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as a young canadian
consider
taking care of
it
and
them
and
us

letters

student government

Open Letter to the Student Body:
May I take this opportunity to express several of my concerns about student government on our campus. This is a key time of year for student government, with the upcoming election and the opportunities for involvement in student activities for next year. These important issues merit your interest and attention.

I would hope that every student

would at least consider applying for the various committees and organizations of student government. It is my firm belief that the experience gained by initiating, organizing and governing student activities forms part of a complete university educational experience. This year our programme has emphasized the educational, social and political issues of our modern society. In a real sense, this educational programme presented by student government enhances the learning and citizenship awareness of participating students. If you have a sincere desire to contribute as well as the time to spare from your academic programme, I strongly urge you to apply for the various committees.

Your application will be received by the Personnel Board and it will make recommendations to the Students' Council following interviews or scrutiny of application forms. It is important to point out that every student will be given an equal chance in applying for the various positions—indeed the democratic processes of student government demands that political favouritism not be involved.

In closing I would hope each of your will give serious consideration to the possibilities of becoming part of our student government. Application forms are available in The Students' Union Office. Feel free to call on any member of the Students' Council if you require further information.

At this time I would like to express my gratitude and thanks to the Students' Council and all those students who have worked "on behalf of their fellow students" this year.

Yours very truly,
Richard T. Price,
President,
The Students' Union

tub of guts

To The Editor:

I was just wondering whether anyone else noticed that tub of guts (I mean that Box of Insides) in Cameron library on Friday.

J. D. Loewen
arts 3

an opportunity for young Canadians

serve the world

Better worlds don't just happen, they're made.

And better worlds are needed—for Canadians in a city slum, on a depressed farm, on an Indian reserve, in a home for the aged.

A better world is needed by people who are poor, under-educated, badly housed; people whose lives open no horizons and whose children have little hope.

The Company of Young Canadians wants to do something about that world, a world that includes Canada and developing countries overseas. Now the Company is only an idea. It will be more than an idea when its members go to places where they have been asked to help—perhaps in an outport community, among some Eskimo families, or in slum areas where people live eight to a room.

Soon the Company will be more than plans and hopes. What it becomes depends on the young volunteers who are its members, and on how they understand ways of life that are new to them. It depends on how effective they can be in helping people move themselves from their frustrations, their hardships, their poverty. It depends also on the support and understanding they receive in their work.

This isn't charity. It isn't do-gooding. It isn't even new. It is an organized assault on poverty, on lack of opportunity—an effort to speed up the changes needed in society so that the poor themselves can put their rights as Canadian citizens to work, building a future of their own, without charity.

in something new

There have been many excellent organizations for young people, at home and abroad, but the Company of Young Canadians happens to be very different from all of them. Here's why:

- While receiving from Parliament all the resources it needs to do a job, it will be operated independently of government—much like the Canada Council.
- It is to be run by young Canadians. The Government proposes that two-thirds of the members of the governing Board should be elected by members of the Company—by the volunteers themselves.
- Members will not be required to have a specific academic background. They will not be chosen only from the professions. They will represent a cross-section of young Canada.
- It will go beyond charitable help by attacking causes of poverty, particularly through community development projects on a scale new to Canada.
- It is to be national in character,

drawing on Canadian talents from coast to coast for service anywhere in Canada or abroad, providing a perpetual pool of young talent in the direct service of Canada.

here and there

Building, for members of the Company, will mean working with all kinds of people, in all kinds of jobs, in Canada and overseas. In the initial year, pilot projects will be undertaken in Canada. In the future, projects for overseas service will also be included.

This year, volunteers may work in projects involving:

- urban and rural slums
- Indian reserves
- Arctic villages
- co-operatives
- school drop-outs
- youth lawbreakers
- youth programs
- community development programs.
- public health
- mental hospitals
- poor children
- old people

Volunteers will live where the people they're helping live. Their jobs won't always be clear cut. In one place, it may be helping to develop a new approach to overcome an old local problem. In another, it may be working within an established program—government or volunteer operated—a pro-

gram that needs an imaginative and dedicated young Canadian to supplement the work of professionals and part-time volunteers.

by their concern

They will work

- by conveying their concern, skills and knowledge to those who may need it
- by trying new approaches to old problems
- by developing new means of communication throughout all levels of society
- but mostly by helping people under their own power to solve their problems and take their full part in community life.

