

## School strike irresponsible

For the second time in five years, the teachers in the North Central East school district are on strike.

As of today, 14 school days will be missed. Although the kids in the elementary and junior high schools probably enjoyed the first days off, by now, they are pretty bored and their parents are probably pulling their hair out.

For students in Grade 12, however, they are the ones pulling their hair out, because if they miss any more days of classroom instruction, their chances of graduating this year from high school decreases, therefore, their chances of furthering their studies at a post-secondary institution like the University of Alberta drop. Teachers and school boards in the four counties involved (Thorhild, Smoky Lake, St. Paul and Two Hills) are depriving education for the students in their counties just so they can have a grudge match between themselves. The attitudes that teachers and the school boards have are childish and irresponsible, and they should have to stay after school or clean the chalkboards.

The teachers in the four counties are asking for five percent increases in wages. At an ACT forum in early December, ATA spokesman Nadine Thomas stressed that the government funding cut was actually more when inflation was taken into account. Maybe the teachers in the four counties and the municipal school boards don't have the usual amount of money available to give teachers pay increases.

The provincial government is also at fault. By the time they strip-mined the provincial budget, the education budget was a shell of its former self. So much for using the Heritage Trust Fund for future Albertans. The government will spend it on future Alan Stalls and Albertans who want to be successful fend for themselves in school. Maybe future Albertans should become international ski racers, because without an education, that's one of the only ways someone could profit from the government's spending habits.

Municipal governments are in the middle, left to defend the provincial government when talking to teachers; left to defend teachers when they talk to the Tories. They are not faultless either, because they could have saved some money from the oil boom for the rainy day, instead of paving roads that lead to nowhere. Even the County of Thorhild, with no industrial tax base to work with, decided to build a palatial county office last year, which the taxpayers in the county, mainly farmers, who are not exactly rolling in the dough, will have to pay off.

Maybe the three sides on this issue could get rid of their selfishness and their rhetoric and decide to do something for the good of the students who are trying to further their education. All three sides claim education is a priority, but you wouldn't know it by the way they are behaving.

Alan Small

### The Gateway



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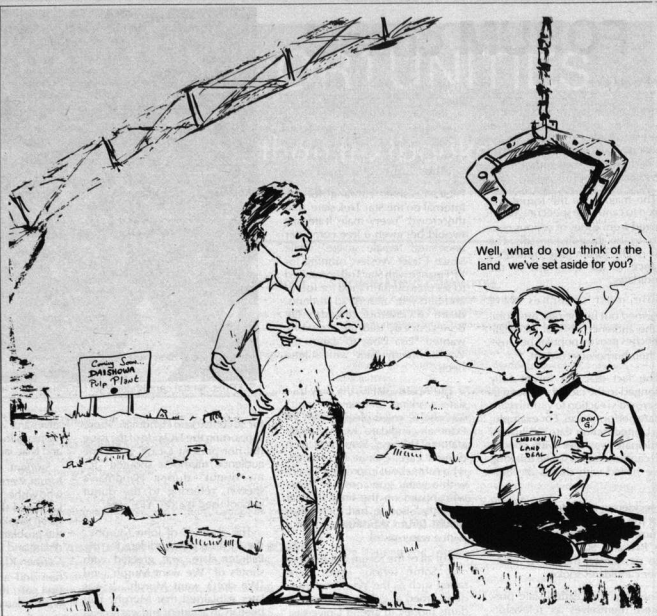
The Gateway welcomes letters to the Editor.

If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. Letters must be signed. Addresses and phone numbers are required but will not be printed.

Letters may be edited for length.

Mail or deliver your letters to Room 282 SUB, or drop them in any SU information booth.

