

Anglo blues

The battered Bill 101 took yet another blow when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled December 15 that unilingual french signs violated both the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom and the Quebec Charter of Rights. By invoking the notwithstanding clause, Premier Bourassa has turned a lot of people against him and, according to Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon, has placed the future of the Meech Lake Accord in doubt.

As usual, the "anglo square-heads" have blown it all out of proportion.

Bourassa was in a tough position but his decision at least respected the spirit of Quebec's Charter of the French Language, Bill 101, which is extremely popular with Quebecers. Collective rights won over individual rights for the protection of the french language. It may be difficult for anglophones to empathize with the threat of losing their language but to most franophones in Quebec, it's an issue close to their hearts. Over 18,000 Montrealers showed up for a rally the day Bourassa made his decision to invoke the notwithstanding clause. That's the largest rally in Quebec since the referendum on Quebec's independence in 1980.

Cabinet ministers have resigned, the office of Alliance Quebec, an english-rights group, was torched, vandalism of english stores has increased and accusations and innuendo is flying every which way. Tensions are definitely high and Premier Filmon's threats to the Meech Lake Accord represent an attack counterproductive to his supposed aim: looking out for minority rights.

I don't pretend to know how a francophone Quebecker feels about his or her language but it seems the erosion of french in Quebec is represented for many by the erosion of their Bill 101.

The notwithstanding clause was included in the constitution in 1982 to secure provincial patriation. Quebec was excluded and therefore wasn't the author of the clause in the first place. Invoking the notwithstanding clause means the new bill, 178, banning languages other than french on outside signs is exempt from the provincial and federal charters and cannot be challenged for five years. The Quebec government automatically invoked the clause in all legislation until only three years ago. The necessity for using the clause indicates the problems experienced by Quebec as a dis-

ting society, with the charter and the constitution as they exist today.

By threatening to withdraw his support of the Meech Lake Accord, Premier Filmon is threatening the possibility that Quebeckers will finally be able to respect the charter of rights and the Supreme Court (the Accord provides for at least three Quebec judges on the Supreme Court). The Accord may prove to be a stepping stone towards finally scrapping the unpopular notwithstanding clause from the constitution.

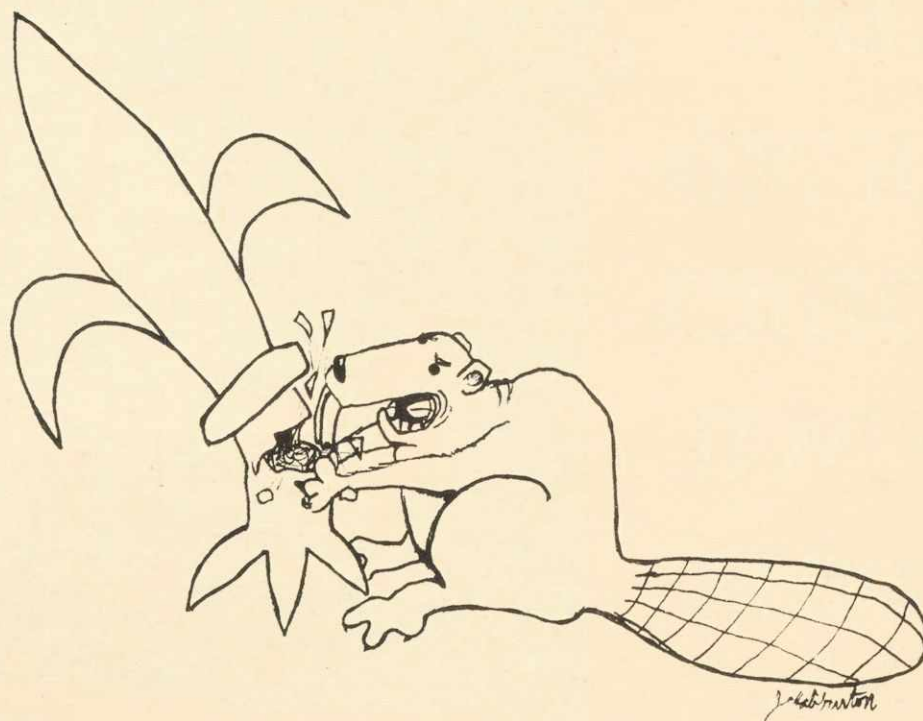
Alliance Quebec has formed Committee 178 which is rallying against the Bourassa decision and Premier Filmon among others is criticizing the decision for not protecting the english minority

in Quebec. French is the official language of Quebec and the decreasing numbers of franco-phones in Quebec due to all kinds of factors puts the future of the french language in doubt.

