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The new SUB
The UGEQ editorial
The Swedish students who don't pay fees
The words of Rousseau:
"People who know little are usually great talkers,
while the men who know much say little."

comment: that ugeq editorial

UGEQ editorial

To The Editor:

Your editorial of Friday, Nov. 26 was not very useful in clarifying the issues of UGEQ and the English speaking universities in Quebec.

I would not claim to speak for the Quebecois, but I think that the UGEQ executive at least would want to point out the following:

1. In typical English Canadian arrogant form you disparage the idea of a unilingual Quebec or of a unilingual Quebec student union, (in the sense of there being one official language) but neglect the fact that all the other 9 provinces are unilingual despite their having French-speaking minorities of various size. Quebec is willing to continue supporting English universities, but it wants its French status clear.

2. You seem concerned that the Canadian Union of Students has lost its status as a genuinely national student organization. There are two founding "nations" (in the French meaning of the word—or if you like, in Lord Durham's sense) in Canada. As representative of English-speaking universities, CUS is now a truly national student organization. UGEQ, representing the French-speaking universities is a truly national student organization also. This puts the English-speaking universities in Quebec in a difficult position. The BNA act allocates the responsibility for education to the provinces. This has made education a difficult matter for French minorities in the English-speaking provinces, and now for the English-speaking minority in Quebec, the state of the French-speaking nation. You neglected to mention these economic-political interests as a reason for the English universities' desire to join UGEQ; they're interested in more than "dialogue."

3. A statement like, "UGEQ's policies are extreme to say the least," is understandable in a typical city paper like the Journal, BUT is surprising in a university paper. "Extreme" in relation to what? Is it "extreme" to offer a refuge for young Americans who wish to work for an end to the war in Vietnam, to build a world rather than burn it, and who if remaining in the United States have the choices of being trained for six months as a professional killer in a war they cannot conscience, pretending to be a homosexual or cancerous or "religious," or spending five years in prison. As a footnote here—it is easier to understand UGEQ's tentative proposal regarding the American draft in the light of Quebec's traditional resentment of conscription laws.

And apparently, developing "close bonds with labour organizations" is extreme too. I gather it's less extreme for students to retreat into a \$6 million student union building; that's enough to more than double this year's earnings of about one-third of the Indian families who earn less than \$1,000 a year or to support 1,500 field workers in student community development projects, or give 1,500 complete scholarships to students who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend school. Maybe we could use a little "extremism" around here.

4. In order to maintain its distinct identity, UGEQ has made the not

unreasonable demand that its member unions have no other affiliations. This is not too strange a condition for an organization, to make that has reason to be concerned about allegiances of its members.

5. I think you are a little behind the times in some of your reported predictions about UGEQ. My information has it that the separatism as such is less central a concern of Quebec students than it has been, and that the greater concern is for matters of social justice and the clear position of the French in Quebec.

6. You plea for dialogue. There comes a point, Mr. Editor, when a plea for dialogue is a plea for staying off change that certain groups may justifiably want. Most American Negroes could tell you that, Canadian Indians may have to point that out to you in the next few years. Dialogues commence once each others' rights are recognized and there is mutual respect. After cartoons of frogs on lily pads and hasty editorials, it will probably be difficult for The Gateway to create such dialogue. And, incidentally what language did you have in mind?

There are a number of things

about the Quebec student groups that I find difficult to comprehend and some matters like their tendency to talk in nation-state terms that I fundamentally disagree with in principle. But I cannot self-righteously urge them "moderation" given the inequality of the French-English partnership that has been this country's history. One can only hope to help create a better understanding of French grievances in English Canada. And may God grant we learn from them a little of what student responsibility for the world means.

Peter Boothroyd
grad student

Toward a fuller nation

To The Editor:

I was shocked by the attitudes displayed by the editor of The Gateway on November 26 in the editorial Toward a Fuller Nation. He is talking in 1965 (almost 1966) the way English-speaking Quebec students stopped talking two years ago. I would like to present some comments on certain specific statements he has made. In case my name suggests

generous loans and

swedish students pay no fees

This article is reprinted from the coryphaeus, the student newspaper from the university of waterloo.

by dave campbell

Our governments for the past God-knows-how-many terms have promised increased student aid, yet fees and residence costs have been continually rising.

Before we resign ourselves to the raw deal we're getting financially, let us examine what a government can do for higher education by contrasting the plight of the Canadian student with that of his Swedish counterpart.

By comparison with the \$555 minimum university fees we pay each year, the Swedish student pays nothing.

No Fees!

Universities are built and maintained by the state. Professors' salaries are also paid by the government.

Student residences are erected and maintained, not by the university administration as here, but by the Akademiska Froeningen (a sort of student council), which builds these residences aided by government construction loans with repayment conditions very favorable to the students.

Student residences are cheaper than outside accommodation. A room in a student house, in which the rooms are all furnished singles, considerably larger than those in Waterloo student village, costs about 150 kronor per month (about \$30). Full kitchen facilities are available, but food is the student's responsibility. This compares with about 200 kr. for a room rented in a private house.

But government aid to students

goes considerably farther than this, for the Swedish university student is considered an adult, capable of financial independence. Government measures are geared to this concept of helping him get his education independent of his parents' resources.

