

# Stripped of all our rights

We as Canadians have but one right left; that is the right to pay taxes. In Communist countries the citizens know they've no rights, and accept it. In Canada the citizens have no rights, and are unaware of it.

At any given time one of over six hundred different types of civil servants may enter your residence without your consent, or approval. The "justifications" may range from reasonable (whenever he or she wishes) suspicion of drug, or firearm violations, gas line checks, fire safety checks, sheriff seizure of property, electrical checks, meter persons, and a multitude of others.

You, as a Canadian citizen, may at any time, in any place (however public) be completely stripped, searched, and probed by law enforcement officers of either sex, and have no legal recourse since the officer is perfectly within his/her right if he/she can prove reasonable suspicion (when in fact an anonymous phone call is unquestionable, and unprovable grounds for reasonable suspicion in a court of law). Under the authority of that same reasonable suspicion, your mail may also be opened and your vehicle disassembled.

This abolition of rights is due to no single huge change in our legal statutes as such, but due to hundreds of compounded, restrictive, trivial laws. Restrictions are

never imposed, instead they are gradually introduced into law. We as Canadians must push for a renewal of rights while we still can.

Weda D. Spasmin

## Left is not the culprit

To Whom it may Concern: I should like to reply to the letter in your last issue (Nov. 25) by a former hockey star. Queen-size! Mr. Orr, you seem to feel the ails that Britain had can be blamed on "the left" while the current catastrophe cannot be laid equally at the feet of the high witch-priestess of monetarism. This like much of your favorite *Gateway* column is undoubtable wrong.

1) People have come to recognize that to spend billions to defend America from Russian bombs while they earn \$50 a month to scrub the halls of your baroncy hall is inequitable.

2) If in a democratic system everyone should start with equal opportunity then the government alone can help those who do not inherit vast fortunes and estates.

3) Quoting Mosley about the basic nature of Anglo-Norman

society is (not is like) asking Hitler about Jews.

4) Where private industry assumes no responsibility for job training then the state must. In that unemployment is 100% for everyone without a job then unions and governments should work together to ensure that people do not die of hypothermia because they can't afford the heating bill.

I am running out of space here so I will conclude by suggesting that if you really want to know what Ms. Thatcher has done then perhaps you could get a job in Glasgow or with British Steel in Shotton.

Kevan Warner

## Put a lid on it guys

In reference to the letter of Koch, Brucite, and White in the November 12th issue:

It is a shame that they did not practice what they preached, i.e. to observe their right to keep their opinion to themselves.

Since they did, however, you might try talking them into writing a regular column for the *Gateway*. I'm sure it would be very popular at least among Engineering students. But don't count on them taking you up on the invitation — they probably wouldn't be able to think of enough topics to write on.

B. Wolter  
Arts III

## Bottles multiplying like bunnies

It was drawn to public attention that the Students' Union V.P. Jan Byer is currently accepting bottle donations to aid in reducing unexpected SU liabilities. Does he realize the enormity of the situation he is getting into????

Twelve million bottles would cover 23.9 square miles, 39.15 hockey rinks and 13.2 football fields (including the endzones). Further to this, the SU is depriving students of valuable furniture materials. Using the (unfurnished) 2 bedroom apartment in HUB as an example we estimate that 275 cases per apartment are needed. The SU would have effectively deprived 3,636,363 students of their furnishings.

We, the executive of the Citizens' Beer Bottle Furnishings Action Society (a non-profit organization) are appalled at the development of this monopoly on

student furnishings. We recommend that the SU consider other viable alternatives such as: bake sales, massage parlors, procrastinationathons, paper drives (unmutilated *Gateways* should suffice), scavenger hunts,

or, if all else fails, raffle off N. Astley.

Appalled, Frankly Appalled.

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## LETTERS

Letters to the *Gateway* should be a maximum of 250 words on any subject. Letters must be signed and include faculty, year and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published. All letters must be typed, though we will reluctantly accept them if they are very neatly written. We reserve the right to edit for libel and length. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Gateway*.



## Aspidistra

by Alison Thomson

The separatist rally a week ago gives one furiously to think about the sort of people who are attracted to such a movement. At first glance, there seems to be a fairly wide spectrum of people involved (or at least present at the rally; the number who become active workers for the cause is undoubtedly rather lower, as with most emotional political areas).

However, on closer examination, these people have a number of disturbing characteristics in common.

First is a lack of rational grounds for their political beliefs.

Arguments are presented such as "the standard of living of the west would go up 30 - 50% without the east dragging us down." I would be most interested in seeing Western Canada concept leader Doug Christie's basis for making such a statement. He may have one; he certainly doesn't seem to find it necessary to present it to his audiences.

Or how about "They're forcing French down our throats." In the New West, Christie assures us, there'll be one official language. The people who really go for this one are undoubtedly the same ones who have an apoplexy when they see French on the cornflakes box at breakfast. This is amazing; I have yet to hear a reasonable argument against learning French. North Americans are appallingly badly educated in this regard. Our intellectual and cultural heritage is immensely broadened by the French culture, and to react in a stupid knee jerk "goddamn frogs" way against it says a good deal more about the person expressing those sentiments than he probably cares to realize.

This brings me to a second characteristic of grass roots western separatists I noticed the other night — a marked xenophobia. Not only do they feel threatened by the Quebecois presence in the country; immigrants are also a particular concern.

Any thinking person must realize we cannot attempt to solve the Third World's problems by allowing unlimited immigration to Canada. What most of us do not do is suggest either that Mr. Trudeau encouraged immigration to amass Liberal votes, or that one of our reasons for attending a separatist rally is to see that the new country will not allow any more of "those colored people" into the west. I am not making that statement up; I didn't have to. And as for leader Christie? "I'm not a racist. I saved a French Canadian from drowning once."

Fanaticism is a third characteristic I see in this group which makes me apprehensive. A good deal of it is centered on how much they hate Trudeau, rather than on the image of a "free" west. This feeling is cleverly exploited by the movement's leaders into a belief that the only way to foil Trudeau is to leave. The rude reception Nick Taylor received is another manifestation of the same phenomenon; there is a complete refusal to hear arguments for a renewed federalism. They have what passes for their minds firmly made up. More than one person watching in dismay saw Zieg Heil an appropriate cry for the group.

Simply because of who is involved, both as organizers (the so-called blue-chip separatists), and as the grass-roots membership, considerable doubt is cast on the legitimacy of the organization. Further doubt is cast when one surveys the complete dearth of rational argument in favor of their position. I am not convinced by the statement that we are intrinsically different from Ontario because Ontario has an "Upper Canada" mentality (another Christie gem). Nor have I yet been convinced on economic grounds.

I haven't dealt with the separatists' logic because I have yet to hear it. The separatists themselves seem sufficient material of which to dispose for the moment.