

# Atkinson conference contemplates Quebec

By Mark Boudreau

If the Parti Quebecois were to hold a referendum today only 25 per cent of the Quebec population would favour independence.

This is the view McGill Sociology Professor Maurice Pinard expressed at Atkinson College's "Options Quebec" Conference last Saturday.

Pinard's topic was *The Social Base of Separatist Support*. He maintained that even if the PQ could assure the people of Quebec economic association with Canada before a referendum were held, only 40 per cent would support political independence.

"Quebecker's," he explained, "especially the low and middle income groups, are not willing to pay the economic cost of political independence."

However, Pinard warned the audience that no political accommodation would satisfy the Francophone population of Quebec until the problem of ethnic economic inequality was dealt with. In the economic sphere French-Canadians want to be put on an equal footing with English-Canadians.

"Until this grievance is corrected," said Pinard, "no political solution to the Quebec question will be a stable solution."

Talking on *The Idea of Separatism in Historical Perspective*, Professor John Saywell of the York history department pointed out that the grievance of ethnic economic inequality can be traced back to the 1930's. It was then the Quebecois began discussing the mastery of their own economy and creating a role for the Quebec state.

During the 40's and 50's the Quebecois lost sight of these ideas because of Maurice Duplessis' defensive nationalism. They came to surface again with the death of Duplessis and the "not so-quiet revolution."

"It was at this time that the Quebecois," said Saywell, "demanded a new, positive, and radical role for the Quebec state." Because of this demand Canadians must embark on writing a new constitution concluded Saywell.

Professor Abraham Rotstein, of the political economy department at U of T, and a member of the Committee for a New Constituion,

supported Saywell's conclusion. He told the conference that "after more than a century of experience with our present constitution the time has come for a fundamental revision. By this means, both English-speaking Canada and Quebec would be offered an historic opportunity to renew themselves".

Rotstein, in his talk on the *Economic Cost of Separation*, expressed concern that English-Canadians are not preparing themselves for the possibility that Quebec might choose not to create a strong, new alliance with Canada.

"In the event that Quebec chooses independence with association, the rest of Canada should be in a position to propose terms of association."

He added that the "no way" economic association attitude of Premier Bill Davis must be reversed. "Economic association is not a one way street benefiting Quebec."

Rotstein made this clear when he pointed out that if Quebec were to separate, and the rest of Canada were to reject economic association, Ontario alone would lose 4.8 billion dollars worth of trade, adding 105,000 people to the unemployed list.

In the afternoon session Bryce Mackasey, a liberal member of the

Quebec National Assembly, called for a referendum as quickly as possible and that it should contain one question: "Do you want to remain in a united Canada?"

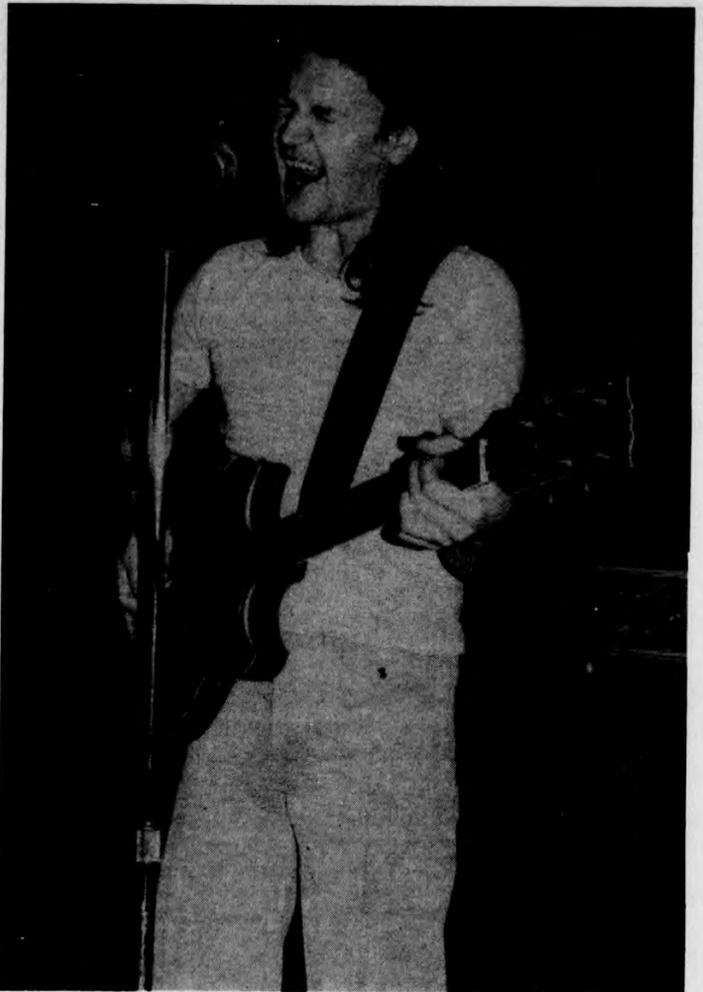
He added that "until the referendum is held, and the people of Quebec express their will, no constitution reform can take place."

He spoke during a panel discussion on *Separatism-the Best Option* that included Pierre de Bellefeuille, parliamentary assistant to the Quebec Minister of State for Economic Development and William Shaw, Union National MNA for Pointe Claire.

De Bellefeuille said that the referendum would not take place until 1979 and that Premier Rene Levesque favoured a question that would require a simple yes or no. He admitted that the Parti Quebecois needed time to prepare for the referendum.

