

French built Canada

Re: Don't fight it: be Canadian (Nov. 1)

I would like to share with Mr. Pei some of my views on being Canadian.

The very beginnings of my family's history in Canada are somewhat muddy, but one certainty is that my original Canadian ancestors arrived in New France, at the latest, by the end of the seventeenth century. From the knowledge I have, that makes me anywhere from a ninth to a twelfth generation Canadian.

I find this fact rather awe-inspiring, and as I learn more about Canadian history, I wonder what role my Canadian ancestors must have played in the events we study.

Now, Mr. Pei suggests that I should return to France if I'm not happy. After all this, you've got to be kidding. I identify with the events and ideals of the Lower Canada Rebellions of 1837-38; the French Revolution is of no significance to me. I lost no direct ancestors in the Napoleonic wars. The events of France's past do not shape my current thought: France is a foreign country, it holds no option for me. I could no more return to France than David Suzuki could return to Japan.

When individuals or families choose to 'displace' themselves from their country, their language and their culture, they understand that the passing on of their culture will likely be restricted to the household, especially if the insti-

tutions of their new country use a different language. French-Canadians, however, came to New France, a place where they established institutions, education and a culture very distinct from that of the mother country. This culture thrived uninterrupted for over 150 years, and its right to thrive was then confirmed under British Rule in 1774 and again in 1867. Can this situation be justifiably eradicated today simply because Anglophones outnumber Francophones? You would be asking one third of all Canadians to leave the homes and history they have built.

My ancestors built the country you now call home, Mr. Pei, and they built it speaking French. I am amazed that you would deny my children a public education in one of the founding languages of this nation. Cultural duality is an undeniable aspect of the Canadian cultural fabric. Mr. Pei, you have a shallow understanding of what being Canadian is all about.

Philip Preville
Arts III

Figures "misleading"

Re: Feds forcing French (Nov. 3)

In a recent editorial, Dragos Ruiu presents some misleading figures to support his tirade against the federal government's "Official Languages" programs. The figures are misleading because they are aggregate. As is often the case with large aggregate numbers, they sound more impressive than they are. \$1.4 billion over five

years (wow!). Let's see... if we divide \$1.4 billion first by 5, the number of years, then by 25 million, the approximate number of people in Canada, the result is \$11.20 per person per year (oh). This is roughly what the average student spends on a night at the movies or at RATT, and is much less exciting than \$1.4 billion.

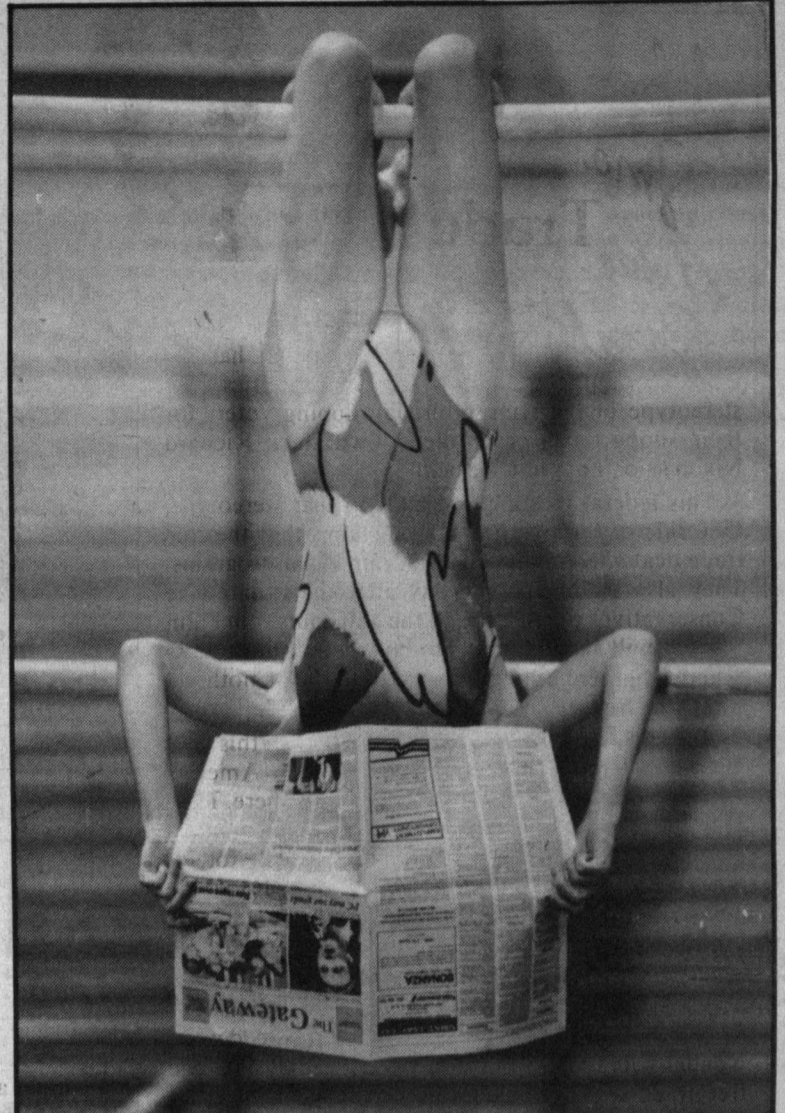
I think \$11.20 a year is a small price to pay to promote the two official languages of Canada (Dragos forgot to mention that part of the money is used to promote English in French Canada). By promoting both official languages, the Federal government is giving Canadians an opportunity to experience another culture; language is the key to that culture. To me this sounds like education, not fascism as Dragos believes. It's true that not everyone in Alberta will want to take advantage of the opportunity to learn French, but with people like the Premier of Alberta and the editor of the U of A students' newspaper so strongly opposed to programs that promote the learning of French, it's not surprising. C'est dommage!

David Faulkner
Grad Studies

Greens deserve discount

If alternative parties are not allowed to speak at forums then I think we should get a cut-rate on our \$200.00 deposits, don't you?

Isabelle Foord
BA, MA
Green Party



Stop hanging around!

Come help with *The Gateway*.
Drop by room 282 SUB.

R.A.T.T.

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
DESIGNATED DRIVER PROGRAM	NFL MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL	1 7:30 p.m. The Lost Boys 10:00 p.m. Witches of Eastwick	2 MIDWINTER REGARDNESS	3 LET THE GOOD TIMES ROCK	4 GREAT BAR STAFF	5 ELECTIC MUSIC
THE RATT STAFF AND YOUR STUDENTS' UNION	7 PRESENTS	8 TUESDAY IS MOVIE NIGHT 7:30 p.m. Young Frankenstein 10:00 p.m. Strange Brew	9 MADNESS	10 '60's & '70's CLASSIC ROCK N' ROLL	11 5 DAILY BEER & DRINK SPECIALS	12 MUSIC
13 WISH YOU THE BEST OF TIMES ALL THE TIME	14 AMERICAN BEER NIGHT	15 7:30 p.m. Yellow Submarine 10:00 p.m. Stop Making Sense	16 PEACH RASPBERRY STRAWBERRY BLUEBERRY BLACKBERRY	17 CLASSIC R & B	18 N' GREAT TUNES	19 NITE
20 ENJOY YOUR SCHOOLING!	21 6 BRANDS AVAILABLE	22 7:30 p.m. On the Waterfront 10:00 p.m. Rebel Without a Cause	23 ON SPECIAL ALL DAY BY THE GLASS OR BY THE PITCHER	24 GOOD PEOPLE	25 GREAT TIME	26 SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE RADIO
27	28	29	30			

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