Maybe the job will start with talking—and a lot more listening—while people discover how they can use resources around them. Part of the day's work may be helping them get a vacant lot where the kids can play, and then helping them manage it; or getting a hockey rink or a traffic light or a whole new system of sanitation in a village.

Would members of the community benefit by setting up a handicrafts co-operative? Should collective action be organized to get a new fish landing? Should they concentrate on developing tourist attractions? Do they want help in dealing with their landlord, in organizing requests for public housing, or in using all the complicated services of governments?

Or maybe they just want to talk

canadian identity:

"it" needs taking care of

The author is a graduate student in psychology. He is from Israel and has survived two winters in Alberta.

by yizhar eylon

Perhaps the most amazing fact of the Canadian national and cultural life is the strange personality split, evident in every facet of public affairs—on the one hand everybody that is somebody is very busy searching for the distinct, unique, Canadian identity; on the other hand, everybody that is somebody does his best to deprive himself and his fellow countrymen of any unique national attributes they could possibly possess, showing lack of interest in issues of vital importance for Canada. (The students on this campus have had an excellent opportunity to observe this attitude in action, by attending the V.G.W. teach-in. While the declared topic was the question of Canadian sovereignty, nobody was too interested in this problem; the main question was "What about Vietnam?")

What makes a nation? A common territory, an interwoven economic structure, a more or less uniform fabric of society, and a common body of beliefs, traditions, cherished goals, and norms of behavior that constitute the culture. Of all these, the culture is most important to maintain a nation as a unique group

of people and to protect it from assimilation.

Does Canada have a unique culture? Do Canadians (especially the English Canadians in the West) try to maintain and develop their own cultural identity? The answer of an outside observer can only be negative. And this is the crux of the problem of Canadian identity (or rather lack of it).

All the other questions raised concerning the Canadian identity like "Who owns Canada?" or "What is the Canadian international policy?" are of secondary importance only. The few examples that follows will clarify my answer.

ITEM: The local tabloid regularly reprints articles from the United States, press, subscribes to U.S. comics syndicates services and if it were not for the name of the publication that is printed on the top, one would fail to distinguish between certain pages of this newspaper and the pages of any provincial U.S. newspaper.

ITEM: A downtown Edmonton department store sells "Canadian souvenirs." Supposedly they are made in the country which they represent. But if you bought such an object, do not look on the bottom—you will discover that the "relic"

was made in one of the Far Eastern countries.

ITEM: The University of Toronto students, who did not care enough to sit in an protest injustices committed in Canada, cared enough to stage a sit-in in front of the U.S. consulate to protest discrimination in voters' registration in Selma, Alabama.

ITEM: Turn on your radio and listen—if it is not a strictly local program, then there is a very good chance that it originated abroad.

ITEM: A university in Alberta annually shows to the general public what is done on the campus. The central event of the festivities is a musical show produced by the students. In A.D. 1966 the show was based on a script of a Broadway musical hit (with references to president Hoover . . .) which, in turn was based on an American comic strip.

This lamentable litany can continue ad infinitum. Myriads of examples can be brought and each of them will show that the Canadians are indifferent to the problem of maintaining their national identity (provided that it exists). And all the groups, from the political left, right, and centre, contribute equally to bulldozing away their nationhood. Enough has been said about the right and the indifferent wings' share of this campaign, but the left is no

better. When young passionate Canadians demonstrate to express their indignation with discrimination of the minority groups in the U.S., but do not demonstrate to protest similar practices in their own country; when action groups consider the Vietnam problem a genuine Canadian issue; when events in Harlem are more important than events in Toronto's "Little Italy"; then it is clear that these people are committed to and involved in not what happens in their own country, but what happens south of the border.

There is nothing inherently wrong in the idea of merger of the two North American countries (personally, I do not like it), but it is up to the Canadians to decide whether they like this idea. If they oppose it, they should assert firmly their sense of identity and nationhood, not by negative anti-Americanism, but by positive Canadianism. However, if this idea is an acceptable one, they should start unification talks now, when they still have something to offer at the conference table, rather than wait till this country will be absorbed and swallowed by its southern neighbour.

Because it is better to be synthesized than swallowed.