Quebeckers must go to extraordinary lengths to protect their lan-

guage and if that means tramping on a few anglo toes, then that's what they must do. The alternative would be worse than a few bruised feet.

Ellen Reynolds



Letters

Here we go again

Due to numerous requests, we are reprinting the following letter, which first appeared in the Dec. 8 Gazette.

During this time, when both students and faculty struggle to get the university back to normal, there is one group whom none of us should overlook: those members of the Bargaining Unit who chose to continue to hold classes during the strike.

Faculty who took collective action owe our non-conforming colleagues a debt of thanks because they held up a mirror to us, and we were able to assure ourselves that we are indeed democratic. Had our action been unanimous, we might never have known that we could pass the test of democracy, namely, effective respect for minority dissent. Their action tended to undermine the efficacy of our action and to prolong the disruption. As has been clear since the strike,

they also sowed confusion among students. (We agree with Heather Hueston's editorial of December 1: all classes should have been cancelled.) They have thereby provoked a justifiable anger among us, but we showed them respect and forbearance.

Besides the good light they have thrown on us, we should also admire them for their own high-minded principles. Their high-mindedness is shown primarily in their disregard for the public consequences of their action. In this they have been true to the highest tradition of academics.

What could be an appropriate gesture? It has been argued that one of the hallmarks of a good society is that it provides its members with institutional vehicles with which to express their altruism. Certainly our dissenting members have shown altruism. They have often proclaimed that their primary duty is continuing to teach, they declared themselves willing to soldier on, compensated only by what the Board offered before the strike. (The Board had never made that offer clear, but it was about a 0.9% cost of living increase). To afford an institutional expression of

their altruism, we urge the DFA or the administration to set up a scholarship fund, into which our noble colleagues can put the difference between the settlement we have won and what they were willing to work for. This would amount to 2.8% of their salary for the rest of their careers — a piddling sum to pay for principle.

- Michael Cross, History
- Herbert V. Gamberg, Sociology and Social Anthropology
- Ruth Gamberg, Education
- Toni A. Laidlaw, Education
- Om Kamra, Biology
- Leonard Kasdan, Sociology and Social Anthropology
- Barbara Anne Keddy, Nursing
- Alan Kennedy, English
- Patrick Kerans, Social Work
- John M. Kirk, Spanish
- R.E. Klapstein, Business Administration
- Robert M. Martin, Philosophy
- Franco Medioli, Geology
- David R. Overton, Theatre
- U.L. Gouranga Rao, Economics
- Peter K. Schotch, Philosophy
- Michael Shepherd, Mathematics, Statistics and Computing Science
- C.T. Sinclair-Faulkner, Comparative Religion
- Colin Stuttard, Microbiology

Where have all the writers gone?



We're missing you, so come to the next GAZETTE staff meeting.

Wednesday at 4 p.m., 3rd floor, S.U.B.

Carol van Feggelen, Music
D.R. Woolf, History
Alexander Young, Recreation,
Physical and Health Education

Pen pals please

Dear Editor,

It is my great pleasure to write to you. I expect you will be pleased to accept my appeal regarding overseas pen pals for our students.

I am an English teacher in a noted high school in Seoul, Korea. This school has about 2,500 students of both sexes. I am eagerly seeking foreign students. Who would like to correspond with our students. There are many Korean students who want to exchange letter and friendship with foreign pen friends, and they frequently request me to let them have foreign pen friends.

Throughout my foreign language teaching career, I've noticed this would help not only their English and emotional life, but also expand their knowledge of foreign lands. This would also promote world-wide friendship and mutual relationship as well as serving as a true foundation of world peace.

I feel it is necessary to publish this simple wish among the boys and girls of the world. Therefore, I courteously request you to run this letter in a corner of your valuable paper.

The only information I need of a student is his or her name, address, age, sex, hobbies and picture if possible. I expect to receive many letters from your readers wishing to correspond with our students. (Welcome group or class request)

I will appreciate it very much if you let me have the chance to do this for my students. This would be a warm and thoughtful favour. Awaiting good news, I remain.

Yours Sincerely
Miss Park Myeong Shim
C.P.O. Box 3315
Seoul 100-633
Korea