

# The Gateway

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**STAFF THIS ISSUE:** 'Twasn't a bad party 't'other night, yet these loyal workers managed to come back Sunday for more: Muriel Love, Jo Warren, Robin McLachlin, Sharon Kobie, Dave Wright, Marion Conybeare, Andy Rodger, Licia Polujan, Ralph Melnychuk, Jon Whyte, Jackie Foord, Bill Beard, the Green Hornet, Marcia Reed and Harvey Thomgirt.

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## give us a chance

When Jean Lesage, prime minister of Quebec, visited U of A last week, he graciously declined to explain "what Quebec wants", pending establishment of a dialogue between the two main partners in Confederation.

That there is now no real dialogue between Canadians of French and English extraction is obvious, despite overtures made by this university toward Laval University.

For when representatives of our student body travelled to Quebec City one month ago to discuss the possibility of Laval University taking part in a Western Canada Week, they were told firmly to forget the idea.

The "dialogue" of those talks was French. Our Western ideas were put forward by bilingual Westerners whose attitude toward Quebec is one of sympathy and unquestioning tolerance.

The persons who are interpreting our ideas to Quebecers are not representing the Western viewpoint—instead, they are telling Quebecers only those things which they think the Easterners want to hear.

These distortions of our culture must cease, before our present state of "understanding" becomes one of complete misunderstanding.

It has been said the Quebec society is dynamic, bold and progressive. It has also been suggested Western students of this generation are obliged to overcome their apa-

thy, prejudice and ignorance of that society if they are to appreciate, rather than reject the benefits to Canada that will come from this stronger, progressive Quebec.

But we in the West are also told Quebecers of today are interested in their province first, and Canada second. The Laval refusal, made by a students' union president described as having separatist leanings, is just another manifestation of this philosophy.

Premier Lesage has asked us to create a dialogue first, and then sit down with his people to determine what Canada's two majorities and minorities want from the Canadian constitution.

A stronger Quebec will make a stronger Canada, agreed. But please M. Lesage, tell us how we are going to create a dialogue when your own students refuse to participate in a cultural exchange—an exchange void of any political overtones.

Today this university, along with the University of Alberta, Calgary, is embarking on ambitious plans for a \$240,000 centennial festival, tentatively known as "Second Century."

Already Albert Dupuis, president of the French-speaking Sherbrooke University, has said French Canadians do not want to be part of such an affair—unless politics are removed from the dialogue.

This may be the same story all over again, with a willing partner in Confederation offering to create a basic dialogue and then quietly accepting the refusal from an unwilling, distrustful neighbor who has very little idea of what Western Canadians are.

## the waiting game

Campus males, are you among the many who while away several minutes every Friday and Saturday night waiting for your date in Lister Hall's women's residence?

Girl-watchers of the campus unite. You have nothing to lose but your wasted time.

If these women continue to insist on keeping you waiting, as evidenced by the mob of males grinding their teeth in the lobby of the women's residence, let us insist on some changes in the aforementioned lobby.

We suggest the women's house committee set up some pinball machines to keep waiting males from boredom.

Or how about putting out some interesting magazines to read? Playboy, for instance.

Maybe some old-fashioned nickle-odeons, with those . . . er, ah . . . well, you know what type of pictures, would while away the time in a more interesting manner.

Or how about being on time, girls?



Destination: Canada. Route: Unknown.

## separatism

by doug walker

"Ladies and gentlemen, Canada is doomed. Long live The Republique Francaise du Quebec. You are not expected to applaud."—Marcel Chaput

One reads relatively little about separatism as such in the Western-Canadian press any more. In past months newspapers were filled with stories of bombings, marches and other separatist demonstrations, violent and peaceful. Numerous groups appeared, openly and actively demanding Quebec's secession.

In an attempt to explain and perhaps even further the ideas of separatism, Dr. Marcel Chaput spoke to a capacity audience in mp 126 last November. Dr. Chaput, a former leader of the Rassemblement pour l'Independence Nationale and founder of the Parti Republicain du Quebec, was outspoken in his criticism of English-French relations.

"Canada is no longer my country," he said, "and I will do my damned best to see that it splits. Quebec's independence will come because French-Canadians want it, and it is only up to them to decide."

Few persons would argue with the validity of the separatists' complaints. The relative absence of French-Canadian control in Quebec business, and the absence of French-Canadians in positions of responsibility even in the federal civil service have been well-documented.

However, few persons would seek the suppression or assimilation of the French-Canadian culture that

Chaput implied. It is not with the separatists' complaints, but with their proposed solution that issue must be taken.

To be blunt, Canada without Quebec and Quebec without Canada are both impossibilities. Separatists deny this, but only because of their eagerness to secede.

In advocating separation, however, the separatists have performed one invaluable service: they have focused national attention on the immediate problem of Canadian unity.

This increased attention has led to several proposed solutions, or at least to attempts at a general solution. The tension has already lessened to the extent that news of an exploding mailbox is now uncommon.

Leaders from all sides in the dispute agree that a dialogue between the factions, if such a dialogue is possible at all, is the necessary first step to an answer. To this end, activities such as last winter's French Canada Week on this campus and the recent Lesage tour of Western Canada have been directed.

Unfortunately, however, it appears so far that this dialogue has been constructive in only one direction—that is, toward Quebec. Quebec complains of or demands something or, as did M. Lesage, simply asks for understanding.

Attempts by westerners to promote this understanding, like the now-aborted Western Canada Week at Laval, are ignored. Since the problems of Canadian unity plague both French and English Canada, the solutions must come from both sides.

Quebec's continued indifference to the rest of the country retards both their and our progress.