De Bellefeuille stressed the point that Levesque's term independence meant sovereignty and not economic association. He added:

"English-Canadians must come to grips with the fact that there are two nations or communities in the sociological sense. Until this fact is realized there can be no grounds for any negotiations."



Jean Gravel, of the premiere Quebec rock band Offenbach, at Vanier College dining hall Tuesday night. The group has released albums in both the french and english languages, but performed mostly in english at Vanier.

## News briefs

Today and tomorrow the Third World Students Union will seek to develop a discussion of the **national liberation movement in South Africa**. Today, a representative of the Pan-African Congress (PAC) of South Africa, will speak in CLHH, 4-6 pm.

The African National Congress (ANC) will have a representative speak tomorrow in CLHE, 1-3 pm.

The **York Chorus** will present a program of Christmas music December 6 at 8pm in the Scott Religious Centre. Admission is free. The audience will be invited to join in signing for some of the program.

**Breakthrough**, the York feminist magazine, is now soliciting material for its next issue. The copy deadline is January 4. Please send your poetry, short stories, illustrations, articles, essays, news items and photos to: Jane Eden, 23 Tealham Dr., Unit 29, Rexdale M9V 3T5.

We welcome submissions from all people interested in communicating their feelings and ideas revolving around women's issues.

Synapse is the **course union for undergraduate psychology students**. Its function is to try to bridge the gap between students and faculty, acting as a point of contact and a forum for students in the department - providing information, answering questions, giving advice and assistance, conveying your opinions.

It's also a good place to find other psychology students with whom to share ideas - and coffee. We have committees involved in several projects, including information on graduate schools and student feedback on courses. And Synapse is not all work: we organize social events for psychology student through the year.

All interested psychology students are welcome to involved. Drop by our office at 249 BSB, attend our next meeting on Monday, December 5 at 12 noon

in 249 BSB, or give us a call at 667-3593.

The **Student Association of East Indian Origin** cordially invites everyone to a get-together party. Time: 7pm. Date: December 1, Thursday. Place: Common Room - in the

basement of Atkinson College Residence. Entertainment: Indian delicatessen will be served freely. Admission Free.

The **Ontario New Liberals** of York University held their first meeting Wednesday, November 23.

The club executive for the year was elected and projects and events were discussed. The new executive roster is: Ric Green, president; John Lentowicz, vice-

president (communications); Tony Vorone, v-p (activities); Andrea Doucet, secretary; and Margo Greenberg, treasurer.

Tony Vorone and Margo Greenberg were selected as delegates to the Liberal party convention in Ottawa in February.

Last week's poll of readers' views of *Excalibur*, was compiled and analyzed by David Saltmarsh.

## Queens votes 'no' to Chilean investment

KINGSTON (CUP) — More than 2,400 students at Queen's University voted Nov. 24 to oppose a plan by Noranda Mines Ltd. to invest \$350 million in Chile.

Queen's has about \$236,000 worth of shares in Noranda, and the university senate will decide Dec. 15 whether to support a similar motion calling for the end of Noranda's investment plans in Chile.

The motion, which gained 72 per cent of the student vote, cited the Chilean government's continued violation of human rights as the reason behind opposing Noranda's Chilean investments.

In April of this year, the university's board of trustees — which controls university finances — discussed a similar motion calling for an end to Noranda's Chilean investments. At that time, the board said it could not make such a decision on behalf of the entire university community.

"They intimidated they were looking for direction," said Jody Button, a Queen's student official, "and so the student referendum and current motion before senate are moves to provide direction."

## Harbourfront

235 Queen's Quay West



We've got poetry, jazz, films and lots more, all year round. Come down this week!

### ART GALLERY

Grant Assisted Art Part V features the paintings and works on paper of **Angeline Kyba, Jamie Lyons, Sally Wildman and Sidney Drum**. Show closes on Sunday December 4. Gallery hours: 12:30 to 6 p.m. Tuesday to Thursday, 12:30 to 9 p.m. weekends

### FOLK AND BLUES

Amateur folk and blues musicians are welcome to perform every Thursday night in the Cafe. 8:30 p.m.

### STEAL THIS SHOW...PLEASE

A multimedia satirical revue of the TV generation, presented by **Change Channels Theatre** at 8:30 on Thursday.

### FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS

The **autobiography of Miss Jane Pitman**, starring Cicely Tyson and **Black Music in America From Then Till Now**, featuring some rare footage of Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday, will be screened in the Cafe, starting at 8 p.m.

### WE ARE ONE PEOPLE

Twenty Toronto-based Latin American organizations are getting together to present a two-day Christmas festival this weekend with music, dance, poetry and films. Starts at 2 p.m. on Saturday and noon on Sunday.

### SUNDAY JAZZ

The **Casa Loma Jazz Band** performs at 7:30 in the Cafe.

### COMEDY SHOP

Join the audience on Monday night for TV Ontario's **Comedy Shop**. It starts at 8 p.m. in the Cafe.

### POETRY EVENING

Canada's only weekly poetry reading is held every Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. in the Cafe. This week: **Jamie Hamilton**.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

Tonight's films look at India. **Problems With Living**, a film portrait of J. Krishnamurti; **Something Beautiful for God: Mother Teresa of Calcutta**, examines the work of Mother Teresa in Calcutta; **Evolution of a Yogi**, a look at the mystic techniques of a Hindu guru.

Free admission unless otherwise stated. Free parking. For more information on these and other programs during the week, call us at 364-5665.