

Manning's Meech stand childish

by Philip Preville

Preston Manning's input on the Meech Lake accord suffers from a lack of perspective.

Manning's statement on Quebec and Meech Lake — to the effect of "stop your demands or get out" — is perhaps the most empty and uninformed comment one can make on the Meech debate. Manning's comments pull every emotional string possible, and offer nothing of value to an already heated debate.

To begin with, the province which is currently making "demands" is a western one. With eight provinces already having approved Meech Lake, Manitoba has adopted a hard-line stance on the accord which many consider extremely inflexible.

"You can't stop halfway," Manning was quoted in Sunday's *Edmonton Journal*, adding that you either separate or you "carry equality through to every region." These are stately things to say, but it is questionable whether or not Manning himself believes in them. Linguistic equality means accessibility to health care, education and government services across the country in English and French. The current Official Languages Act doesn't go nearly that far, and Manning already opposes that policy. Hence, he doesn't seem to support the equality he's talking about.

Manning's words have been heard before; the "we shouldn't give in to Quebec" analogy is a comfortable one for English Canadians to use, since it paints Quebecers as unreasonable children who need to be put in place. This analogy always comes out during disputes with Quebec because it projects the opposing side as the wise, even-tempered one.

This portrayal must be put to rest in the context of Meech Lake, and the whole issue must be put into perspective. Quebec has a legitimate constitutional concern as the only French-speaking government and, as such, the only home of French culture in North America. "Distinct society" is just one way of putting it. Manning obviously disagrees with the clause, as do many other people, but "stop your demands or leave" is not an intelligent response to the issue of linguistic duality.

Furthermore, "distinct society" is only one of many concerns about Meech Lake.

Through his comments, Manning has clouded the issue with emotion. His stand is both unconstructive and simplistic. He is effectively throwing a soft-spoken tantrum, telling Quebec to shut up or get out. Such comments are completely invaluable to the debate.

Meech Lake effectively demonstrates that Preston Manning has nothing to offer when it comes to building a nation. The Reform Party is more than young; it is childish.



LETTERS

"Artsie fartsies" and supporters strike back

Thank God that most people with four years of university education (in Business or otherwise) have better perspective than to write a breathtakingly stupid and bigoted letter like Greg Yarema's (Artsie Fartsies Should Shut Up, Oct. 26). Many students from ALL academic disciplines are aware of the need for economic responsibility, and could state their case in a more grown-up way. I shudder at the thought of anyone with an attitude like his graduating and getting a job with any fiscal responsibility in the business world.

Tony Morris
AR/99

Re: Greg Yarema, October 26, Gateway

Although in essence we concur with the validity of Hub Administration's strategy to make our humble mall profitable, we feel your point was lost in your presumptuous, insulting remarks towards an identifiable (or so you'd like to think) group. As a business student, Mr. Yarema, we think you should be able to understand the economic importance of dealing with a variety of people, including

those with whom your ideals contradict. While your points concerning Hub Mall are reasonable (we may even agree), we feel your means of expressing them are primitive, juvenile and are not only insulting to Arts students but to other Business students who recognize and appreciate the value of diverse ideals in the global economic community.

Darice Stefanyshyn, Artsie Fartsy 2
Deana Pettigrew, Business Fartsy 3
Norm Mendoza, Comp. Sci. Fartsy 3

Re: 'Artsies...' Letters, Thurs., Oct. 26 '89

I would like to thank Greg Yarema for sharing his wisdom. But I ask that he restrict his mighty righteousness to the place where

his writing career began: the walls of the Business building's mensrooms. Graffiti is fun but let's keep it in its place.

Will Preville
Nursing I

A friendly, encouraging note

Dear Name Withheld (Friendless)

Re: Tuesday October 17, 1989

I think you've been looking in all the wrong places. There are friendly people all over campus. If you want to meet people, you've got to make the effort to get to know them.

If someone looks at you in bewilderment or snarls when you smile, have confidence and hold your head high. Everybody is entitled to be different, have their moods etc. just like you (remember you're quiet).

Being a bubblehead and drinking to intoxication are not the only way to get to know people: the dance club isn't full of a bunch of drunkards, just a bunch of dancing people; the debate club talks; you can meet people in the library (and these people are quiet); you can volunteer with people like those at SORSE who know how to socialize with and without alcohol...

Stop feeling sorry for yourself and just keep trying!

Kisa Mortenson
Arts IV

The Gateway

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