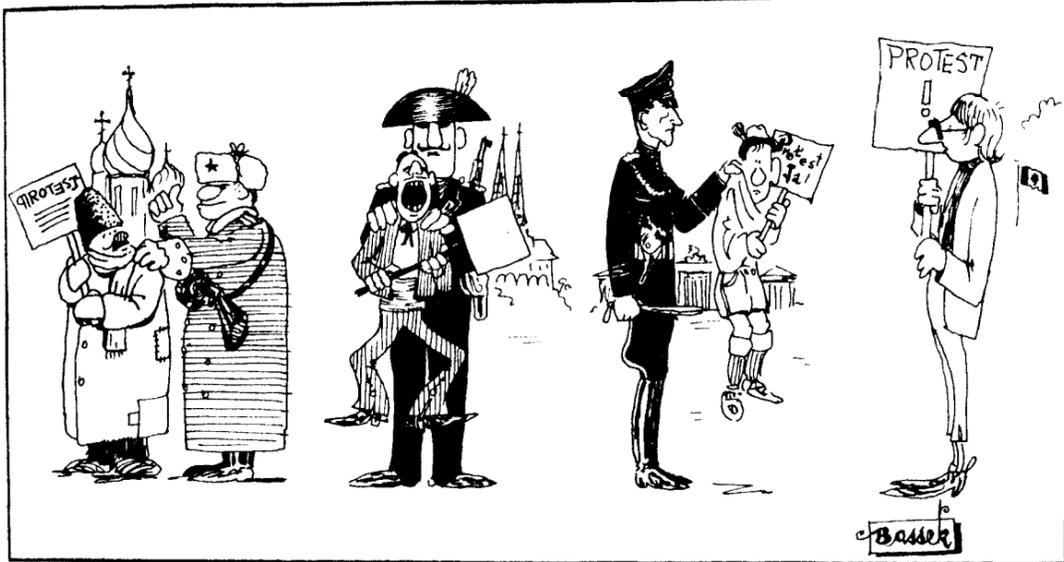


messages today
from Bassek about protests
from "omark" about music
from the cyc about poverty
from major hooper about a job
from voltaire who said,
"liberty of thought is the life of the soul."



a message

facts and figures

the extent of poverty in Canada

The following document was prepared by the research staff of the Company of Young Canadians.

The federal government has undertaken its special program to reduce poverty because, even in this time of affluence, there are many more people in poverty than is generally supposed.

Income

Poverty is usually measured by low income. The average income of Canadian families living in a town or city is \$5,450. There is no precise measure of how far a family must be below this average before it should be classified as poor. But the best indicators are those based on the amount of money needed to provide an essential minimum of food, clothing, shelter and other necessities.

By this measurement, not only are many people in Canada behind the mainstream of national progress: a considerable number are suffering real hardship from not having enough money to buy the bare necessities of life.

Different methods of calculation produce minor differences in statistics and there are regional differences in the cost of living. But it is generally accepted that a city family of four people is living in poverty if it has an income of less than \$3,000. Such a family with less than \$2,000 is suffering real destitution. Single persons in town or city with less than \$1,500 a year are considered poverty stricken and single persons with less than \$1,000 a year as regarded as destitute.

By this definition four million town and city dwellers in Canada are poverty stricken: that is, about one in four. 2.4 million of these people are below the line of destitution. They are not getting enough to eat. They are not adequately dressed or housed in a standard which public health authorities regard as an acceptable minimum.

To get a rough indication of poverty amongst farm families, the net earnings of a farm are considered to be 50 per cent of its sales. Naturally the family consumes its

own produce and therefore needs somewhat less cash. For a Canadian farm family of four, the poverty line is usually put at \$1,250. A family earning less than \$600 a year is considered destitute.

By this definition, 42 per cent of the farm families in Canada are poverty stricken and 25 per cent are destitute.

Eskimos and Indians, though predominantly a rural population present a special category in defining poverty. By the usual standards, it is estimated that about 70 per cent of Canada's Indians are poverty stricken and 45 per cent are destitute.

It is even more difficult to arrive at figures to indicate the extent of poverty amongst Eskimos. A rough approximation places from 55 per cent to 70 per cent below the poverty line and from 30 per cent to 45 per cent suffering destitution.

Education

There is an obvious connection between levels of education and levels of unemployment both present and future. It is widely predicted that to meet employment needs in the last quarter of the twentieth century, the median level of education in Canada should be at least high school graduation.

3.2 per cent of the adult Canadian population has achieved university graduation. 15 per cent stopped at Grade 12 and 21 per cent at Grade 8. Levels of education have certainly improved in the past fifty years and younger Canadian age groups tend to have a higher level of educational achievement than older Canadians. Nevertheless, 40 per cent of Canadian young people between 15 and 24 have never gone beyond Grade 8 and have now left school with no apparent intention of returning.

About 8 per cent of the Canadian adult population stopped school at Grade 4 or earlier. There are over 1 million Canadians who have left school still illiterate.

Not surprisingly, income levels are closely related to education. The lifetime earnings of Canadians with

elementary school education are about \$131,000 as contrasted with \$354,000 for those with a university degree. Lifetime earnings of high school graduates are just over \$200,000.

There is also a close relationship between unemployment and education. Forty-four per cent of Canadian unemployed did not finish primary school and 48 per cent finished primary but not secondary school. Only 9 per cent of the unemployed finished secondary school.

Levels of education in Canada and the United States contrast sharply. Forty per cent of the college age population in the United States is now in college. Only 8.5 per cent of the Canadian population of the same age is attending university.

