

# Riding the constitutional express

by Thomas Vradenburg,  
Journalism student at  
Carleton

(Ottawa) They came from the lands of the west on a train, gathering up their brothers and sisters along the way. They arrived in Ottawa Friday afternoon in a cloud of freezing rain and steam.

They came because they felt forgotten, they came to stand up for their constitutional rights. Four hundred and two Indian people (including women and children), about half from British Columbia, climbed off a train of perhaps a dozen cars, some greeted by friends. Looking tired, they moved slowly through Ottawa's Union Station, beating drums, many in ceremonial costume. A prayer

by the Liberal government for their place in the constitution. Indian and Northern Affairs Minister John Munroe was on the platform, looking as morose as ever. He spoke briefly with President Del

Riley, and others of the national Indian Brotherhood, whom he sees regularly. As the crowd of constitutional pilgrims and media moved inside, Mr. Munroe vanished. I did not see him so much as smile at the arriving party. The only white man to formally greet them was deputy Mayor Don Reid.

Obviously, the new government is not too thrilled. Friday afternoon, in Question Period, Prime Minister Trudeau said he might meet with the Indians, but implied there would

a communication gap. It's a matter of semantics and

culture. Their idea of "nation" seems to mean something like a French revolutionary concept of "fraternité." In white man's thinking, the idea of the state is missing. A nation is a geographical unit, yet the Indians have no Israel to return to. They just want to stay where they are, be it in northern B.C. where the 6 nations reserve is, or be it in southern

Ontario. Beyond wanting to shed the paternalism of the department of Indian Affairs, and having autonomy in local government, it is hard to tell precisely what they want.

As a lobby group, their communications with government and media should make their aims clear, packaged in 30 second bursts for the television reporters.

The gap in semantics will make the things harder for the

Indians when they sit on the panels, carpeted committee rooms and offices on Parliament Hill this week. It always has. Indians, chiefly the National Indian Brotherhood, have never been a loud lobby group in Ottawa in a business where noise means success. They will have to develop leaders as charismatic and sophisticated as Reverend Martin Luther King and Jesse Jackson if they want to win on Parliament Hill.

## Carousing beats debating

by Chris Hart

The Progressive Conservative Youth Federation recently held a convention in Bridgewater. Yes I said Bridgewater, home of Michelin Tire and very little else. Why Bridgewater, God only knows. A better question is who would go?

The Liberal Youth had a similar affair in Halifax recently, but only had half the turnout the Tories got in Bridgewater. Ah . . . so you think it was to grill Thornhill on the bank scandal, but you're wrong, they got no more on Rollie-Gate than the rest of us.

Well then . . . how about the scheduled debate on the leadership of Joe Clark

to be held in Ottawa this coming February? Sorry, wrong again it seems. They agreed not to discuss Joe Who before they even went to Bridgewater.

No Joe. No Rollie. What more is there for young PCs to talk about? I guess the weather is still safe. But even the weather might be taboo if it looks like it might rain on Honest John Buchanan.

So what did they do? All I can find out is that they had a party with beer and wine on Friday night and those who survived went to the sessions on Saturday. Then they had a party with a regular bar on Saturday night and those

who made it out of the dance went to meetings on Sunday and then they all, heads in hands, went home to Mama and Daddy P.C.

Is the real lure of Bridgewater the distance from parents? Did these youths go to Bridgewater to get drunk and carouse through the halls of the Wandlyn Motel? There seems to be no other reason for the turnout being so high.

If the only function of political youth organizations is to provide underage students with a venue to debauch, then perhaps we should reconsider the value of these organs of the political body.

## COMMENTARY

was said, thanking their eastern brothers for their hospitality and tea. They spoke briefly to the media, and were gone. About a dozen schoolbuses provided by the

local Indian reservation took them to the Civic Centre, a hockey arena, for a rally.

Later in the afternoon, they visited Governor-General Ed Schreyer at Rideau Hall.

Of course, they came to lob-

be little to talk about because their rights are already entrenched in his proposed Bill of Rights.

At the train station, Bob Manuell, national representative of the Union of British Columbian Chiefs, forcefully presented a different view. The Indians want to be recognized as a nation.

"What?", I thought to myself. These people speak English, but there seems to be

rupt electoral system and violent regime which have beset the Guyanese People, I was gratified to read your article which reported his talk so accurately and effectively.

