

"Canada is ...

The Gateway

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... an endless panel discussion."

Marc Lalonde

The Gateway Gallery debuts on pages 8 and 9.



Photo: Tim Hylum

Quebec Liberals promised students the world

by Catherine Bainbridge of Canadian University Press

MONTREAL (CUP) — Once shunned by Quebec youth as merely a party for middle-class technocrats, the victorious Quebec Liberals courted the youth vote over \$100 million in promises for higher education and a blank cheque for a new welfare programme.

The Liberals claim they will wipe out university deficits, give more loans and bursaries, and increase province-wide funding for universities by \$3 million, all in its first year of office.

They play to do all this while lowering taxes, reducing the provincial deficit and maintaining a freeze on tuition fees.

Quebec tuition fees for CEGEP's and universities have been frozen since 1969. At about \$570 a year they are the lowest in the country.

In a press conference last month, Claude Ryan, the man most likely to take over the education portfolio, promised \$50 million to reduce the province-wide university deficit which he said will climb to \$80 million in 1985-86.

Ryan also promised \$11 million in loans and bursaries for students in science and technology fields, students who come from rural areas, and an interest free loans for part-time students.

Once as important to Quebec youth culture as the folk-singer Robert Chérlebois and the fleur-de-lis, the Parti Québécois leadership stooped to posing as rock stars in a recent edition of Quebec Rock magazine to attract the youth vote.

Some called it "maturing" others "selling out" but the face of the

P.Q. changed. During the 60s and 70s over 40 per cent of the party's membership was under 30. Before the election that number was barely 20 per cent.

The Liberals have only managed to bring the percentage of young people in the party up to 15 per cent, but judging by a pre-election youth rally with an attendance of over 5,000, their popularity is growing.

However, many young people have been alienated from both parties, as interviews with several McGill students before the election indicated.

"I am not voting because Bourassa doesn't make sense and Johnson has nothing to offer and besides who else is there?" said commerce student Mike Efthimialopoulos.

"I think Bourassa is a crook and an old crook who as a corrupt government official squandered public funds thus misrepresenting himself, while Johnson is a rat who has sold out his party and consequently sold out the people of Quebec," said arts student Robert Head.

The youth wing of the Liberal Party had a high profile during the campaign. Many of their policies were adopted by the party. Judging by the attire at a youth rally, however, the new generation of politically active youth in Quebec is more conservative than the last.

The Liberal Youth Commission proposed a new work-program where only those who are physically unable to work can get welfare. Everyone else who is without a job must join a Liberal work-program called Action Positive pour

la Travail et l'emploi (APT).

The commission boasts it has ended P.Q. discrimination against those under thirty by offering "a liveable wage to young and old on

APT. The P.Q. gave only \$162 a month to welfare recipients under 30, while those over thirty got \$440.

The youth commission also proposed policies such as early retire-

ment and an end to promotion based on seniority, so young people could be promoted faster.

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Serious business, silly council

by Bill Doskoch

Political intrigue hung heavy in the air on Tuesday night as the *Grind* lost its bid to get Students' Council to agree to purchase \$10,000 in advertising space from it.

The motion was defeated after it was made into an omnibus motion with an amazingly similar one from Arts rep Jayson Woodbridge, who proposed having the SU purchase \$10,000 in advertising space from all clubs on campus — at a cost not to exceed two million dollars.

Some *Grind* supporters speculated that Woodbridge may have had an advance look at their motion — a serious matter since motions are supposed to be confidential until the agenda is published.

However, Woodbridge denied having an advance look at the motion, only saying cryptically that "lightning sometimes strikes twice". However, he did say that "whether I was told a motion of that nature was coming out is another matter".

In defending his blocking of the *Grind's* attempt, Woodbridge said, "They are only a club. If they have a right to guaranteed advertising revenue, then so does every other club."

He went on to say that the *Grind's* financial problems were a result of their own "fiscal irresponsibility",

and if they needed money from the SU, they should go through proper channels, such as the Administration or Building Services Board.

When asked for comment on what further attempts the *Grind* would make to fund from the SU, its editor-in-chief, Dale Moore, would only say, "I have no idea", but added they would approach SU area managers to get them to purchase ad space.

In other news, council agreed to sell Store Plus More for \$70,000 plus

the cost of inventory, which should add between ten and fifteen thousand dollars to the purchase price.

In addition, the SU will open an information desk to employ students whose jobs might be lost in the transaction.

The "earth-to-councillor" award was a tie this last meeting, as SU president Mike Nickel and Woodbridge spoke on pizza and budget items when the topics of conversation were the information desk and Store Plus More, respectively.

Test? What test? say 15

by Bill Doskoch

Fifteen people may have their registration cancelled for the second term because they failed to write the Nov. 28 and 29 series of Writing Competence Tests (WCT's).

"That appears to be the number, although we haven't done a final check," said Dr. Lorna McCallum, chairperson of Testing and Remediation.

There were 503 students in danger of that fate until the Nov. 19 decision by General Faculties Council (GFC) to push the deadline for meeting the requirement back to April 30, 1986.

Of that number, 63 were in danger because they had not yet written the test within the 12 or

24-month time limit. If they had written the test and failed, they still would have been able to remain in school for the second term.

McCallum said they were informed of that fact by registered letter.

When asked if the SU would intervene on the students' behalf, VP Academic Caroline Nevin said, "No, but if they wish to challenge it in court, we'd probably back them."

However, as one student said, "If they didn't even try to write it, then tough luck, eh?"

For the other 2,600 who did write it, the final results won't be available until Jan. 28, and the scheduled time for the next WCT is Jan. 7.