

The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

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STAFF THIS ISSUE—For the first Wednesday press night this year, I found out who the real loyal souls were. The rest must have been disconsolate and dejected, because they didn't show up. Those here were Bernie Goedhart, Jim Gurnett, Bob Jacobsen, Elaine Verbicky, Don (copy boy) Sellar, wondrous William Winship, Ken Hutchinson, Al Yackulic, Dave Snelgrove, Perry Afaganis, who can't remember the name of a pretty girl (no wonder photographers are such losers), and yours truly, Harvey Thomgirt.

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an exercise in futility

The optimists are proclaiming a "breakthrough" in the cold war that has existed between English- and French-speaking students in Canada. The basis for this optimism is an apparent acceptance of the two-nation concept of Canada by a majority of delegates at an emergency session of the Second Century Seminar Wednesday evening.

On the other hand, the pessimists have already written the epitaph for Second Century Week: Canada's major student centennial flop. The reasoning is simple: although many delegates seem more than willing to listen to the position advocated by French-Canadian speakers, most are quite content to espouse the same intolerant attitudes, the same well-rehearsed prejudices with which so many student conferences have been plagued.

The truth probably lies somewhere between these extremes. While it is quite encouraging that significant progress was made in establishing the validity of the two-nation concept, as presented by the French-Canadian representatives, the "victory" is doubtless temporary. More important, for the majority of Canadian students and citizens, what went on Wednesday night will remain a mystery.

In reality there is no cause for dancing in the streets. Wednesday evening's proceedings differed very little from student conferences of the last three years. On one side we had English-speaking delegates insisting that they had the most honorable of intentions, that they were perfectly willing to discuss the question of English-French relations. But, they claim, such discussion must be based on information, not

on ignorance—and here, they insist, French-Canadians have failed. In not presenting their case to the rest of Canada the Quebecois have made it virtually impossible for the rest of Canada to have an enlightened opinion.

French-Canadian spokesmen, on the other hand, say that the same paternalistic, uncompromising attitude prevails. They claim their role is not that of missionaries—they feel no need to preach the "gospel" to the rest of Canada. They are not interested in convincing the rest of Canada of the rightness of their position—they have more important work to do in Quebec.

And so, somewhere in the flood of words and emotional rhetoric, another attempt at reconciliation was lost. Perhaps for the first time in three years English-speaking delegates did the compromising. Perhaps the delight of French delegates is justified. Perhaps the majority of delegates will return to their campuses advocating general acceptance of the two-nation theory of Canada. But somehow it just seems another exercise in futility.

Certainly the ideas expressed Wednesday night have not made much impact on this campus. If any delegate doubts this let him interrogate at random several of the 11,000 students who have remained blissfully aloof from the proceedings.

There may, indeed, have been a "breakthrough," but it is only a small crack in a huge wall of resistance. Our friends in the Union Generale des Etudiants du Quebec will wait much longer before any "concrete" action is taken by their English-speaking compatriots.

if at first you don't succeed...

City council moved unwisely when it decided to reverse its previous decision to establish a fraternity row.

The decision was based on complaints from residents in the Garneau area who, we suggest, do not know what they really want.

Old homesteaders in the Garneau area complained long and loudly about the possibility that the stately homes which had been built by their great-grandfathers would be torn down to make room for fraternity houses.

And so, to appease many staid citizens, city council decided to let them remain in their stately homes.

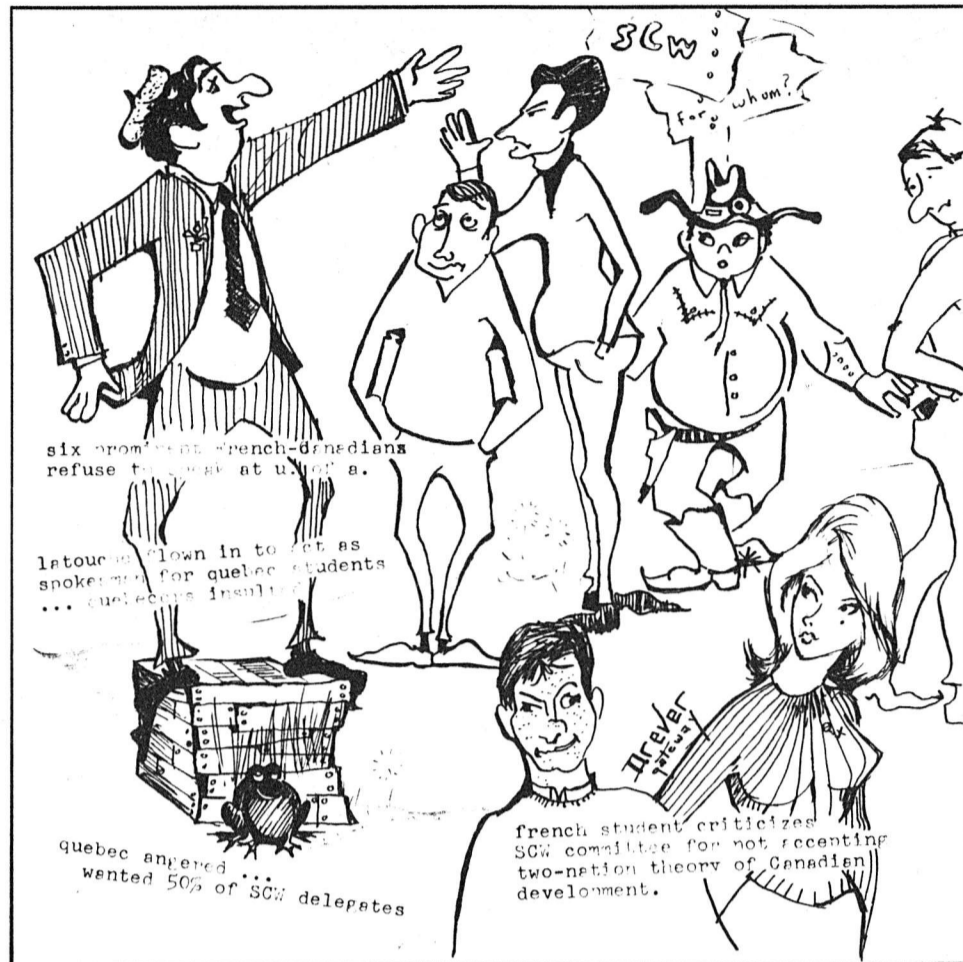
Stately? The majority of the homes in question are nothing more than huge money-making schemes.