Housing

Poor housing is a very visible symptom of poverty. Slum dwellings not only affect the families who must live in them but drag down the whole community. Poor housing is therefore the immediate concern of all Canadians.

At the time of the 1961 census, more than one Canadian family in ten lived in a dwelling with no running water. Almost a quarter of Canadian families lacked the exclusive use of a bath or shower. One in five had no flush toilet. More than 5 per cent of all Canadian housing was in need of major repair or replacement.

Canada is seriously short of low income housing. At the time of the last census, 867,000 units were needed. It has been estimated that by 1980, 1,300,000 new housing units will have to be built for low income people if Canada's basic housing problems is to be solved. To achieve that goal, we would have to build 86,000 low cost units a year. We are now building about 4,000 units a year.

Health

While general practitioners know from experience about the relationship between health and income, it is difficult to provide statistical evidence of health as an indication of poverty.

letters

thanks

To The Editor:

I wish to thank the Students' Union for sending us copies of The Gateway.

Not only do the high school students find your newspaper and its accounts of your activities interesting, the school staff also enjoy your publication. Many of us are alumni and appreciate this opportunity to keep in touch with events at the university.

J. Tilbrook, M.Ed
Principal
Standard School
Standard, Alberta

scoopful before the truck moves off. Such skill should not go un-noticed. He has also been very helpful in boosting loaded trucks up the steep incline from the excavation.

Modesty forbids my further cataloguing of my skill and ability as a Superintendent (Sidewalk Division); however, if you wish to press me for further details I will give them.

I shall look forward to your confirming my appointment as soon as possible.

Yours truly,
R. C. W. Hooper, PSS
(Professional Sidewalk
Superintendent)

Consider yourself in harness,
Major Hooper. Our non-existent
budget can certainly be stretched to
accommodate another hard worker—
The Editor

an application

Mr. Don Sellar,
In Charge, Help Wanted Division,
The Gateway,
University of Alberta,
EDMONTON, Alberta.

Dear Sir:
I am applying for the post of Chief Superintendent (Sidewalk Division) of the New Students' Union Building. I must warn you that I can accept no less a post since it is the one for which I am pre-eminently qualified. This job can be supervised very efficiently from the swivel chair at my desk, although for some of the more difficult operations, I may have to move closer to the window. It is not necessary for me to perch on a windowledge like some of the lesser qualified applicants. The loose condition of my back teeth attests to my knowledge of pile driving gained while Franki operated sixty-three and one half feet from my office. Of my previous jobs, the one in which I take the most pride is the Jubilee Auditorium, construction of which I supervised from my office in the old Drill Hall.

I must disagree with your first class supervisory consultant regarding the work of the cat-skinners. He has failed to appreciate the delicacy and precision exercised by Bare Head in patting down the final

confused cartoonist

To The Editor:

The "Vietnam Kit" on page five of the Friday, Dec. 10 edition of The Gateway deserves inspection.

The confusions of the cartoonist are shared by many of those who support the American involvement in Vietnam. The "cartoon" seems to describe people who are blind pacifists (see the last two pictures). What use have such people for molotov cocktails and reading material?

Nobody could object if Bassek had successfully proposed or attacked a thought-out point of view. Instead, he chose to vilify people who hold convictions and act by them. In this sense, his "cartoon" typifies the hate literature that he seems to deplore.

If Bassek had intended to be a name-caller, at least he could have observed more clearly. Apparently Bassek has learned how to draw analogies between undesirable behaviors and the activities of Vietnam demonstrators. I hope that he soon learns how to draw cartoons.

Ernest Jurkat

Viewpoint

The Gateway during the last couple of months has carried in the Short Shorts column an advertisement for a group called "Underground". The purpose of the group is in part to do away with the "pop music cult" which they feel is too prevalent in our society.

But what is so wrong with popular music? Certainly the mass hysteria created by a live appearance of the Beatles or similar group is not admirable but it does not appear to be very dangerous. What is wrong with people enjoying themselves by listening or dancing to this music?

One objection Underground could have is that it does not benefit intelligent young people to respond to such animalistic sounds. Granted, the music has a strong beat that reminds some of its critics of sound no more (or maybe less) civilized than that created by natives in African jungles. But while some of these more sophisticated people are so rigidly self-controlled that they do not and cannot respond to the beat there are others (who are not simpletons) who do respond and can enjoy the sound simply for what it is—an expression of the energy and vitality of youth. Also it is an expression of the desire of youth to have something with which to identify that is innately their own—a rebellion against the stolid complacency they see in their elders.

A second possible criticism of Underground's would be that the lyrics of these songs are hackneyed, repetitive and meaningless. In most cases this is true but the lyrics aren't that important.

If the particular piece has good rhythm and a catchy tune this is all that is required.

One point that does arise from the position held by Underground is that young people whether in high school, working or at university are very foolish and narrow if they limit their musical appreciation to "bubblegum" music. The reverse is also true, that young people who are intolerant of others enjoyments of popular music are just as narrowminded.

It would be wrong to say that the majority of high school and university students do not accept any other form of music than popular. Most, while not possessing great knowledge of the works, can and do enjoy the occasional symphony, opera, pure folk music and semi-popular music. It is not fair to criticize them because they happen to prefer less intellectual forms.

Underground has the opportunity to provide a unique service. Rather than damning all popular music and trying to eradicate it, this organization could adopt an educational viewpoint. That is, they could inform people, especially of the teen age, about the merits and beauties of classical music and thereby perhaps create an appreciation for admittedly better music. It is true that people are quick to criticize that which they do not understand and this feeling could be the reason classical music is condemned as "long hair". When the misunderstanding is removed, often appreciation follows.

May there be more tolerance on the part of both groups of music lovers.

by
"omark"