

## Elle Est Ici!

# La Semaine Canadienne Francaise



**LES QUATRES VINGTS**—There are four of them and they are all twenty years old. They will perform songs of folk-lore in eight languages at two performances Saturday night at Con Hall sponsored by French Canada Week. The group, based in Quebec, divides the year between university studies and singing, last summer cramming 35 shows into a Quebec tour and performing before Ontario audiences. "Trying to be a student and professional singer at the same time is pretty miserable," says Yves Laferriere, "but we manage." Other members of the group are Pierre Fillion, Gilles Fafard and Denis Laurendeau.

## Balanced Budget For FCW

French Canada Week organizers have prepared a balanced budget.

According to CUS chairman Dave Estrin and treasurer Ron Johnston, the budget has been revised five times, expanding from the original CUS Committee Budget of \$50 to a total of almost \$6,500.

Contributions of \$1,000 each from the U of A Board of Governors, U of A Students' Union, and the provinces of Alberta and Quebec are promised.

Other donations ranging from \$40 to \$500 are being given by the Alberta Liberal Association, Alberta French Canadian Association, Air Canada, and the Friends of the University.

Also, entertainment provided by Le Quatre Vingt is expected to show a profit.

Expenditure includes such items as transportation and accommodation for six students from Quebec and guest speakers, a banquet for dignitaries, communications, entertainment, publicity, use of the Jubilee Auditorium, and receptions.

"I didn't think I'd ever see a balanced budget," Estrin said. "We were elated, and I'm sure Student Council will be too."

Estrin commended the "enlightened and responsible leader-

ship" of Student Council in "coming through with so much money."

Since the Province of Quebec had promised to match any amount given by Alberta, the initial refusal by the Alberta government to support French Canada Week was a major setback, he continued.

Approached to reconsider its decision, the legislature voted \$1,000 to the venture, and Quebec followed suite.

Local businesses are contributing such items as cigarettes, coffee, doughnuts, and wine for receptions and the banquet, and a car is being provided for transportation purposes.

## semaine presente l'element responsable du quebec

French Canada Week is an opportunity to discover just what Quebec wants from Confederation.

Dave Estrin, CUS chairman and dynamic force behind the venture, is certain the people of western Canada will support the aims of Quebec, but first the aspirations of the Quebecers must be understood by other Canadians.

"Our purpose in French Canada Week is to present the representative and responsible elements of Quebec so the western people can communicate directly with the men whose ideas represent the majority view," says Estrin.

"We realize Quebec has a unique role in Confederation. However we are also aware the demands of Quebec are not very different from those of Alberta and other provinces, despite the image of Quebec created by the news media.

"We think this week will make people aware that radical separatism is just a distorted manifestation of the quiet revolution in Quebec which is often misunderstood by the people outside Quebec."

One example of the need for communication between Quebec and the rest of Canada is the recent split of the Canadian Union of Students along ethnic lines. As a result, the local CUS committee set up a study group on Confederation.

The CUS seminar on bilingualism and biculturalism in Quebec City this summer convinced the students the problems of Quebec were the problems of the whole country and they returned determined to find a way to make the people aware of the needs of the real Quebec.

"Most delegates realized the goals of Quebec are just and would be appreciated by the rest of Canada if they were clearly and sympathetically understood," says Estrin.

The study groups at U of A grew as student interest expanded the number of project workers to over 200 students.

The French Canada Week committee, co-chaired by Jim Dube and Michele Lefebvre, were encouraged by the response of the Quebec government and interest at U of A and the venture of a week of biculturalism based on the theme of "Understanding Through Communication" was established.

The committee invited famous Canadians in Quebec's academic, cultural and political life to address students and local people at U of A.

Quebec university students selected by the Canadian Union of Students will represent the young intellectual element of Quebec.

## Quebec Students "Independent Thinkers"

"These students are not the noisy minority of separatists who made the headlines with irresponsible behavior, rather they are the independent thinkers who are searching for a solution to Quebec's problems," says Estrin.

"They represent the large majority who are not satisfied with the status of French Canadians in Confederation, but who feel dialogue can develop a solution within Confederation.

Perhaps this statement by Madame Solange Chaput-Rolland, who is a guest speaker this week represents the feeling of many French Canadians.

"I am neither a separatist nor a nationalist fanatic, but I am passionately attached to my French identity and relentlessly determined to defend it against anyone who would try to make me live English."

## Local Churches Declare Day For Canadian Unity

Most Edmonton churches have declared Sunday to be Canadian Unity Sunday, in support of French Canada Week.

The churches will be declaring "that the problem of French Canada should be solved within the structure of a united Canadian nation," says the French Canada Week committee.

"We are now at the point where a further realignment of events and institutions is necessary for the continuity of Canadian life," said Rev. E. M. Checkland of First Baptist Church, who is co-operating with the committee.

Six Quebec university students, brought here for the week, will attend services at churches of their faith on that Sunday. Various church groups are also planning meetings and discussions about French Canada and biculturalism.

Through the support of the churches, the committee hopes more citizens will be encouraged to come to French Canada Week and evaluate the views expressed by both the French and English Canadian speakers.