

## Education

### Bilingual education

Father Roger Guindon, Rector of the University of Ottawa, urged Canadians not to copy the American way of handling bilingual education and minority rights in his address at the Canadian Education Association convention 'Canadian Response—or Made in USA!'

He said the essential difference between the two countries was that in the US, bilingualism in public schools is considered as the major means of assimilating children whose mother tongue is not English into the English-speaking mainstream. In Canada, the mainstream is twofold: English and French.

Father Guindon urged Canadians to accept the fact that linguistic duality and cultural pluralism are here to stay because we have rejected the American melting pot concept. Canada's new constitution has enshrined the language rights of francophones and anglophones in education from coast to coast, wherever the numbers warrant it.

### Quebec White Paper on school reform

'The Quebec Schools: a responsible force in the community' is the title of the Quebec government's White Paper proposing a number of basic educational reforms in the province. The main objective is to 'redefine the schools, to give them responsibility for their own educational projects, to make them the focus of the system and to put them back into the hands of those who use and run them', making them basically community schools in which parents are the important partners. The White Paper suggests each school be made a corporation within the meaning of the Civil Code and that it be granted powers in specifically educational and pedagogical matters as well as sufficient powers to manage its own human, material and financial resources. Parents would form a majority on an appointed and/or elected school council. The composition, role and powers of the school boards would be redefined, their numbers would be reduced and the new integrated boards would become

non-denominational. Pedagogical development would become the focus of the Ministry of Education activities in the proposed system. The plan is now under public discussion, following which a bill will be introduced in the Quebec legislature.

## Trade

### Computer Taxis

Taxicab passengers in Ottawa, Winnipeg, Hamilton and Edmonton are no longer serenaded by radio dispatchers.

Cab drivers in those cities are dispatched (and their fares are metered) by digital computers. The information is flashed on small video screens. The system also has advantages for the cab companies. It can handle 500 cabs on a channel (instead of 150).

It works like this. The driver pushes a button on a keyboard, and his screen shows a list of cab zones and the number of empty cabs in each. He then signals to the computer the zone he's headed for. When he gets a call a buzzer sounds and the fare's location flashes on the screen. No other driver gets the message.

The new system has been developed by Gandalf Technologies Inc of Ottawa and is being marketed by Canada Systems Inc.

### Photocopyproof

What should you do if non-subscribers keep photocopying your newsletter? Get Polymark Management Ltd of Montreal to coat your paper stock with a substance that will make it copyproof. Then put the newsletter in the copier and the copy comes out blank. The service is called Nocopi and it costs five to seven cents a page, depending on volume. It is spreading all over the newsletter industry and it is also being used by lawyers, accountants and government offices with secrets.

### Sonobouys

The Canadian Commercial Corporation has received a million dollar contract from the Federal Republic of Germany for the supply of 4000 AN/SSQ-41B Sonobouys, manufactured by

Hermes Electronics Limited of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. Sonobouys are air-launched expendable devices designed to transmit information concerning underwater movement and sound.

Hermes has achieved international recognition as a manufacturer of sophisticated products in the field of submarine detection devices, communications and ocean data systems. Production and delivery of the Sonobouys are scheduled over seven months and will provide an estimated 42,000 person hours of employment.

Canadian Commercial Corporation contracts with foreign governments and international agencies on behalf of Canadian producers of goods and services. In 1981-82, the corporation achieved sales of over \$550 million, involving 435 Canadian suppliers and more than 50 foreign customers.

### Trojan Hoists

The company says it's the Ultimate Portable Hoist and it probably is. It can lift up a car or truck six-and-a-half feet in the air and tilt it 25 degrees.

This allows a six-foot mechanic to work without straining his neck. It has been tested up to 20,000 pounds, more than three times its recommended capacity.

It can pick up a three-quarter ton truck without even trying.

It is powered by a twelve-volt battery and can be moved easily, which means it can be set up indoors or out, as long as there's an available space at least 12 feet wide, 15 feet long and 13 feet high.

It has a single, totally enclosed, self-lubricating cylinder and, despite its name, nothing to hide.

You can buy one for \$4995.00 from your nearest dealer or from Antec International Equipment Inc, PO Box 3687, Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3N8.

## Books

### Robertson Davies

*Robertson Davies'* latest book, *Rebel Angels*, is now available in a paperback edition by Penguin Canada and will appear in the United Kingdom in a King Penguin edition in March 1983. A recent review by Anne Collins in *Books in*



Photo: CP Laserphoto

Canada said this about the author and the book: 'Watching Robertson Davies at play with his beloved notion of the university, his talent for murder mystery, and the arcane, irreverent, and sometimes profound bits and pieces of knowledge he has gathered, is watching both entertainer and entertainment at its best.'

### Christopher Pratt

The work of the Newfoundland artist Christopher Pratt was recently on display in the Canada House Cultural Centre. A book on his art by David Silcox and Merike Weiler has been published by Prentice Hall/Key Porter. The following review is taken from a review by Gary Michael Dault in the November issue of *Books in Canada*.

This handsomely made volume reproduces all of the important paintings by the enigmatic Newfoundlander, and does so with such fidelity that they actually maintain something of the lonely, evacuated airlessness that lends Pratt's pictures their authority as engines of mystery and meditation.

One of the pleasant surprises of the book is the inclusion in it of many of the preliminary studies and working drawings for Pratt's major paintings. An important function of a book like this is to allow us, if possible, a glimpse of the artist at work, the artist in the process of being what he is. Otherwise, art books turn into drafty museums of little use to the enthusiast and inhospitable to the general reader.