

# The Gateway

member of the canadian university press

editor-in-chief ..... Al Scarth

managing editor ..... Dan Carroll      sports editor ..... Joe Czajkowski

news editors ..... Peggi Selby, Sid Stephen      photo editor ..... Dave Hebditch

**STAFF THIS ISSUE**—The Revolution had barely begun in the AAS offices across the hall (a bomb went off—both before and after Brian McDonald wrote his thing), when the Paper People assembled. There was Beth Winteringham whose cinder ended up on the copy editor, Ron Dutton who was copy editing at the time, Brian Campbell trying to tell Jim Carter how to lay out Beth Nilson's Sort Shorts, Chuck Lyall who fumbled, the Morgue Mistress, Lucille Ball's aunt, Bob Anderson and Joe who are great sports, Dale and Heather that great vaudeville team, Ron Turnaway who plays badminton if nothing else, Dave (chip off the old block), Peggi Selby who got out while the going was good, and the overworked old serpent who has seen enough pressnites that he can smile all this off, yours ever, Harv. Luv and a bon voyage to Kit.

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A LITTLE CHAP LEARNS THAT GIRLS CAN BE FUN

... in Jubilaires' Stop the World, I Want to Get Off

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1969

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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# Mathematics of law and order: 2+2=5

By RON THOMPSON  
Canadian University Press

It now appears, at least in Montreal, that if the police stay home, the people will riot.

An editorial writer for the Ottawa Citizen speculates that the "police . . . had no way of knowing what havoc their absence would create." Apparently the events in Montreal on Oct. 7 were a surprise.

But that goes against all the facts.

All that Tuesday, on Montreal radio stations, there were constant urgings that citizens be cautious,

that they stay in their homes, that elderly people living alone spend the night with neighbors.

In the Quebec legislature, opposition leader Jean Lesage was talking of the "threat of anarchy" posed by the striking police and firemen.

Laws were already on the books making it possible to force the police back to work, with heavy fines for officers, heavier fines and jail terms for union officials, and possible decertification of the unions if the police and firemen did not return to work on orders from the legislature.

The army was ready to move in. The government and the media were more than cautious about the ramifications of a police strike. It would be foolish to assume the police were not aware of what they were doing.

The kind of violence that swept downtown Montreal is not new to major cities in North America these days. It was not even new to Montreal.

The events of St-Jean-Baptiste day during the federal election campaign, the massive student demonstrations with 5,000 to 10,000 people in the streets, the ongoing

bombings in the city—all these indicated to the police a climate of dissent which they constantly had to face at constant personal risk.

Montreal has the most murders and bank robberies per capita of any city in the country. Gangland killings have been frequent front page news.

That is why the police struck—to make that point.

If the police are absent, they don't "create" the havoc, they merely stop keeping the lid on it.

The Montreal police have become very efficient at keeping that lid on. They demonstrated how efficient they were when they didn't show up for work Tuesday, Oct. 7.

By the end of one day in the middle of the week, the newspapers were only reporting 'major' holdups and robberies—23 of them.

Two persons had been shot to death, millions of dollars of property had been burned, smashed or stolen.

When the police came back at 1 a.m. the 'riot' ended. They arrested twice as many people in a couple of hours as the Quebec Provincial Police, on duty with reinforcements for the entire day, had made.

There is, it seems, a delicate relationship between mass violence and the number of cops that can be mustered to keep the lid on it.

Montreal was not devoid of police protection on Oct. 7, the QPP were there and the army had been called in.

But the cops were too few and too ill-trained to keep the reaction in the streets from occurring.

What is unnerving in the wake of the events in Montreal is the analysis of what was wrong: somehow it is seen as the fault of the police for "not being there."

From one end of the telescope that kind of deduction could be made; the police were absent, violence occurred, therefore the violence was 'created' by the absence of the police.

So the way to make certain, 'that this never occurs again' from that point of view is to do whatever is necessary to keep sufficient numbers of police on the streets.

That can be done through force, or through higher and higher salaries.

That solution begs very important questions, makes some very questionable assumptions.

First of all, it assumes that the violence is only related to the number of police.

Secondly, and related to that assumption, we are required to adopt a view of man who is only orderly in the presence of police.

Thirdly, it ignores other possible causes for violence. The police may act as a lid keeping the pot from boiling over, but perhaps the heat is coming from somewhere else.



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