Some of the most miserable housing conditions which U of A students tolerate are in the basements of these cautiously-protected stately homes.

As a crowning insult to fraternity members, a group of Garneau residents are now seriously considering tearing down their houses for the purpose of building high-rise apartments (for themselves).

Fraternity houses could be a helpful solution to the present housing shortage on this campus. The Interfraternity Council needs rezoning, and it needs it now.

With the backing of the city planning commission, the IFC has nothing to lose in going back to city council and demanding reconsideration.



"alors' mes amis, i trust you will bring your money and help quebec celebrate their centennial year at quebec's expo."

ralph melnychuk

my choice for canada

during the past few years the people of Canada have been screaming for the retirement of both Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson and the Rt. Hon. John G. Diefenbaker.

Although most people are quick to point out what they think is wrong with these two men, they are unable to give consistent good qualities they think Canada's leader should have.

I am a great believer in history. If we take the more lasting images created by Canada's past few prime ministers and amalgamate them into one person, we should come up with the type of leader who will endear himself to the Canadian public.

I apologize to the spirits of the men I am about to refer to. With the exception of Messrs. Diefenbaker and Pearson, my observations are gleaned, not from the history books, but from my father's political wise-cracks.

Let's start with R. B. Bennett. In a sort of a way he was what my poli sci prof calls a gas and water-works socialist, although he was officially a Conservative.

Once, when flying across the prairies, he needed the use of certain facilities not available on his plane. The pilot suggested he use his hat and throw it out the window, which he did. A Saskatchewan farmer found the hat and took it to town, announcing that R. B. Bennett was dead. Asked how he knew, he replied: "Well, here's his hat, and his brains are in it, so he must be dead."

It is obvious that Bennett's ideas about unemployment insurance and old age pensions were far ahead of his time. So our imaginary leader must be a reactionary.

The next prime minister was William Lyon Mackenzie King. The standard crack was that he never bothered with cabinet meetings—he held seances instead.

Alberta's own Premier Ernest C. Manning also conducts religious oper-

tions which are occasionally subject to ridicule. Any Sunday now Edmontonians expect to see abandoned wheel chairs and crutches in front of the Paramount Theatre.

Since both King and Manning are examples of extremely successful leaders, our leader should have some religious eccentricity in order to gain a broad and lasting base of support.

Next on the list is the Rt. Hon. Louis St. Laurent—papa Louis to millions. St. Laurent projected an endearing father-image that subsequent prime ministers have failed miserably to develop.

Nobody knows any nasty jokes about him, so he couldn't have done too much. Perhaps this would be a good quality for our leader to develop. He would stave off a lot of criticism that way.

The Rt. Hon. John George Diefenbaker was an enigma that arose out of the Saskatchewan dust—and a lot of people wish he'd stayed there.

He was a man of the people—but after 1958 his fellow Canadians didn't particularly want him.

There are many jokes about Diefenbaker, but it is often said the biggest joke is Diefenbaker himself.

But a joker is always fun, so perhaps our leader should have the sort of charismatic flair that still makes Canadian politics considerably funnier than in the pre-Diefenbaker era.

Prime Minister Lester Bowles Pearson is a man who should never have been in politics at all. He belongs at the U of A teaching political science, for while his intelligent quotient may be 160, his common sense quotient is about minus 40.

While our leader should do something to improve on the latter figure, the former is one he should have.

Adding up all the positive qualities I have enumerated, there is only one possible candidate for prime minister of Canada.

Julia Kiniski.