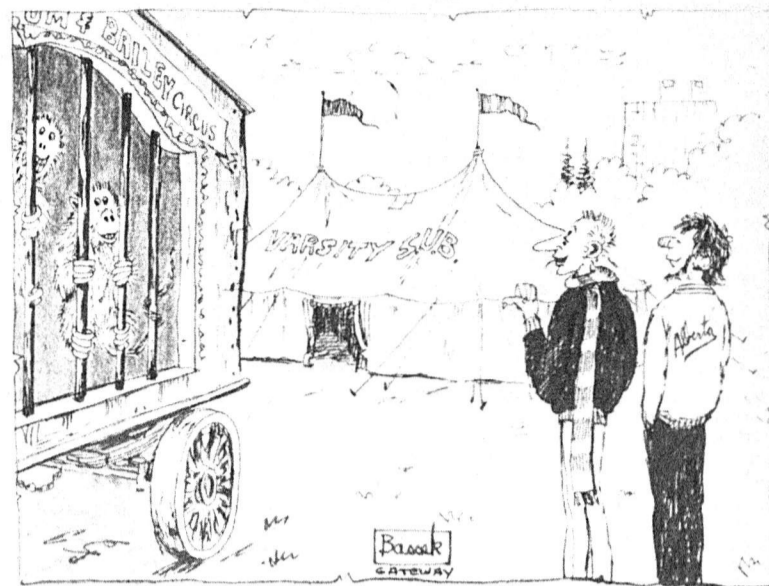
Every student receives from the government a living allowance of 175 kr. per month for the eight months of the academic year. This is now-repayable. As you see by comparison with the cost of accommodation, this living allowance is equivalent to free housing. This allowance is continued as long as the student continues to pass his examinations at a reasonable rate.

This leaves the student only his books, food and entertainment to pay himself. If his personal income is not sufficient, he may borrow, completely free of interest, up to 7,000 kr. annually. This generous loan need not be paid back until the person is 50 years old.

Recently, there has been a stipulation placed on the availability of the loan; The income of the student's parents must not exceed 30,000 kr. This ruling is unpopular among students for its negates to a certain extent the student's financial independence from his parents. But as this income is one not easily reached in Sweden, the regulation does not apply to most.

Is all this aid good for the student? Does he value his education he doesn't have to work to obtain?

I think that slackness can set in because of the ease of financing a university education but only to a very slight degree. It must be noted too, that the student loses his living allowance if he fails to pass his exams at a stipulated rate.



"It's a real steal with these monkeys thrown in—we could use them for next year's council."

that I am French, let me assure him that I am a white Anglo-Saxon Protestant from Orange Ontario.

The editor says, "... thousands of English-speaking students in Quebec have placed themselves in the position of a minority in a French-speaking organization whose interests are restricted almost exclusively to the Province of Quebec." (by planning to join UGEQ).

I would ask the editor, "How else do you expect them to have any effect on the conduct of student affairs in Quebec?" UGEQ was formed in order to escape the influence of CUS on the behaviour of Quebec students, and it has largely succeeded. The Quebec government handles education in Quebec, and it is a French government. Insofar as Quebec universities must deal with this government, they are better off in UGEQ. Furthermore, what makes the editor think that the interests of English-speaking Quebec students are not with the Province of

Quebec? Even, to some extent, "restricted" to interest in Quebec. A week ago an eminent Jewish lawyer advised Montreal Jews that henceforth they should regard French as their lingua franca of commerce, just as they accept French institutions in the political and cultural field. To a lesser extent the same sentiment is appearing among other English-speaking Quebecers. The regionalism of English-speaking Canada is in many ways unfortunate, but we are foolish not to admit that it exists. The English of Quebec just aren't the same as Albertans.

Second statement: "UGEQ's policies are extreme, to say the least. Member universities have voted to provide assistance for U.S. students fleeing from compulsory military service in Vietnam. They also favor (sic; can't you spell?) without qualification, a unilingual Quebec. It has been predicted that UGEQ will develop close bonds with labor organizations, and that the organization eventually will give formal endorsement to the concept of separatism."

As a McGill graduate, I can assure the editor than (sic) many policies that appear "extreme" at Alberta are not regarded as extreme at McGill or Sir George. (I can't speak for Marianopolis). Far from opposing UGEQ's policy regarding the U.S. draft, I can easily picture many McGill students kicking themselves for not thinking of it first. As far as favoring a unilingual Quebec is concerned, the editor should give evidence of a bilingual Alberta before he complains on that score. The English used to run Quebec, and you couldn't get anywhere if you didn't speak English. Now the French have taken over: it's part of the Game. English Quebec knows it's part of the game; Mr. Editor doesn't. As to separatism, if UGEQ makes that part of its policy, and it hasn't, yet, the English could always pull out and come back to CUS. Meanwhile, what better way to prevent separatism than to get in there, and try to do some good?

English-Quebec students had every reason "to believe UGEQ would be so inward-looking as to demand they leave CUS."

As early as 1960, one could sense this at the Université de Montréal. If they didn't expect at least the possibility of this, it serves them right!

Finally, "When will French-Canadians of Quebec give English-Canadians the dialogue Canada needs so badly and we English-Canadians desire so much?"

Last year some French-Canadians came from Quebec and spoke to staff and students of U of A in English for a whole week. Perhaps the editor would like to take a delegation to Université de Montréal and Laval and speak to their students in French all week. That's the only way to get a dialogue, and Mr. Editor had better face the facts. And, curious thing about that kind of approach, it's fair.

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lecturer in sociology