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## LETTERS

### Quebec too powerful

Re: Is Quebec Worth It? (Gateway, March 10)

Mr. McCulloch has accurately zeroed in on the Quebec situation. Further to his observations, readers may be interested to know that:

- Quebec calls its provincial legislative body "The National Assembly". Obviously, Quebec sees themselves more as an independent country than as a province of Canada.
  - Quebec has its own old age pension system called the Quebec Pension Plan. The rest of Canada comes under the Canada Pension Plan.
  - Quebec administers its own provincial taxation system. This way Quebec can escape the carrot and stick treatment the federal government is in the habit of imposing on the rest of the provinces.
  - In 1986 Quebec received more federal job creation money (at the taxpayers' expense) than any other province — and the trend continues.
  - Under the Constitution Act (the BNA Act) three Supreme Court of Canada justices must come from Quebec. The rest of Canada gets to fight over the other six.
  - If the Meech Lake Accord becomes law, Quebec will be given the additional power of appointing their three Supreme Court justices. But for the rest of Canada the appointment system will remain in Ottawa.
  - Additionally, the Meech Lake Accord will give Quebec power over immigration to their province.
- And the list of horrors goes on.

Quebec continues to reap the benefits of a union with Canada without any of the responsibilities. To allow one province greater powers vis-a-vis the other provinces demonstrated an unjustifiable tolerance for inequality within our federal system. Canada, wake up!!

Russell Connors

### French deserve rights

Re: "Is Quebec Worth It?" Editorial, Gateway, March 10

Mr. McCulloch displays a serious misunderstanding of life in Quebec. For the sake of those who may have been swayed by such nearsighted rhetoric, a contrasting opinion requires expression.

For decades, the dominant Anglophone minority in Quebec exclusively held almost all the higher echelon positions in the huge Montreal-based corporations, companies that depend on the patronage of French-Canadians for their profits. A rural Quebecois could grow up in a French home, surrounded by French language and culture within a 300 km radius of his home, and receive a Commerce degree from the Université de Montreal in his mother tongue, but it amounted to much less than it should because "the language of promotion, the language of professional advantage, is not French." Should a young man in Japan receive his university education in English if he aspires to a commanding business position in Tokyo? If the skills can be provided in French, they should be able to put them to use in French.

Until recently, this basic right has been denied to Quebecois.

It should also be noted that former Quebec Premier René Lévesque was a strong supporter of English-language and minority rights, and threatened to quit his party more than once on this issue. And the English culture is surviving quite well in Quebec, thank you very much. As for other cultures in Quebec, I'm sure they survive just as well there as they do in 90% English Alberta. There is mandatory French-language education for the children, but families are not forced to use French in their homes.

Phillip Previle

### French legitimate

When this land of ours was formed, and this includes Alberta, the French and the English, both colonizers at one time or another, had reached a politically satisfying understanding. But humans (?) are humans, and they forget too readily the hard facts of their history.

That the government in its magnanimity should acknowledge the existence of a French community is not enough. We formed this country, and provided more than a touch to the creation of the city of Edmonton among others (go check if you wish). We do not deserve a right, we have a right.

That various ethnic groups also came to this country is also a fact. However can they pretend to have given the same contribution to Canada? One must recognize their input, I agree, but that is all.

Renée Ladsous

### CJSR survey justified

If the Editor of the Gateway is not sure about my motivations for doing a survey on CJSR why did he not just ask me instead of writing his column?

The Editor is absolutely right. CJSR is being singled out very specifically. In the 1987-88 fiscal year CJSR will receive approximately \$38,000 for operation, \$3,000 for *Airtight* magazine, \$13,000

for equipment purchases and another \$13,500 from the Student Services grant from the Board of Governors. This totals some \$67,500. Why is the VP Finance concerned enough about this subsidy to CJSR to a survey? The answer is very simple. There is absolutely no statistics whatsoever on CJSR listenership on campus. If the U of A students are going to be giving that much money to the station, the U of A students better be listening.

As for the accountability of the other

SU services mentioned in the editor's column (SORSE, Student Help, Information Services, etc.) I can walk up to each director and find out exactly how many people used the service on a day to day basis! The SU has no known any numbers on CJSR for years. All SU services must be equally accountable for the money they receive. CJSR knows why it was scrutinized and was not surprised at the low survey results.

Steve Twible  
 VP Finance and Administration