

Identity crisis in Quebec

Student finds 'foreign' troops at home

By ROZA LEVINE

Last weekend I went home, for the first time in over a month. Home is in Montreal, a place I associate not only with my family but also a city with 'plein d'esprit', esprit because of its vitality which is uniquely French. I knew of course that things had changed there. Unfortunately things had not changed here. The pro-Canada rally at York seemed a pitiful attempt at a Canadian identity — an identity which seemed ignorant and unsympathetic with Quebec. I certainly could not count myself a member of this sort of identity. And so, I returned home.

October 31st was the first time I had ever seen a Canadian soldier in army fatigues. They were in front of the consulates, post offices, police stations and homes of unknown people who lived in the best districts. They patrolled the streets in jeeps bearing sub-machine guns. Having followed a jeep down Sherbrooke Street (one of the main downtown streets) until it was stopped at a red light, I jumped out of my car, ran to the side of the jeep and snapped a picture.

"No pictures please!"
"Why not?"
They turned their faces away from the camera and drove off. The next episode was not as casual. The soldier in front of a police station walked, with hand on gun right up to me and demanded my camera. This incident was repeated and I learned not to leave my car, to shoot quickly and leave. By the end of the day my anxiety had heightened along with bitterness and despair.

The troops were not French. They all yelled at me in English. The populace avoided the areas of military seizure. English Quebecers felt once more 'safe'; French Quebecois seemed perplexed and despondent. My city had been seized by foreigners — 'les étrangers'; would they also rape her of her 'esprit'? Was it really an 'étranger' or rather a disavowed relative of our own family?

Quebec will survive, her poverty will grow, her frustration will ferment. I cannot exonerate myself or my fellow Canadians.

Mes sympathies Québec; que tu soit libre de la misère!



Canadian troops patrol in front of a nunnery on Sherbrooke St. in Montreal.

At Osgoode Hall

Rowdiness cancels banquet

By MARSHALL GREEN

Acts of petty vandalism perpetrated on the old Osgoode Hall have caused the Legal and Literary Society, Osgoode's student council to cancel the traditional graduate banquet.

The banquet is held each March for third year students, professors, and "benchers" of the Law Society.

Ray Harris, president of the council said that the decision was made after reports of more or less extensive damage to furniture, books, and other property were forwarded by the officials of Osgoode Hall downtown. He felt that the \$1,500 to \$2,000 allocated for this function could be better spent on a dance for law students and their spouses.

John Kirby, third year student

rep for the council led the attack against the banquet. He noted that support for the banquet was usually poor, and that the spending of \$1,500 could not be justified merely to let a few persons have a "good time". He noted that the "traditional" banquet had been cancelled several times throughout the law school's history, "probably for the same reasons". He also doubted that any institution in the city would rent its hall to the school after Osgoode's reputation spread.

However, the move to cancel is not without its opposition. Tony Bryant, a third year student, feels

that the banquet serves an important function in that it is the only time during a student's law school career where students, professors, and jurists can get together for a "good blowout".

He stated that the claims of damages by the council are unsubstantiated, and that at worst, there was no more trouble caused than at other similar Osgoode functions, such as the Athletic banquet. Bryant has collected over 100 signatures, about 50 per cent of the graduating class, on a petition. He plans to present the petition at the next council meeting.



Young soldier stands guard at police station.

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