turner's penchant for posterior patting.

July 20 CTV news caught on camera Turner patting the behind of party president Iona Campagnola at a meeting at Edmonton. The previous day Turner apparently surprised Lise St. Martin-Tremblay—vice-president of the Liberal Party's Quebec wing—with a similar pat.

The following week the issue dominated the media as everyone got their two cents in on the issue.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Status of Women went into business manufacturing \$1 "Turner Shields"—a cardboard device that ties around the waist and covers the posterior.

After nicknaming Brian Mulroney's campaign plane "Billion-air" and Ed Broadbent's aircraft "Ordin-air," reporters couldn't resist calling Turner's charter "Derriere."

While in a riding in Nova Scotia, Turner was presented with a jar of something called "pickled bums."

The issue also surfaced during the first televised leaders' debates.

"In the past actions like his towards women were quite acceptable, but now ... this attitude is not acceptable," said Ed Broadbent, visibly awkward debating the issue.

Several nights later Consumer Affairs Minister Judy Erola criticized Broadbent on the CBC's *The Journal*, stating bum patting was never acceptable.

Turner at first declined to apologize. He said his bum patting was part of his warm, tactile style and was not a sign of disrespect. He said it was a gesture of friendship and comradery.

Turner's wife, Geills, went on national television and said the whole thing was a "bum wrap."

Shortly before the national debate on women's issues, and shortly after senator Keith Davey took over the faltering Liberal campaign, Turner apologized for his actions.

## Sinclair pessimistic about recovery

By CHARLENE SADLER

Economic issues are topping a shopping list of the nation's woes during this election. A record low Canadian dollar, climbing interest rates and unemployment have dominated the few policy oriented speeches Canadians have had to hang on to.

Alasdair Sinclair, professor of economics at Dalhousie, says he is pessimistic about any instant recovery.

Sinclair says the government deficit puts a constraint over what can be offered. They can only spend so much before the spending becomes a liability, he says, and there is a perception that the spending limit is at its peak.

Sinclair says the government is faced with the dilemma that if it wishes to spend more it must get the money from either raising taxes or cutting back on other programmes.

"So if the Canadian people want to see the Navy doubled they are going to have to pay for that somehow."

He sees both pros and cons to Canada's weak dollar. The low dollar makes Canadian goods more attractive domestically and to other countries, protecting our trade situation and creating needed employment in certain sectors of the economy.

However, on the flip-flop, imports—most notably from the U.S.—are more expensive and add to the inflation rate. Sinclair says the low dollar is more of a political problem at the moment.

"Politically a low dollar is seen as bad, or weak," he says. "It is an insecurity to the Canadian people."

Sinclair sees world interest rates as being a major economic concern. He points out that high interest rates make the cost of homes, factories

and new equipment prohibitive and slows down economic development.

Tax reform is something Sinclair says should be an important part of the political agenda. In the past 20 years there has been a shift away from taxing corporations to taxing individuals, and he thinks that trend should be reversed. One idea worth investigating, he says, is shifting taxation to shareholders who would pay tax as they gain financially from a company's performance, rather than directly taxing the corporation.

### Ittinuar changes party (again)

Peter Ittinuar, the first Inuit to sit in the House of Commons, changed his party colours for the third time since being first elected MP in the riding of Nunatsiak in 1979.

Originally elected as a New Democrat, Ittinuar was wooed over to the Liberals in 1982 and recently chose to run as an independent.

Ittinuar quit the Liberals, claiming the party hierarchy was ignoring his allegations of irregularities leading up to the riding's nomination meeting.

"I am not wanted by the executive and apparently not by the Ottawa Liberals, perhaps because of the court case coming up, perhaps because it is presumed that I am already a criminal," Ittinuar told reporters.

Ittinuar is to appear in provincial court in Ottawa Nov. 5 for a preliminary hearing on charges of theft over \$200, breach of trust and uttering a forged document, after a lengthy RCMP investigation into his travel expenses.