

# For whom the bell tolls

*Politicians should remember who they work for*

Well folks, we've been given a temporary stay of execution, but let me tell you all, the bell is tolling loudly, deafeningly in fact. We've got only one more chance to get it right, and if we fail, the party will be over and the dream of Canada will be dead, killed by people like Mike Harcourt and Clyde Wells. We'll be road-kill on the political highway.

I, unlike most Canadians, have been concerned about the future of Canada for some time. Actually, it has been since the failure of the Charlottetown Accord that I've been worried. During that period in Canadian history, we saw the ugly side of French-English relations come to full bloom, with various idiots from all over the country jockeying for power and prestige on the back of the issues of the people of Québec. The "all or nothing," "me me me" attitude displayed by the various provincial representatives during that time period are directly responsible for the strong "yes" showing in the referendum. And, they have to be called to account for it.

Now, don't think for one minute that anyone actually won this referendum. It's kind of like when your prof says that you've written a very bad term-paper and decides to give you one more chance to try for a better grade. Now, if we carry that metaphor a little further, we know that we're on academic probation, and if we fail this time, we're out on our asses, with no-one to blame but ourselves.

We have come to the point in the history of Canada that requires us to re-examine our internal structures. Obviously they aren't working, or we wouldn't be in this particular predicament. For far too long, English Canada has treated Québécois with disdain, ignoring their needs and

desires as the rantings of unruly, spoiled children. This cannot continue, if we are to remain a country.

How can we call Canada a country when one of our provinces isn't even a signatory to the constitution? The only hope for Canada is a new Canada, one that includes all the provinces and territories. We cannot allow a couple of old men on either coast to stop the processes of change, simply because they've campaigned on

supporting the status quo.

Here on the Dalhousie Campus, we are a miniature version of Canada. Students from the various provinces need to get involved, call the Premiers of their provinces and tell them to take their concerns for the country to heart.

And to all the members of all political organizations, and to all elected public office holders, remember, you work for us. It's time for you to wake up and smell the poutine.

JOSEF TRATNIK

## OPINION

## OPINION



## Referendum Reactions

# Change is the only certainty following the No victory

Well, as most of you already know, it's over...for now. Late Monday night, the entire country was curled up in front of the television, semi-fetal, waiting in anticipation for the results of arguably the most important vote in Canadian history.

Bigger than O.J.! For the most part, we got the results we were all hoping for. Surrounded by family and friends, we gathered to witness the fate of Canadian nationalism, and hoped that every little thing that we all did was in some way helpful in keeping this country together.

And, boy did we do a lot. There was more of an outpouring of national pride in the last two weeks than this country has seen in the last decade. Perhaps this virtual breakup was exactly what Canada needed to give it that boost of spirit and kick in the constitutional backside to get us into the 21st century.

Needless to say, it's an exciting time to be a Canadian. It was exciting to be part of a rally that brought 7,000 screaming patriots to the Metro Centre to hear big picture, Lennie Gallant, Holly Cole, and many more sing their hearts out for unity. This event, organized in just two short weeks, attracted attention from Québec media, and was covered live by Music Plus (Québec's Much Music). It was one hell of a message from Atlantic Canada.

And, it was especially exciting to be one of more than 150,000 flag waving Canadians that converged on Place Du Canada in downtown Montréal, the very next morning. That, ladies and gentlemen of the jury, was an experience that simply can't be described in words. To be a part of that journey into the streets and hearts of Montréal was to be a part of our nation's history. When talking to my grandkids, and trying to decide what tidbits of wisdom and experience to give them, this one will be a definite keeper. With the Montréal vote holding strong for the NO side, it's quite possible that this great outpouring of fervour and affection was the defining moment of the Referendum.

This brings us to the outcome and the aftermath. Now I, like just about every other Canadian, spent Monday sulking and biting my nails not so anxiously awaiting this inevitably close vote. And, thankfully, at midnight we squeaked out a victory. But, for some reason, that narrow victory

didn't make me feel any better. Now don't let me fool you, I wouldn't have wanted the vote to go any other way, but I certainly didn't feel as energized as I thought I might.

What the closeness of this vote did do, is prove to the rest of the country that Québec wants change. Not to change their country (by a margin of only one percent, mind you), but change in favour of a clear definition and acknowledgment of their culture and heritage...and an added emphasis on the "distinctness" of their province within Canada.

*Lucien Bouchard, however, saved the day by being very gracious in accepting the democratic outcome and promising to work his hardest with the federal government to bring about the change that Québécois asked for. He, unlike another Oui leader who will remain nameless, is worthy of our close attention, and someone who deserves our respect.*

Now, this is the warm, fuzzy side of the coin...the flip side is the dangerous line that is walked between recognition of distinct society and the side of ethnocentric racism that crept out of a hole during the conciliatory speeches Monday night. Jacques Parizeau, as I write this, is resigning as Premier of Quebec. More's the pity. He had the audacity to blame the Yes side loss on the "money and the ethnic vote." How's that for politically correct? I might add that this is one drunken buffoon that the public eye can do without. Lucien Bouchard, however, saved the day by being very gracious in accepting the democratic outcome and promising to work his hardest with the federal government to bring about the change that Québécois asked for. He, unlike another Oui leader who will remain nameless, is worthy of our close attention, and someone who deserves our respect.

All in all, this was a roller coaster ride that brought this country to the brink. It was a time when Canadians from all corners and all walks of life came together to sing the anthem and wave the flags. It was a time when this country showed its true colours, and came out in force to ensure its survival.

Oh Canada...I hope we can do it right this time.

CHRIS LYDON  
V.P. ACADEMIC

# Naked racism

For those of you who ever doubted that latter-day nationalism in Québec was fuelled by more than so-called linguistic oppression, welcome to your awakening.

In case Lucien Bouchard's lament that white women in Québec weren't having enough babies didn't convince you, then the comments made by that drunken demagogue Jacques Parizeau Monday night should make it quite clear.

The separatist leaders in Québec are racists. For those of you who bought that romantic image of today's motley bunch of sovereigntists as carrying the torch for Montcalm, Papineau, Lévesque, et al, welcome to the real world.

The separatist leaders in Québec are racists. For those of you who sat quietly through bill 101 and bill 178, thinking ignorantly that prescribing to someone the language in which they must speak, work, advertise, or conduct any of their affairs was anything less than fascism, think again. For those of you who think that singling people out on the basis of their spoken language is anything less than racism, think again.

The separatist leaders in Québec are racists.

For those of you who thought that Lucien Bouchard was charming and charismatic when he took over the reigns from that bloated monster Parizeau, think again. For those of you who thought that his demagoguery was merely nonsensical and harmless in its fallacy, think again.

Lucien Bouchard is a racist. Let their own words speak for themselves. Parizeau said it himself, right there, on television, in front of the eyes of the entire country.

He admitted to the entire nation that the only votes that really counted in his mind were those cast by white, french-speaking Québécois.

Jacques Parizeau is a racist. For those of you who dream of an independent homeland where everyone is white and everyone speaks french...find a new dream. Mon Canada comprend le Québec. Mon Canada comprend tous les Québécois, francophones, anglophones, allophones, blancs, noirs, hommes, femmes, autochtones, etc.

Mais mon Canada ne comprend pas des racistes. Mon Canada ne comprend ni Jacques Parizeau ni Lucien Bouchard.

MILTON HOWE

## OPINION