My compliments to the Dalhousie Gazette for an excellent article.

Your readers should be embarrassed however, to have also read that a University as esteemed as Dalhousie was exposed as being the scape goat for having bestowed an honorary degree on Forbes Burnham, the president of a country which he has ruled with strong arm tactics.

If Mr. Paul Clark would only follow in the steps of Woodward and Bernstein, we would know soon enough why Mr. Burnham was so highly honored by so highly regarded a University as Dalhousie!

Yours truly,  
A. Kahn

## More than meets the surface

Dear Sir,

I wish to point out an error of fact in your excellent reporting on November 17 of Dr. Sankar's address on 'Violations of human rights in

Guyana'. Dr. Sankar is not a member of Amnesty International, and was, therefore, not speaking on behalf of Amnesty. The Halifax group of A.I. being aware of violations of human rights in Guyana sponsored the meeting, but accepts no responsibility for the content of the talk.

As individuals we may sympathize with the political views advanced by Dr. Sankar, but Amnesty International is a non-political organization, having to deal with governments from the far right to the far left. It is outside our mandate to advocate political solutions.

Yours sincerely,  
Peggy Matthews  
Secretary  
Halifax Group  
Amnesty International

Dear Editor,

This letter is written in reply to an interview reported in the *Gazette* on November 20. Ms. Holtz's comments upon the National Energy Program were less than fair. I think that it is important to clarify any misleading impressions that readers of the *Gazette* might draw from your remarks over the federal government's concern for energy conservation.

The government of Canada has been actively involved in a number of conservation programs for several years now. The most familiar of these is

probably the Home Insulation Program, as it is known in Nova Scotia, or CHIP (Canadian Home Insulation Program) elsewhere in Canada. Under this program grants are available to assist homeowners insulate their homes. In Nova Scotia alone, the Home Insulation Program, established in 1976, has received approximately \$61 million to insulate 156,000 households.

In conjunction with HIP and CHIP, the Enersave program was established. Enersave provides a computerized audit of home insulation requirements and recommends cost effective measures of reducing energy consumption. This service is provided free of charge to the public. Further consultation is available through the Heatline, a toll-free number that puts the homeowners in direct and immediate contact with the technical personnel of Energy Mines and Resources.

In addition to conservation through insulation, the federal government has allocated funds to other conservation activities; the Oil Furnace Retro-fit Pilot Project, Energy Efficient New Housing Demonstrations, Industrial Energy Conservation Task Forces, and Transportation conservation, to name but a few.

All of these projects are on-going and have been in existence for some time. They demonstrate an awareness of the paramount need for con-

servation. The federal government has furnished additional funds to assist the speedy and widespread implementation of these programs. The CHIP (including HIP) budget, for example, now stands at \$80 million a year; this will be increased to \$265 million annually, to ensure that it becomes fully effective and reaches a target of upgrading 70 per cent of Canadian homes by 1987.

Furthermore, because of the substantial economies that can be achieved by the homeowner through adequate insulation, (and these are savings which ultimately benefit the country as well), the department of Energy, Mines and Resources has established the Enercentre Display project. The Enercentre Display is a national program designed to promote energy conservation, and it will publicize the various home insulation schemes sponsored by the government.

In other words, Ms. Holtz, the federal government has not neglected conservation in the National Energy Program, as you imply. Conservation is already an established priority, an area of concern in which the government has been working for some time. The NEP will promote a more vigorous conservation effort.

Yours sincerely,  
Kevin Doyle  
Information Officer,  
Energy Mines and Resources

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### 'Some' not 'None'

Dear Editor:

Just a short notice to clarify a misquote in last week's article pertaining to the long-haired volleyball player. It read, "None of the guys on the team talk to me, they just walk on by." What was actually said was, "Some of the guys won't talk to me . . ."

This was given as my reasoning for thinking it impossible to return to the team this year if the ruling could be overturned. Overshadowing this point would be the lateness in the season, making it impossible for me to be a competitive member. It would be strictly in the sense of a formality. There are no hard feelings between myself and the team members, at least I sincerely hope not.

Peter Jacobs

Dear Sir:

Any individual familiar with political morality and the ethics of democracy should have been stirred by Dr. Sankar's talk on "The Guyana Tragedy."

As a member of the audience, who heard, first hand, Dr. Sankar describe the cor-