## opinions

# The saga continues

ity.

The illustrious words will forever remain embraced by the hearts of Quebecers: "À la prochain fois."-Next time. The words were spoken by the famed Quebec separatist René Lévesque, following the defeat of the 1980 Sovereignty Referendum. The "next time" Lévesque spoke of has now come; in less than a year the future of Canada will once again be in the hands of Ouebec.

The saga continues like a poorly rated soap opera. New actors play the same old roles, using the same tired lines in that exhausted, wearisome plot. Chrétien replaces Trudeau, Parizeau replaces Lévesque, and, year after year, decade after decade, the show drags on.

It must be as clear now as it was one hundred years ago that Canada has an inexhaustible political problem: the province of Quebec.

Throughout history, before Confederation and after, English Canada and Quebec have travelled separate, distinct paths. We share different origins, a different culture, a different thought. We want different things, we have different views, we speak different languages; we are difis from France and Italy from Israel. We are different.

This is the point that much of English Canada fails to acknowledge. To fight the sovereignty movement, we point at economic graphs and promise constitutional amendments. We don't realise that Quebec's desire timing for the Sovereigntists. Masfor independence is not about eco- sive 'NO' campaigns, like the one we nomics or centralized government. are about to embark on, only serve to There's ambition in the soul of Que- distract the government from other bec, there's a flag waving passion Canadian business, increase frustrathat has inspired revolutions and tion and increase debt. Like a protecseparations throughout history. We tive mother refusing to accept the can not fight this with charts and eventuality of her childleaving home, legal bargaining. We must face real- we fail to see the rational. The peo-

Throughout history, English Canada and Quebec have travelled seperate distinct paths

Recognizing Quebec as a sovereign state is an eventuality we will all have to acknowledge. Should the Sovereigntists not succeed in the ferent people. As different as Britain upcoming referendum, there can be no doubt it will simply be a matter of time until the next one. And the next one. And the next one.

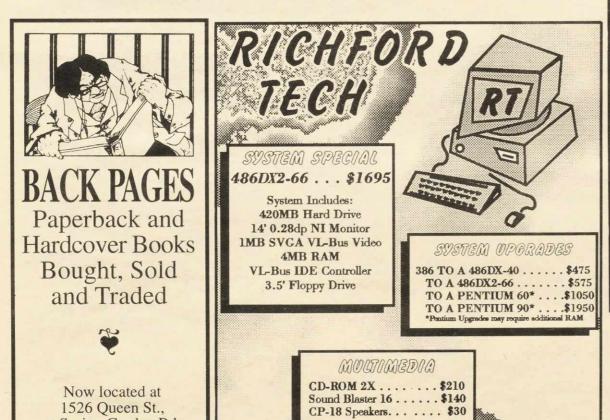
> Quebec's support for separation continuously boggles up and down between 40% and 60%, almost at a predictable rate. It is simply a game of

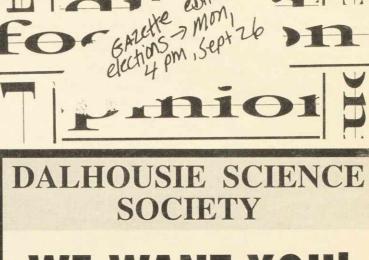
ple of Quebec must be allowed their own destiny. Whether they demand it ten months from now, or ten years, English Canada must be prepared to accept it sensibly. This is the only way we can minimize economic loss. A separation which will allow the highest standard of living for citizens of both nations must be negotiated. Level heads and rational thinking will be of utmost importance. We will face a challenge unlike any we've known before.

The time has come to prepare. The time for hope has passed. For one hundred years we've hoped and we've hoped and all we have to show today is more bitterness, more misunderstanding, more difference.

Canada was a noble dream. A dream that people of different language and culture could share and love one nation. Quebec and English Canada do share pride, do share passion and do share love; but it is not for the same nation. Canada was a noble dream. A noble dream that's failed.

John M. Place





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