

Students and Canada's Future

by Keith Spicer

The times they are a changin'. But this time it's not the young telling the old how change is coming, change is darkly coming by itself. Canada is threatened by social and political disorder for which no one wants to take responsibility, and there are no day-saving heroes or heroines waiting in the wings.

Now is the time for students and all young people - who have the most to lose and win - to step onto the stage and take some responsibility for their future. It's time for students to take the lead again, because the older generations may have so fouled things up that the country needs an entirely new way of thinking about itself.

The Citizen's Forum on Canada's Future has been set up to help Canadians discover this new way of thinking - and, perhaps in doing so, discover themselves. The Forum is an independent, non-partisan group of a dozen Canadians with a wide range of backgrounds and beliefs, which has been asked by the government to report by July 1, 1991, on Canadians' ideas for their country's future.

Think of the Forum as a chance to break an intellectual and emotional logjam - as making it possible for Canadians to talk to each other again, and particularly to listen to each other again.

The Forum wants to make it easier for all Canadians to help reshape their country - and it will especially seek out Canadians who aren't used to speaking up, or speaking out. And it is meant to be an exercise in grassroots democracy: its emphasis is on listening.

The Forum especially wants students' ideas on how to respect the dignity of, and to bring together, groups across Canada feeling left out: westerners, north-ers, ethnocultural Canadians, Atlantic Canadians and, of course, Quebecers.

When students want to change things today, they must often make personal sacrifices. But your help is crucial in getting Canadians to understand each other better, because ignorance, distrust and sometimes outright selfishness are killing the country.

Don't think individuals can't make a difference: I was an over-worked, underfunded, even pre-Dylan student when I co-founded what quickly became CUSO. And

I worked as a student on the railway while successfully bugging the president of the University of Toronto to set up a course grandly called "Canadian civilization" for foreign students.

I know what students can accomplish - their ideals and drive - and, yes, even their "innocence" - are powerful antidotes for the tired cynicism which clogs the brain cells of every establishment.

You can and must make yourselves heard. You can do this by discussing Canada with friends, lovers, professors or anybody with ears - then calling the Forum's "Idea Line": 1-800-66-FORUM to give us your views. At another level, you can organize a group of five to 20 people to run through one of our two-to-three hour Group Discussion Kits. These can help you define a new future in a free but focused way that will seriously count in our Final Report.

Or, you can send us letters, es-

says, even thesis if you think these will help. You might ask professors to spend a class discussing the country. Invite the Forum to come to your campus.

To really make things happen, some of you could even form student organizing committees for Canada's Future - as several campuses have. These could rally large numbers of students into discussion groups, make available our kits, and ensure that we get reporting forms from every student you could reach - either in a group or as an individual. To help us help you, we've hired student liaison officers who've temporarily left their studies to work with you.

Many campuses have an education commissioner, or student who brings in speakers to address a topical political issue. She or he might like to bring in someone currently in national affairs, or with original ideas about the country, and then hold a discussion after-

wards. Then send us the results.

We will listen. Don't think you're dealing with a government bureaucracy. Nearly all of us are from outside the government, and we're ferociously separate from it. We've got less than six more months to fulfill our mandate of listening to, and reporting, your views.

Whatever you say will appear in some form on July 1 in our Final Report. The Forum's members are not bureaucrats or technocrats - they're something like commandos for dialogue, racing the clock to stir Canadians into talking to and about each other. And into listening to each other.

If you were frustrated last June by seeing eleven politicians try to shape Canada's future behind closed doors, then now is your chance to do it your country: Act for it today or pay for it tomorrow.

Keith Spicer is chair of the Citizens' Forum on Canada's future

Fulfill your New Year's resolutions:

Learn how to take notes and study more effectively; learn the fundamentals of time management, the secrets of reading comprehension, the strategies of good essay writing; learn how to improve your examination skills.

UNB's Writing and Study Skills Program offers individual (one-on-one) sessions, free of charge, to any full-time/part-time student. Tutors are available to help you improve a wide range of academic skills - from dealing with those enormous textbooks to unravelling the mysteries of Form and Format. Appointments can be made by calling the Department of Extension and Summer Session at 453-4646.

Group workshops will be offered on the following topics during the upcoming Winter Term:

Developing a Note-taking and Study System
Saturday, 19 January 1991; 9:30 am - 12:30 pm;
Fee: \$5.00

Time Management for Students
Saturday, 26 January 1991; 9:30 am - 12:30 pm;
Fee: \$5.00

Effective Reading for Students
Saturday, 2 February and 9 February, 1991;
9:30 am - 4:30 pm; Fee: \$20.00 (2 sessions)

Essay Preparation
Saturday, 16 February 1991; 9:30 am - 4:30 pm;
Fee: \$10.00

Improving Examination Skills
Saturday, 16 March 1991; 9:30 am - 1:30 pm;
Fee: \$5.00

Pre-registration at the Department of Extension and Summer Session (Duffie Drive) is required for all workshops. Register early - enrollment is limited!

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EDITORIAL

As We Are

For many years past this publication appeared under the name "The University Monthly," a name that signified little, perhaps one that was chosen somewhat hastily, and as such it remained for decades. Occasional changes of cover design signified an editorial board that was not altogether satisfied with the general trend of things. But broadly speaking the "Monthly" of one year resembled that of another period as much as two peas in the same pod. If we might be permitted to copy to a degree words of a well known advertisement:

The "Monthly" was born in 1880 and until May, 1922, was still going strong.

With the change in form of the government of our student body came a change of form of the constitution of the University publications affording also an opportunity of a change in the material of our magazine.

In the April issue appeared an advertisement calling for suggestions for a new name and cover design. Of the designs submitted one was chosen by a committee appointed by the Students' Council, and with a few minor changes it was decided to adopt the present name and design for our publication. Incidentally, a prize was also offered for the design chosen, but since no name and no means of identification accompanied the successful entry no award has yet been made.

We are not in a position at present to state how the change of name will be received by graduates as a whole. We admit that the change has not been arrived at without opposition from graduates and undergraduates as well. It is indeed a hard struggle for many to get away from the old conservative ideas respecting colleg life and to some extent we can appreciate the feelings of our opponents. It was once remarked by a graduate of recent years that the college magazine required [sic] an infusion of "new blood." We have in our present editorial board the "new blood," but better still we have a new magazine.

In the past it seems to have been generally accepted by the student body that after the editorial board had been chosen nothing more was required - theirs was the duty to produce the magazine. And the "vast majority" of students forgot about it then and there. Once a month they received their copies of the magazine, gazed over the joke column and if a stray bit of humor tickled their "funny-bones" or if one of the literary articles proved not to [sic] dry in their estimations they tossed the "monthly" into a corner, stretched, yawned and muttered "not too bad."

Lacking the co-operation of the Students' Union the Editorial Board is nothing. To have a successful year, to produce the best magazine possible under existing circumstances is our aim BUT without the sympathy, without the help of each and every student who is in a position to aid his [sic] magazine our endeavours will fall wide of the mark.

The Brunswickan, the magazine of the University of New Brunswick, appeals to each and every student in the University who is capable of penning an article for the literary, technical or humorous sections. The Brunswickan will be just what the students make it.

- C. MILES BURPEE '23